

SPEP Program: 2021 Cycle - Year in Review

A total of 205 rotations, each consisting of a total of 160 hours of structured, practical experiential training, were completed by pharmacy students during the 2021 SPEP cycle. Of these, 69 took place in hospitals, 76 in community pharmacies, and 52 in primary health care clinics. In addition, 8 elective rotations were offered in industrial pharmacy practice at Qatar Pharma. These rotations involved the participation of a total of 269 preceptors in teaching and mentoring our students.

Our SPEP program continued to offer in its 2021 cycle:

1. Online New Preceptor Orientation: This program consists of several modules or chapters which provide, both new and experienced preceptors, an overview of the SPEP experiential learning program and best practices in precepting our pharmacy students. Although this online program does not preclude the provision of face-to-face or synchronous virtual orientations, it provides a more thorough review of the SPEP program, the experiential education electronic management system (eValue®), and practical examples and tips on precepting and managing students on their clinical rotations. Preceptors receive a completion certificate which can be used when applying for preceptor renewal and may also be eligible for continuing professional development (CPD) credits through the Qatar Council for Health Practitioners (QCHP). This year, our online program received the **Visualization Award** at the Qatar University Annual Research Forum and Exhibition. A total of 16 preceptors completed this online course and were awarded completion certificates in 2021

2. Experiential Education Newsletter:

Our Experiential Education Newsletter highlights the commendable efforts of preceptors in guiding and mentoring students during their practical experiences. It sheds light on the significant contributions of both SPEP and PharmD students during their rotations. Additionally, it emphasizes the reporting of outcomes related to interventions and evidence-based responses to drug information queries encountered by students in their practical training. For convenient access to detailed information, copies are readily available on the SPEP website:

<http://www.qu.edu.qa/pharmacy/departments/spep-program/experiential-newsletter>

3. Preceptor Development:

On April 5, 2021, an engaging online session was conducted from 4-6 PM, centered around the theme "Innovation in Clinical Training and Preceptorship." This insightful session showcased the experiences of eight distinguished preceptors, encompassing both PharmD and SPEP backgrounds, representing diverse practice settings. These preceptors shared their invaluable insights into precepting and illuminated innovative approaches to enhance students'

experiential learning. The program, accredited by QCHP, witnessed active participation from 73 dedicated preceptors, each earning 2 CPD points for their attendance. Notably, the presenting preceptors were acknowledged for their contributions with speaker recognition certificates, further emphasizing the commitment to ongoing preceptor development.

4. Collaborative Education Institution (CEI):

Throughout the 2021 cycle, our commitment to preceptor development and support remained steadfast. We extended access to the online CEI platform for our preceptors, offering a wealth of webinars and accredited online courses. Completion certificates from these courses could be submitted to QCHP for valuable CPD points. The integration of CEI with e-Value enhanced tracking capabilities for preceptors' continuing education requirements. In this cycle, a noteworthy 123 preceptors successfully completed CEI courses. Concurrently, a comprehensive series of 73 site visits took place, covering various practice settings such as hospitals, PHCC, Qatar Pharma, and community pharmacies, with a specific focus on engaging new preceptors. Support during these visits ranged from orienting new preceptors to providing on-site tutorials on the experiential education electronic management system (eValue®). Furthermore, guidance was offered to students on optimizing their learning experiences through required assignments. Ensuring the maintenance of educational quality, rotation sites underwent continuous evaluation based on a validated checklist, affirming our commitment to providing students with a high standard of experiential education.

We express our gratitude to all our preceptors for their efforts in sharing their valuable experiences with our students and for their unwavering commitment over the years in mentoring and shaping the future pharmacy practice of our students.