

Professional Pharmacy Practice: Life After Graduation

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

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Outline

- Introduction
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- The many faces of the profession
- The star pharmacist
- The transition
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Introduction

- Graduating from pharmacy school is a momentous occasion.
- From the long nights of studying for tests and finals, the externship and clerkship experiences, to the papers and presentations, your journey has reached a great milestone.
- It definitely calls for celebration before starting the new chapter in your life!

student
L!FE

Background.....

- Traditionally, pharmacy was regarded as a transitional discipline between the health and chemical sciences and as a profession charged with ensuring the safe use of medication.
- In the early 1900s, pharmacists fulfilled the role of **apothecary** — preparing drug products *secundum artem* (according to the art) for medicinal use.
- By the mid-1960s pharmacists had evolved toward a more patient-oriented practice and developed the concept of **clinical pharmacy**.



Background contd.

- The clinical pharmacy era marked the beginning of a period of rapid transition that was characterized by an expansion and integration of professional functions, as well as increased professional diversity and closer interaction with physicians and other health care professionals.
- By the early 1990s, the **pharmaceutical care model** was adopted to emphasize that the role of the pharmacist involves “the responsible provision of drug therapy for the purpose of achieving definite outcomes that improve a patient's quality of life.” (Pharmaceutical care)

Background.

- Pharmacists are currently recognized as **drug experts**
- Major role: working in collaboration with patients, physicians and other health care professionals.
- Goal: **Optimization of medication management**
- Producing positive health outcomes.



The many faces of the profession

- “When you begin your study in pharmacy school you know you want to be involved in healthcare.
- What you don’t realize is that there are many different careers available to you after you graduate.
- I was unaware of what I could do with my education. But as I progressed through school, I realized there’s more to pharmacy than what most people think.”

Megan Baker, 2014 Pharm.D. graduate

The many faces contd.

THE MANY FACES OF PHARMACISTS

MANUFACTURING
YOUR LABORATORY

- Ensure the implementation of good manufacturing practice in pharmaceutical companies.
- Control quality of medicines to ensure their quality and safety.
- Manage drug manufacturing processes to meet needs of medicine in the market.

REGULATIONS
YOUR LAW OFFICE

- Formulate and implement regulatory provisions in Singapore.
- Prepare new drug regulations to enable timely access of safe, effective and high quality medicine.
- Safeguard the import and registration of medicines and medical devices.

ACADEMIC
YOUR DEGREE COURSE

- Plays a pivotal role in educating future generations of pharmacists.
- Engaging in research activities.

RESEARCH
YOUR CHEMICAL LABORATORY

- Provide new routes for synthesis of molecules or molecules with new side effects for the benefit of patients.
- Provide technical advice from designing or engineering of drugs, to study or compare effectiveness and safety of new molecules before its launch into market.

COMMUNITY
YOUR PATIENCE IS BESTFRIEND

- Manage acute ailments through oral, parenteral, inhaled and topical formulations.
- Provide smoking cessation counseling and weight management services.
- Advise on your supplements and vitamins.
- Fill your prescriptions.

