# Editorial

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## Salute from the APTI Head Quarters

Deliberations and discussions are going all around for the employability of Pharm D. Students. There is immense scope. The Clinical segment is growing and each Hospital, Research Centre is going to need Pharm D. Students. There contribution will be great, and salary will be high. MCI also is being approach for creating more awareness about the importance Pharm D.

## Scope of Pharm D. in India

Indian pharmacy education took a big leap in the year 2008 with The Pharmacy Council of India recognizing the Pharm.D program. This was a move to standardize pharmacy education in India and make it at par with international standards. Numerous universities and colleges in India have launched the Pharm.D program; however, the road to success is a steep one with this higher degree program.

The Pharmaceutical industry including the allied sectors like the clinical research enterprise and pharmacovigilance companies have become a safe haven for young Pharm.D professionals, till the pharmacy sector becomes more compatible and mature to absorb the strengths and merits of this highly advanced training program.

## Job Opportunities After Pharm D.

On the other hand, the pharmacovigilance industry always struggles for qualified medical talent which suits to the needs of the drug safety enterprise. Jobs after Pharm.D could be many however the pharmacovigilance positions have the potential to take you to greater heights of the management enterprise. Albeit a lucrative career few mainstream physicians opt for a career in pharmacovigilance making ample room for the doctorate level educated Pharm.D candidates.

To immediately be compatible to the pharmacovigilance industry James Lind Institute runs many specialized programs in Clinical Research, Pharmacovigilance, Pharmacoepidemiology, Clinical Data Management and Medical Writing.

## Drug Safety Associate

This short post is an attempt to cover careers pertaining to Pharmacovigilance. One interested in pursuing this career would come across a term called as "Drug Safety Associate". So, who exactly is a Drug Safety Associate and what are the job responsibilities of such a position holder? The roles and responsibilities of a Drug Safety Associate may vary from company to company, but his/her primary responsibilities will be following up Adverse Events Reports, Preparation of Safety Reports as per the guidelines mentioned by the regulatory authority of that particular country, (for example in India it is Schedule Y), to generate clear, concise and comprehendible CRFs, maintenance of safety databases, coding of diseases, ADRS & medications, reconciliation of SAEs in accordance with specific guidelines, review trial protocol on a periodic basis, generation of PSURs etc.

This field is great choice for people who have an eye for details and who are really good with medical terms and terminologies. It helps a good deal for the potential candidate if he/she is aware of the latest happenings in the pharmaceutical industry all over the world. Educational qualification required will include a degree in Life Sciences, Medicine, Pharmacy, PhD etc. Apart from the ones

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mentioned, a candidate can greatly benefit if he/she has a specialized degree or training in Pharmacovigilance.

## Careers in Drug Safety Standards

Pharmacovigilance Careers: Pharmacovigilance is the branch of science concerning to the discovery, estimation, understanding and avoidance of adverse effects, mainly long and short-term side effects of medicines. In general, it deals with compiling, monitoring, investigating, estimating and analyzing data from healthcare service providers and patients on the adverse effects of biological, allopathic medications, herbals and alternative medicines.

Pharmacovigilance market worth worldwide was to the tune of US $186 million in 2008 and is expected to touch US $ 2,253 by 2015. As of now, India is the fourth biggest producer of medicines in the world and therefore is a surplus of medicinal brands with greater than 6,000 licensed drug makers and more than 60,000 acknowledged formulations.

If the new drug is proving to be safe will be continued in the market and those that are found detrimental are taken off the market. After a drug side effect is observed, the Pharmacovigilance personnel enter the incident in appropriate databases, and pass-on these reports to local regulatory bodies and other relevant bodies. It is mandatory for all pharma companies to forward the safety data generated by Pharmacovigilance expert to submit to regulatory bodies on regular basis.

Bench marking stringent laws by local regulatory authorities viz., US-FDA, EMEA, DCGI, etc. has forced to the implementation of a methodical Pharmacovigilance construct globally. This in addition had influenced the creation of large number of jobs opportunities in this field.

New drugs will always hit markets and the data to be generated will grow big and subsequently the job market will surely look promising!

Wishing you a Fruitful Satisfying Career. God Bless