



## Background

- Excelera started a specialty pharmacy residency rotation in October 2018 that allowed residents from our member health systems to experience standard on-site rotations
- Standard on-site rotations consisted of exposure to network-level activities, including meetings with pharmaceutical manufacturers, meetings with cross-functional teams within Excelera, and opportunities to visit more mature health system specialty pharmacies
- Rotations ranged from 2-4 weeks and were tailored to the specific interests of the resident
- In 2019, Excelera transitioned from a standard on-site rotation to a virtual residency experience due to the COVID-19 pandemic

## Purpose

- The goal of the virtual residency experience was to provide residents in our network of health systems the opportunity to garner insights into the business and clinical development of specialty pharmacy as well as to showcase their research to their colleagues across the country
- Three preceptors from Excelera, working with residency directors from 7 member health systems, set out to create a virtual experience to meet the goals and to contribute to the training of future clinicians who are interested in pursuing a career within this scope of practice



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## Methodology

- Three preceptors identified key topics that are most relevant to the specialty pharmacy landscape and would have been covered on-site which could be developed into hourly interactive, online educational events
- Created a resident research presentation platform
- Facilitated attendance of residency preceptors at each health system to participate in virtual residency events
- Provided relevant topic materials to residents for review, via email, prior to each online educational session
- Designed a registration process that allowed residents, preceptors, and any interested staff to sign up for teaching webinars and resident research presentations
- Developed and hosted resident networking sessions
- Conducted a post experience survey

## Results

- A total of 15 residents enrolled in the Excelera specialty pharmacy residency experience which transitioned to a virtual experience from October 2020 to March 2021
- A virtual platform was created for the following activities (see Figure 1). Activities were recorded and posted online for those unable to attend the live session
- Although the response-rate was low to the post-series survey, 100% (n=3) of residents would recommend the program to a future resident and 100% (n=2) responded that the virtual format was conducive to learning

**Figure 1: Resident Activities within the Virtual Online Platform**

Four interactive educational events	Three residency research platforms	Two resident networking events
<b>15 residents from 7 member health systems</b>	<b>9 residents from 6 member health systems</b>	<b>6 residents from 5 member health systems</b>
<i>Topics included:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manufacturer Relations</li> <li>• Clinical Outcomes</li> <li>• Pharmacy Benefit Manager &amp; Payors</li> <li>• Operations &amp; Business Development</li> </ul>	<i>Topics included:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Dose Biologic Evaluation</li> <li>• Hypertension Management Protocols in Oral Chemotherapy</li> <li>• Impact of Pharmacist Conducted RAPID3 Assessments in RA</li> </ul>	Facilitated by network pharmacists  Allowed residents from multiple health-systems to collaborate and communicate  Offered support to residents during the COVID-19 pandemic

## Conclusion

- Standard on-site residency experiences such as educational sessions, research presentations, and networking opportunities were successfully incorporated into a virtual platform designed through the collaborative efforts of residency preceptors across Excelera and various health systems
- The virtual platform allowed residents an opportunity for engagement, networking, and continued education throughout the COVID-19 pandemic
- This virtual residency experience serves as an example for future development of non-traditional rotations outside of specialty pharmacy operations

## Future Direction

Due to the success of the virtual format, moving forward we intend to continue a virtual rotation experience as a baseline, especially for programs with budget or travel restrictions, and to create individualized on-site experiences for residents who desire that option

## References

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. (2020). *PGY-1 Specialty Pharmacy Sample Learning Experience Description*.

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. (2020). *PGY-2 Specialty Pharmacy Administration Sample Learning Experience Description*.

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. (2021). *PGY1 Competency Areas*.

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. (2021). *PGY2 Competency Areas*.