MARKETING
YOUR EDUCATION COURSE

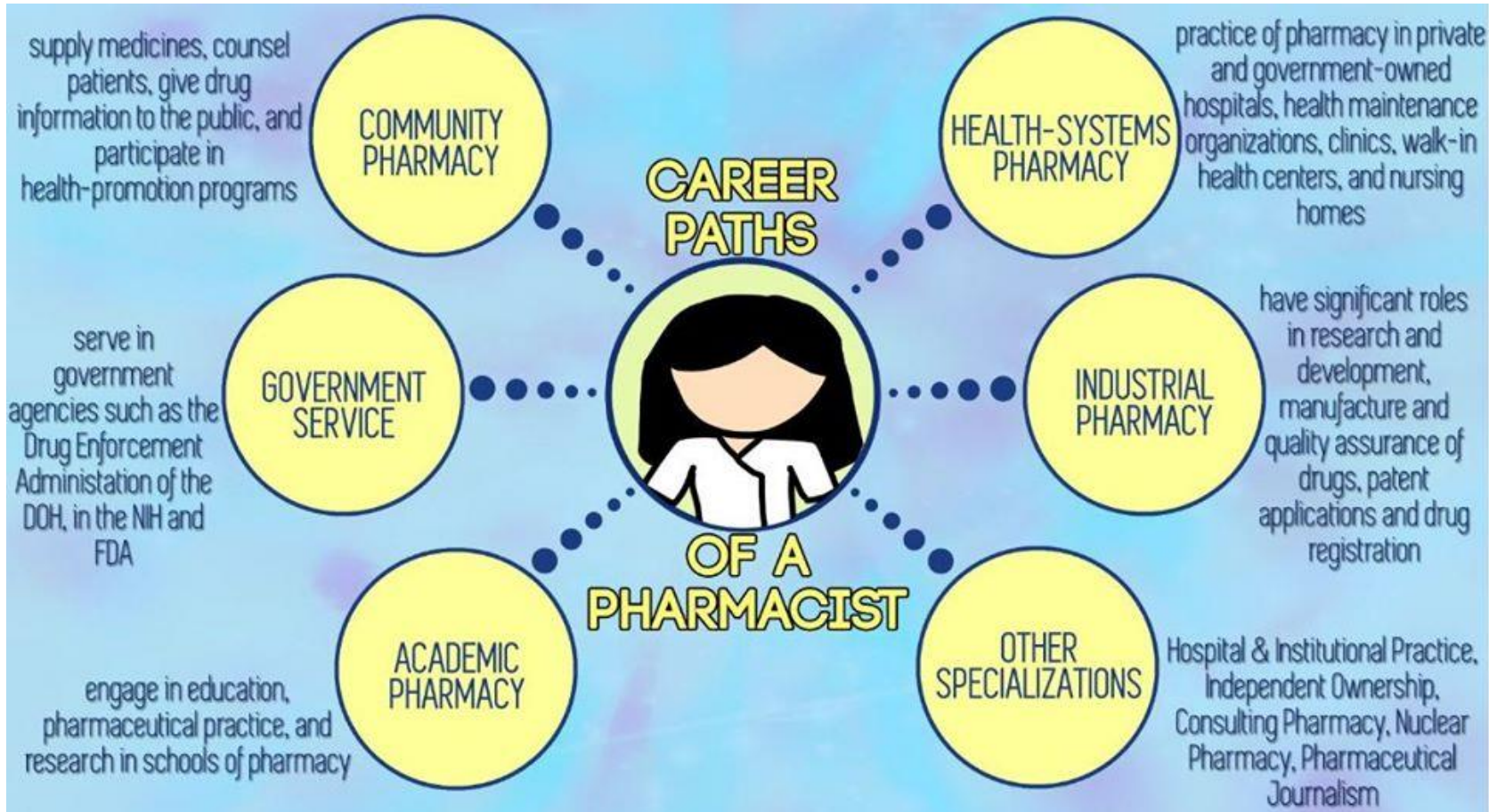
- Introduce and advance healthcare products to new treatment options.
- Act as an important channel of distribution from pharmaceutical companies to the end users.

HOSPITAL
YOUR PHARMACY CAN TAKE CARE

- Provide professional advice on best choice of medicines for each patient.
- Manage the inventory to ensure continuous supply of safe and high quality medicines.
- Fill your prescriptions.
- Coordinate specialist care to manage blood pressure, diabetes and anticoagulation.
- Formulate policies and treatment guidelines within hospitals.

