

# PHRM 880 Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience

## Servicio de Orientación Farmacéutica y Alimentaria, Medellín, Colombia



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### INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Servicio Orientación Farmacéutico y Alimentaria (SOFYA) is a health and wellness program situated at the University of Antioquia (UdeA) in Medellín, Colombia. Established in 2022, this organization, comprising various health professions, aims to offer education and training on medication and health-related subjects to both university students and the neighboring community. These communities face challenges such as limited education, low health literacy, and numerous barriers in addressing social determinants of health. SOFYA's initiatives encompass medication education, menstrual hygiene, preventive health screenings, and interactive health and nutrition education activities.



A physical SOFYA building located on the UdeA campus.

### OBJECTIVES

- Understand the role and impact that pharmacists have in Colombia's healthcare system
- Apply knowledge of social determinants to help patients in Medellín
- Enhance student's understanding of Spanish language and culture

### Framework



Framework for SOFYA engagement activities & focused initiatives within community

### METHODOLOGY

Purdue Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) students had the opportunity to start working closely with administrators and volunteers at SOFYA. As this is a new relationship being formed PharmD students were able to engage in a wide variety of activities with SOFYA to better understand the impact future PharmD students can have. In the first year this included providing recommendations of care to patients of SOFYA, participating at the SOFYA drop-in center, and volunteering at educational workshops with students and faculty of UdeA.



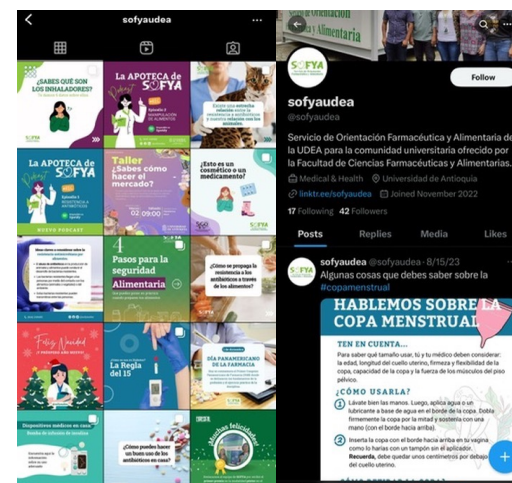
Purdue students volunteering at a community engagement event, Nov 2023

### IMPACTS

As this was the first year students were able to collaborate with SOFYA, both groups gained valuable insights into the potential of this partnership for future endeavors. The grant provided crucial support to SOFYA, enabling the distribution of educational materials created by students, along with promotional content for community events. As SOFYA progresses, their vision includes sustaining educational initiatives and community events, while also expanding avenues for patient engagement through courses and events hosted on the UdeA campus.



An activity used to educate patients on various medication related topics, Nov 2023



Social media pages of SOFYA, Feb 2024

### REFLECTION & CONCLUSION

This marked the inaugural year for PharmD students from Purdue to engage in collaboration with SOFYA. As the program evolves, it promises an array of diverse opportunities for student involvement. Collaborations with our Spanish Language Track students will facilitate early connections prior to the commencement of their final year. As the program progresses, students will have ample chances to hone their pharmacy skills while enhancing their proficiency in Spanish. Strengthening their Spanish language proficiency will enable students to forge deeper connections and deliver better care to Spanish-speaking patients in the US. Furthermore, expanded collaboration will provide students insights into the impact of social determinants of health on patients in different countries.

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