



ADVANCED TRAINING IN PHARMACY CARE: A NEW EDUCATIONAL PROJECT AT THE FACULTY OF PHARMACY IN BRATISLAVA



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Advanced Training
In Pharmacy Care



Introduction:

A new original educational project, Advanced Training in Pharmacy Care (ATIP), was introduced at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Comenius University in Bratislava, in 2015. The partners of ATIP are the Slovak Pharmaceutical Students' Association (SPhSA) and the pharmaceutical company Wörwag Pharma GmbH & Co. KG. The project aims to expand and improve the education of students in the field of dispensing and counselling in self-medication of patients, which is one of the key roles of community pharmacists. The project was established with the aim of a long-term cooperation of academic and business stakeholders together with providers of pharmaceutical care (community pharmacies) in education and upbringing of students such as future healthcare workers.

Material and Methods:

The ATIP project is designed newly for each academic year with a selected topic related to self-treatment. It shall suit students of the year 4 of the five-year Master degree study program, who are preparing for the mandatory 6-months practical experience in community pharmacies. The project starts with a 2-days educational training, which includes lectures given by physicians and pharmacists, followed by three practical workshops (Dispensing simulator, Presentation techniques, Activities of students in the autumn phase). After the successful completion of all project tasks the students are awarded a certificate. The project's emphasis is on high professional-level practical education, patient-centred care, interactive forms of training activities, effective communication with all participants (e-mail, newsletters), and support of e-learning (Moodle system).



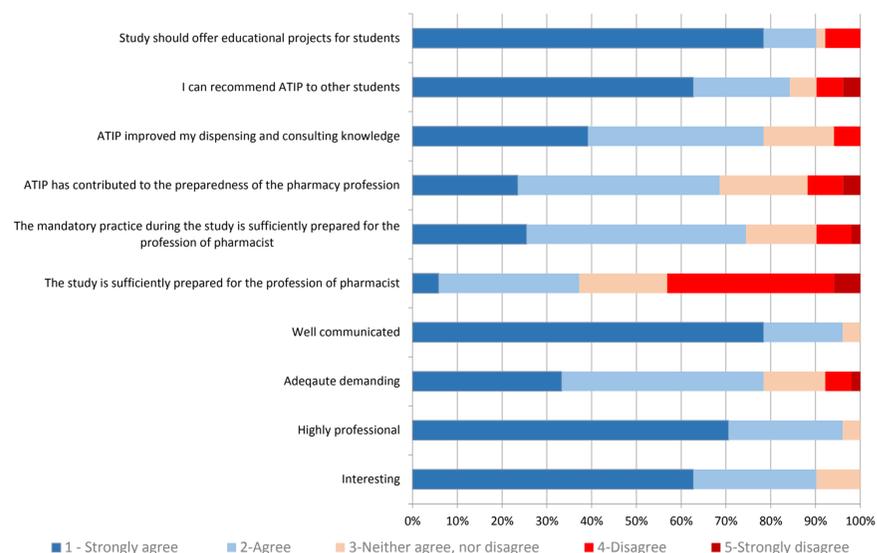
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Results:

The interest for the first ATIP project (2015/2016) was high (72 students, 49 % of the year 4 students). The project dealt with common cold and its OTC treatment. After the theoretical and practical training students were involved in a research project using the mystery shopping method as well. Students trained as mystery shoppers evaluated overall 270 community pharmacies. The results were analysed and presented separately. The students also organized an own educational seminar on the bases of their practical experience. The results of an anonymous and voluntary evaluation of the project by participated students (51 in total; 64.1 % declared interest to work in community pharmacy; 64.7 % participation in other projects during their study) showed, using the five-point Likert scale, that the students rated the project very positively, mainly its communication and professional level. They were supportive to the idea to include similar educational projects to their study plan and found that the ATIP project contributed to their preparation for profession. The final ATIP Certificate was obtained by 55 students.

Students' evaluation of ATIP



Conclusions:

A bridging project between pharmaceutical study and profession, ATIP also connects activities of different parties: academic, industry, students' organisations. The project continues with the next 74 students; the current topic is low back pain and its management in community pharmacies.