

Joint study programme in pharmacy: A one health approach in education

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Introduction: The University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice (UVMP) is the only veterinary university and one of two universities providing pharmacy education in Slovakia. UVMP has been preparing pharmacists with Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice (UPJŠ). In 2016, preparation for a Joint Study Programme (JSP) 'Pharmacy' started. It enabled education within the 'One world, one health' concept, which considers interconnections between human medicine, veterinary medicine, and the environment. This is important in preventing diseases, understanding their causes and treatment personalisation. The aim is to better prepare graduates through patient-oriented education by equipping them with skills and competences that are expected from the pharmacy workforce and professionals.

Method: The JSP study plan was prepared in accordance with Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012, based on previous experience and the latest pharmacy education trends. New subjects were introduced and the syllabi were updated. The study plan was discussed with the subject guarantors from UVMP and UPJŠ, pharmacy graduates, employers, Košice Pharmacy Students Association, Pharmacy Board, UVMP's Scientific Council and approved by UVMP's Academic Senate. The JSP conditions are detailed in the 'Agreement on JSP' between UVMP and UPJŠ. The accreditation dossier was sent to the Accreditation Commission (AC) pursuant to Act 131/2002 Coll.

Results: With the AC approval, the Pharmacy education has been provided by UVMP and UPJŠ within the JSP since 2018/2019.

Conclusions: The JSP enables reinforcement and update of knowledge in pharmaceutical sciences, development of better and closer relationships with other health professionals, such as medical doctors and dentists, and with the society, development of skills and competence (wider range of compulsory and compulsory elective subjects, new thesis and rigorous thesis topics, preparing Ph.D. students), joint research projects and close collaboration of students of both universities.

Evaluation of educational seminar on the analysis of pesticides in cannabis

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Introduction: There is a need for sensitive, accurate and efficient methods of analysis to determine amounts of pesticides in herbal products intended for medicinal use, such as cannabis for medicinal use. An educational seminar on the analysis of pesticides in cannabis was organised for scientists and healthcare professionals involved in pharmaceutical analysis, evaluation of herbal medicinal products and patient safety. During the seminar, reflections on standardised methods of analysis of pesticides that could be adopted by the industry were discussed to help ensure quality, efficacy and safety of herbal medicinal products. The aim was to evaluate this educational seminar.

Method: A self-administered questionnaire was distributed to attendees at the end of the seminar. Respondents were asked to rate on a five-point Likert scale from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree' whether the seminar was well organised, helped them appreciate fundamental principles of pesticide analysis and information in the seminar was comprehensive.

Results: 56 participants out of 80 completed the questionnaire. Thirty-one respondents were female and ages ranged from 20 to 64 years. The majority of respondents (n = 36) had a post-graduate education level and 25 respondents worked in industry. Positive feedback (score of 4 or 5) about the educational seminar was received: 54 respondents felt that the educational seminar was well-organised, 49 respondents claimed that the content of the seminar met their expectations, and 47 respondents felt that the educational seminar was relevant to their practice. Fifty-one respondents felt that the educational seminar helped them appreciate fundamental principles of pesticides analysis and information in the seminar was comprehensive.

Conclusions: The educational seminar was positively appraised by the attendees. Organisation of similar seminars in the future could help to provide opportunities for stakeholders to come together, network and collaborate in developing harmonised methods for pesticides analysis which are efficient and sustainable.