

# Colombia - Purdue Partnership: The Development of a Pharmacy Practice Visiting Clinician Scholar Program

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College of Pharmacy



## BACKGROUND

- The Undergraduate Research Experience Purdue-Colombia (UREP-C) program started in 2014 as a platform for Colombian students across different disciplines to participate in research at Purdue University
- The Department of Pharmacy Practice (PHPR) had already established a pathway for Purdue students to have Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPE) in Colombia, but not vice versa
- In 2022, PHPR joined the UREP-C initiative, hosting their first Visiting Clinician Scholar
- In Colombia, after achieving a B.Sc. degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences, there is not enough further specialized training in Clinical Pharmacy
- The Visiting Clinician Scholar Program was envisioned as an opportunity to provide a similar experience to APPE but immersed in the American pharmacist model



Visiting Clinician Scholar with Purdue Center for Health Equity and Innovation (CHEqI) Team volunteering in vaccination event at Gleaners Indiana Chin Baptist Church Mobile Food Pantry

Image retrieved on 2/23/2022 from: [https://cheqi.pharmacy.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/styles/shortcode\\_slideshow\\_image/public/frontpage-slider/Gleaners%20Chin%20Event.jpg?tok=-JKppqvM0](https://cheqi.pharmacy.purdue.edu/sites/default/files/styles/shortcode_slideshow_image/public/frontpage-slider/Gleaners%20Chin%20Event.jpg?tok=-JKppqvM0)

## OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

Considering the academic background and professional experience of the scholar, we outlined the following objectives:

- Reinforce language and clinical skills at providing pharmacotherapeutic follow-up in English and Spanish
- Engage the scholar in community-based activities as a bilingual healthcare provider
- Support learning projects that can foster cultural and language exchange among the student body
- Participate in research projects related to Clinical Pharmacy and Global Health Services

## METHODOLOGY

- Assisted the clinical professors and their PharmD students in 3 cardiovascular risk reduction (CVRR) clinics
- Volunteered in health access events led by CHEqI, raising interest in vaccination among event attendees
- Collaborated in strategies such as the Spanish Language Track (SLT), promoting a language and cultural exchange
- Involved in 2 ongoing research projects directly linked to the Spanish-speaking population, designed to improve their health outcomes
- Partnered with Indiana University School of Medicine - Lafayette to participate in an English and Spanish-speaking Standardized Patient (SP) program



Image retrieved on 1/25/2023 from: <https://www.eskenazihealth.edu/location/s/forest-manor>



Visiting Clinician Scholar volunteering in vaccination event at St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

## IMPACTS



Provided care and health education to underserved populations with high cardiovascular risk

~10-15 patients/week



Assisted as a Spanish interpreter for 7 PharmD students



Facilitated the access of COVID/Flu vaccines for ~ 80-100 people/month



Guided 4 virtual sessions of SLT and participated in 1 SP in-person session



Connected Purdue SLT students with pharmacists in Colombia

## REFLECTIONS

- Some challenges when starting the program included the adaptation to the US and Indianapolis, as well as the level of confidence in English
- Activities aimed to reflect on the key role of pharmacists, in the community as well as in the healthcare system
- It is thought that by 2050, 1 in 3 people in the US will speak Spanish in the US. Are we prepared to respond to a high demand for bilingual healthcare professionals?



CHEqI First Friday Meeting

## CONCLUSIONS

- Program successfully established. More pharmacists and pharmacy students in Colombia are interested in participation
- Proposed a robust program with different areas of practice and flexibility in tasks that can be adapted according to the specific goals of the candidate
- The program has the potential to become a pathway for further training in clinical pharmacy for Colombia and a decisive steppingstone for the scholar to apply for Graduate School
- The role of the scholar in clinics is beneficial, especially in the Hispanic/Latino population, mixing the role of an interpreter and their clinical skills to improve health outcomes
- The program is also strengthening the relationships and cooperation with Colombian universities and strategic pharmacy allies. We expect to eventually include partnerships with other pharmacy schools in the US to replicate this model

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