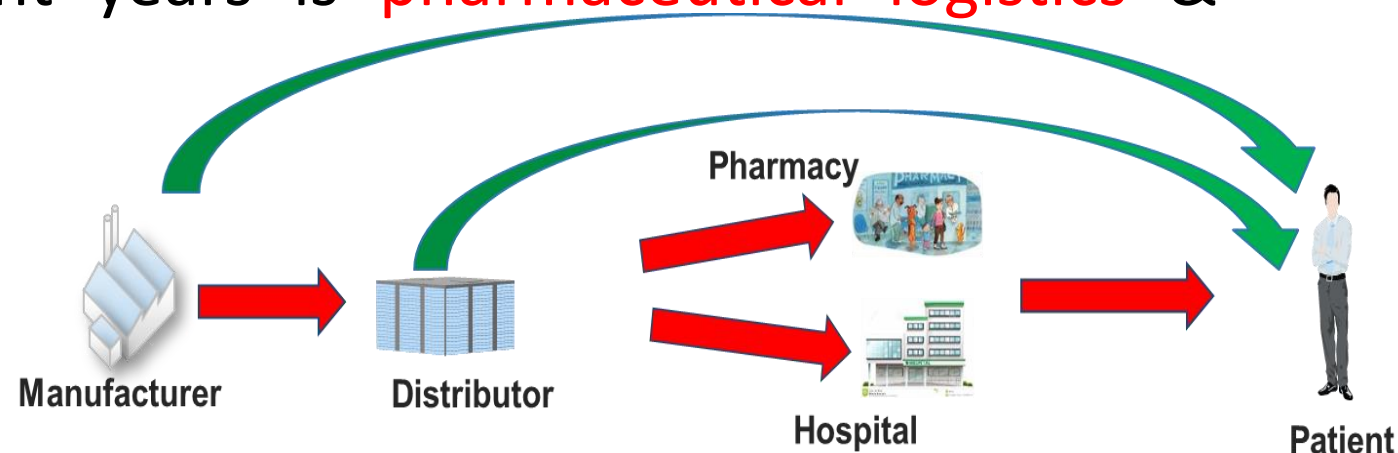
JUSTASK  

The many faces contd.



The many faces contd.

- Career opportunities in pharmacy are quite very diverse. Apart from the traditional ones – industrial pharmacy, academic pharmacy, hospital pharmacy, and community pharmacy practice, many more areas of professional practice continue to emerge.
- A field of professional practice in pharmacy that has attracted significant attention in recent years is **pharmaceutical logistics & supply chain management**.



The many faces contd.

- Some specialized areas in pharmacy practice include:
 - Nuclear Pharmacy
 - Nutrition Support Pharmacy
 - Oncology Pharmacy
 - Psychiatric Pharmacy
 - Forensic Pharmacy
 - Poison Control
 - Geriatric / Pediatric Pharmacy

The many faces contd.

- **Regulatory science** deserves a lot more attention than it is currently getting in our clime today
- Regulatory science: developing new tools, standards and approaches to evaluate the efficacy, safety, quality and performance of medical and other products.



The star pharmacist

- “**Seven-star** pharmacist
 - Introduced by the WHO, and adopted by the FIP in 2000 in its policy statement on Good Pharmacy Education Practice
 - To cover the roles of **caregiver, decision-maker, communicator, manager, life-long learner, teacher and leader.**
- **Eight-star** pharmacist
 - **Researcher** has since been added.
 - All these have been addressed in the competence standards.

The entrepreneur pharmacist

The entrepreneur pharmacist is a **nine-star** pharmacist

“The lifeblood of every developed nation is entrepreneurs, people who set out to build their own destiny and achieve fame and fortune.”

- Alan Bonsall

Entrepreneur: a person who organizes and manages any enterprise, especially a business, usually with considerable initiative and risk.



The transition

- The art of life and living lies in a constant readjustment to our surroundings because change seems to be the only thing that is constant in life.
- For you, this is a moment of transition, and how you handle it will define your future.



The transition

- The common challenges of transitioning to professional life are felt by pharmacy graduates around the world.
- Prior to practice, the student will rarely be granted full autonomy, and decisions taken are often supported in an academic framework.
- In practice, however, the new pharmacist faces complex decision making, (sometimes without the guiding hand of a preceptor), has more responsibility, and is expected to be politely assertive when a potential drug therapy issue is identified.

The transition contd.

- To overcome this hurdle
 - Mentally accept your new role as a pharmacist
 - Be prepared to fully embrace the responsibilities that come with it.
 - Visualize yourself as an active part of the health care system, (or any pharmacy-related practice).
 - Always act in the best interest of the patient, society, and the country at large
 - Utilize soft skills such as critical thinking and emotional intelligence

Tit-bits contd.

Hard skills: Tangible, easy to teach, identify, and measure, e.g. technical and administrative skills.

