STRESS, LIFESTYLE, AND DRUG USE AMONG PHARMACY SCHOOL FACULTY IN THE UNITED STATES

Rationale for Study: The illicit use of prescription medications amongst healthcare professionals has been a concern due to its potential impact on practitioners' judgment and, ultimately, patient safety. The prevalence of prescription drug use in healthcare professionals exceeds rates reported in the general population potentially due to stress from work or access to medications. Pharmacy school faculty may also be under pressure as they must often balance clinical work with teaching, research, and service responsibilities. Scarce data exists regarding pharmacy school faculty's lifestyle, stress, psychiatric traits, and drug use. It is vital to determine if a problem exists in this potentially higher risk population so attention can be shifted towards development of stress-coping mechanisms and prevention of substance abuse. Additionally, the number of pharmacy school faculty continues to increase as more pharmacy schools are opening.

Objective: To contrast the characteristics of male and female pharmacy school faculty in the United States and to determine what risk factors are associated with higher stress scores.

Methods: A Web-based survey using Qualtrics® was sent to approximately 6000 pharmacy faculty via the full member roster from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. Specific variables assessed included: demographic and background data; workload, position, and job satisfaction; Perceived Stress Scale (PSS) scores and stress coping mechanisms; *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-Text Revision (*DSM-IV-TR) diagnoses; and use of illicit drugs/prescription drugs as well as alcohol and tobacco. Inclusion criteria consisted of male or female faculty from pharmacy schools across the United States with internet access. Individuals were excluded if they did not have internet access, viewed the link and decided not to participate, did not complete the survey or chose not to submit their answers. All statistical analyses will be conducted using SAS for Windows 9.2 (Cary, NC). As the survey is primarily descriptive in nature, means and standard deviations will be reported for continuous data, and frequency and percentages will be reported for categorical data. Student's t test for continuous data and Fisher's exact test for categorical data will be the tests used for comparisons.

Conclusion: This research is in progress. Preliminary results will be presented.