Get the Residency

ASHP's Guide to Residency Interviews and Preparation

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Dedications

Joshua Caballero, PharmD, BCPP

To my family, living and dead, who have always encouraged me to pursue my dreams no matter how far away they took me. To our pharmacy students, pursue your dreams no matter how far they take you. Finally, to my sons, may I support your dreams no matter how far away they take you.

Kevin A. Clauson, PharmD

To my parents Jim and Vicki for always supporting me, the most patient woman on the planet—my wife Angela, and the students who served as the inspiration for this book.

Sandra Benavides, PharmD

To my past, current, and future students for keeping me motivated, enthusiastic, and challenged. My hope is that I do the same for all of you.

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PREFACE

If you have picked up this book, you probably know that residency applicants have about a 60% chance of securing a residency. In fact, the five-year trend shows the field getting even more crowded and competitive. We recognize the repercussions that it has in our students' lives, when after four arduous years of pharmacy school, they do not get a residency. So after watching some of our most talented and enthusiastic students fail to match, we developed an elective course for fourth professional year students to offer advice on navigating the tricky process of pursuing a residency and to maximize their interview skills. To our knowledge, this was the first course of its kind. But did it help our students? Well, over the past couple of years, over 81% of students completing our course have successfully obtained a residency or fellowship.

In the fall of 2011, with the vision of offering the proven benefits of our course far beyond the limits of our classroom, we began working with ASHP to distill our core advice into this slim book. In order to provide you, the pharmacy student, with the best resource available, we approached faculty and clinicians from across the country. These contributors have unparalleled (and first-hand) expertise with the residency application process and can offer insight into what residency program directors (RPDs) look for. We have also gone to great lengths to discuss related issues and opinions with RPDs from across the country to factor in differences due to age, geography, and culture. Through it all we made sure to require one characteristic from all our contributors—that they possess the same passion as we do for putting students in the best position to succeed. After all, you will be the ones to carry the torch after we are long gone. There is nothing superfluous in this book—it contains only the advice we consider essential, which has been effective for our students.

This book will bring to light many lessons that will make you a more attractive applicant to interviewers. The crucial details we

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share with you will be invaluable and help guide you on the path to successfully securing a residency or fellowship (starting as early as your first year). Be aware, you will encounter several resources and opinions that may conflict, but if you follow our advice and exercise sound situation-dependent judgment, you will put yourself in the best position to succeed.

One day we hope there will be enough pharmacy residencies and fellowships to accommodate all those who seek additional formalized training, making this book obsolete. However, until that time comes, we hope you take advantage of the tools in this book to maximize your skills and achieve your goal of getting a residency.

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