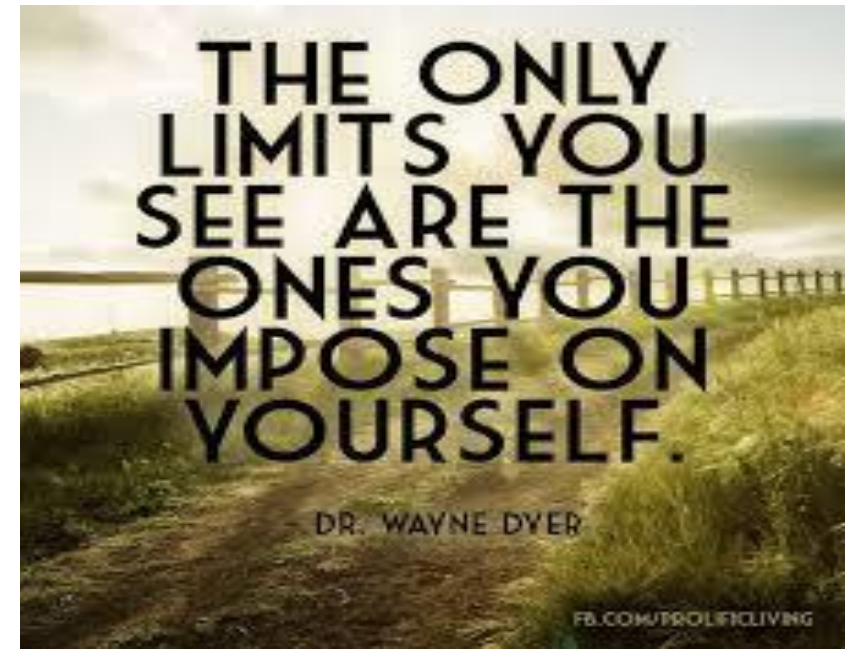
Soft skills: intangible, interpersonal, and immeasurable, e.g. communication, empathy, and negotiation.

**Hard Skills get you a
job, soft skills take
you to the top**

Some transition tit-bits

- “It’s not what you don’t have that limits you, but what you have and don’t know how to use it.”

- Steve Harris



Discover your purpose!

- When you love what you do:
 - Work hard towards being great at it
 - The world would demand your **service or product**,
 - you'll be paid for it!!
- Prepare to adjust your purpose at a macro level i. e, focus on Attaining the greater goal



Transition tit-bits

- Be proactive, not reactive!
 - proactivity is your ability to sense a shift in the way things are done and to quickly adjust.
 - when you are proactive, you make things happen. If you are reactive, things happen to you.



Transition tit-bits contd.

- Be passionate about what you do
 - Passion propels the drive and determination to the realization of dreams.
- Be creative
 - Creativity is the ultimate key to business success
 - Creativity is seeing the world through a different lens



Tit-bits

- Be an effective time manager
 - One of the most effective skills you can have in life is powerful and effective time management.
 - If you're not managing your time well, there's no way you're going to reach your goals at work and in life generally.



Tit-bits contd.

- Learn the art of leveraging
 - Leveraging is using something/process to gain maximum advantage or influence.
- You must make efforts to leverage on the following:

Relationships

- Don't be an island to yourself.
- To go fast, go alone. To go far, go together!

“Your network is your net worth.”

- Tim Sanders

Tit-bits contd.

Personal skills

- Use more of what you are good at to get more of what you want.
 - to have leverage is to hold the advantage in situations.
 - developing and deploying certain skills give you an edge.

Tit-bits contd.

Information technology

- the internet has made the world a global village.
- but, what use are you putting the internet to?
- Nigerians spend an average of about 4 hours on the internet daily.
- leverage on IT as a tool to gain knowledge and for maximum impact.

Conclusions

- It is time to put all the knowledge to good use.
- Continue to broaden your horizon through learning.
- Expand your mind. Dream big, but don't be a lazy dreamer!
- Utilize more soft skills – critical thinking and emotional intelligence
- Conceive extraordinary concepts while seeking opportunities.
- And when opportunities come, seize the moment!!
- Always ask yourself: how can I make a difference?
- In the words of J. F. Kennedy, “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.”

THANK
YOU

The image features the words "THANK YOU" in a bold, 3D, light green font with black outlines. The word "THANK" is on the top line, and "YOU" is on the bottom line. A cartoon egg character with a brown body, a smiling face, and a red tongue is positioned between the 'Y' and 'O' of "YOU".