

Pediatric Antimicrobial Stewardship Program on Optimizing Antibiotic Usage in a Non-Freestanding Children's Hospital (PEDS-ASP)

Antibiotic misuse can lead to poor patient outcomes, including ineffective treatment, increased adverse effects, and antibiotic resistance development. Antimicrobial stewardship programs (ASPs) require a collaborative team of pharmacists, infectious disease physicians and microbiology. The PEDS-ASP is a unique clinical practice experience being offered to create real-time interventions on pediatric antimicrobial selection, develop daily interventions and monitor restricted antimicrobial usage, optimize healthcare costs, identify challenges in a non-freestanding children's hospital, and rotate in both pediatric inpatient and outpatient infectious disease services. The experience will take place at the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and the pediatric faculty member's (mentor) affiliated clinical practice site, K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital at Jersey Shore University Medical Center. The program will also allow the mentee to prepare the next generation of pharmacist by developing pediatric infectious disease teaching and learning materials to pharmacy students.

The program will be a two-week experience (10-days on site):

1. Days 1 to 5: The mentee will rotate with the pediatric clinical faculty (mentor) at the hospital site on the PEDS-ASP. The mentor will share outcome measures to optimize restricted antibiotic usage, antibiotic days of therapy (DOT), hospital length of stay (LOS), and readmissions within 30 days. The mentee will shadow a variety of healthcare providers such as microbiology and the pediatric infectious disease team in the inpatient and outpatient setting.
2. Days 6 to 10: The mentee will attend a professional development program facilitated by the mentor and meet other clinical pediatric faculty members at the school of pharmacy. Pediatric faculty members will share experiences in their area of clinical practice, development of new clinical services, as well as the challenges practicing in a non-freestanding children's hospital along with methods for resolution. The mentee will have the opportunity to work with the mentor and teach pediatric infectious diseases to second, third, and/or fourth year pharmacy students. The methods of teaching may include didactic or simulation in the spring semester courses of Infectious Disease therapeutics and Pediatric Pharmacotherapy elective, or experiential.

The purpose of participating in the Immersive Mentored Skill Development Program is to share my experience and guide the mentee in acquiring the essential competencies to develop/strengthen a pediatric ASP and promoting professional development. Although I am appointed as the Director of Faculty Mentoring at the school of pharmacy, my current mentees practice in adult medicine versus pediatrics. Therefore, this program will allow me to mentor a pediatric pharmacist and apply the knowledge and experience they learn in the two-week program to share with others. The program provides two unique experiences, developing/refining a pediatric ASP and teaching learners.