"I’VE ENJOYED IT... I’D CHOOSE TO DO IT AGAIN...”: EVALUATION OF AN INNOVATIVE MULTI-SECTOR PRE-REGISTRATION PHARMACIST TRAINING PROGRAMME IN WALES

Laura Doyle and Bethan Broad, HEIW, Health Education and Improvement Wales, UK.
Alison Bullock, Cardiff Unit for Research and Evaluation in Medical and Dental Education, Cardiff University, UK.

**Background**
Following evaluation of the initial pilot of a multi-sector pre-registration training programme in North Wales, this unique training scheme was extended across Wales. A number of pre-registration pharmacists in Cwm Taf, Betsi Cadwaladr and Hywel Dda University Health Boards were exposed to hospital, community and primary care pharmacy environments, with varying durations/structures in the training year 2017-2018.

**Objective**
To evaluate a unique pharmacist pre-registration training programme, whereby trainees are exposed to hospital, community and primary care pharmacy environments on a rotational basis of varying durations/structures.

**Methods**
- Semi-structured telephone interview schedule designed & ethical approval gained.
- Twenty six participants who followed the multi-sector programme (n=10) and their tutors (n=16)
- One interviewee withdrew consent. Data from twenty five interviewees were analysed thematically.
- Interviews were conducted and recorded before being transcribed ad verbatim.

**Results**
Four themes were identified:
- Benefit 1: Importance of tutor and trainee factors for programme success
- Benefit 2: The added value of the multi-sector pre-registration programme
- Benefit 3: Lack of consensus on “ideal” programme structure
- Benefit 4: Suggestions for improvement

Tutor: “…they [multi-sector trainees] do have this very holistic view of the patient that you don’t get at the single sector”

Trainee: “It [multi-sector training programme] was a really good opportunity to see how the different sectors work and to become confident and competent in all sectors of pharmacy as just opposed to just being confident in one”

**Conclusion**
This study provides an insight into the perceptions of multi-sector pre-registration pharmacists and their tutors towards the multi-sector training programme in Wales. Participants reflected upon the benefits of the programme in comparison with a single sector scheme including the opportunity to shadow a range of pharmacists and other healthcare professionals, develop a “well-rounded” knowledge, an appreciation of transfer of patient care between settings and a better understanding of all sectors of pharmacy in order to make an informed career choice. Areas for improvement, such as the need to introduce trainees to the hospital ward environment from an earlier time point as well as improve communication between tutors, were highlighted.