

Development of a Professional Doctorate in Pharmacy



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INTRODUCTION

Innovations in drug therapy and attempts to manage chronic and life threatening conditions, contributed to the need for pharmacists practising in clinical settings, in pharmaceutical regulatory and policy development units to develop advanced professional skills together with a research perspective.

AIM

To develop a postgraduate programme leading to a professional doctorate in pharmacy.

RESULTS

A three year full-time programme leading to a Doctorate in Pharmacy degree, PharmD, was developed. The course is targeted at pharmacists who would like to develop advanced clinical practice skills and undertake applied research.

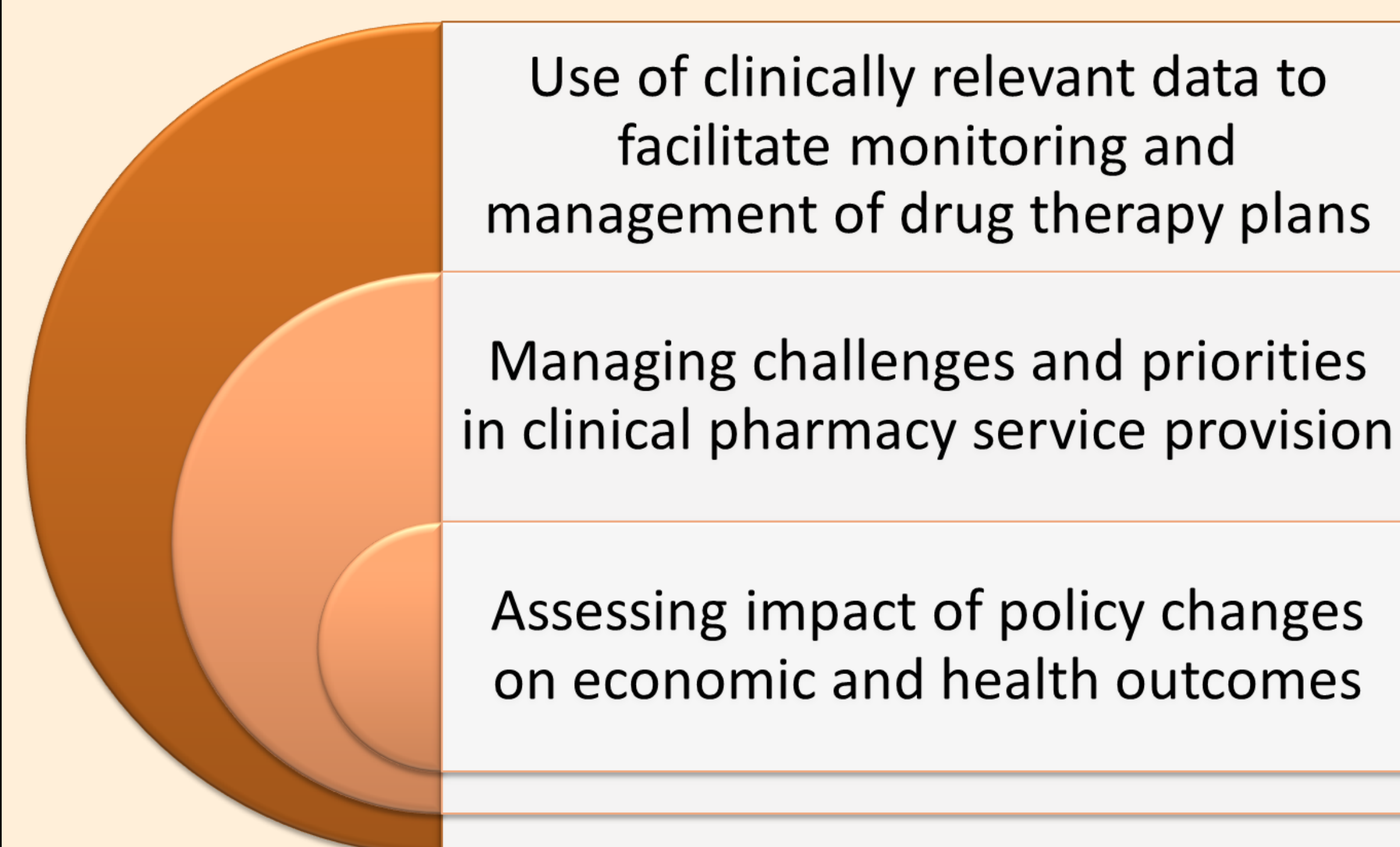


Figure 1: Skills and Competencies identified to be developed in the course

METHOD

- An analysis to identify advanced skills and competences in professional practice required was undertaken by mapping skills attained in current curricula leading to a degree in pharmacy.
- Discussions with pharmacists and healthcare professionals in practice were undertaken.
- The proposed programme was discussed within the University research and education committees to ensure that the level provided by the programme was equivalent to a Level 8 doctoral degree according to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

The first year of the course consists of taught units and clinical rotations. The taught units are delivered using a blended learning model that includes lectures, distance-learning and practice-based learning. In the second and third year clinical experience and research are undertaken.

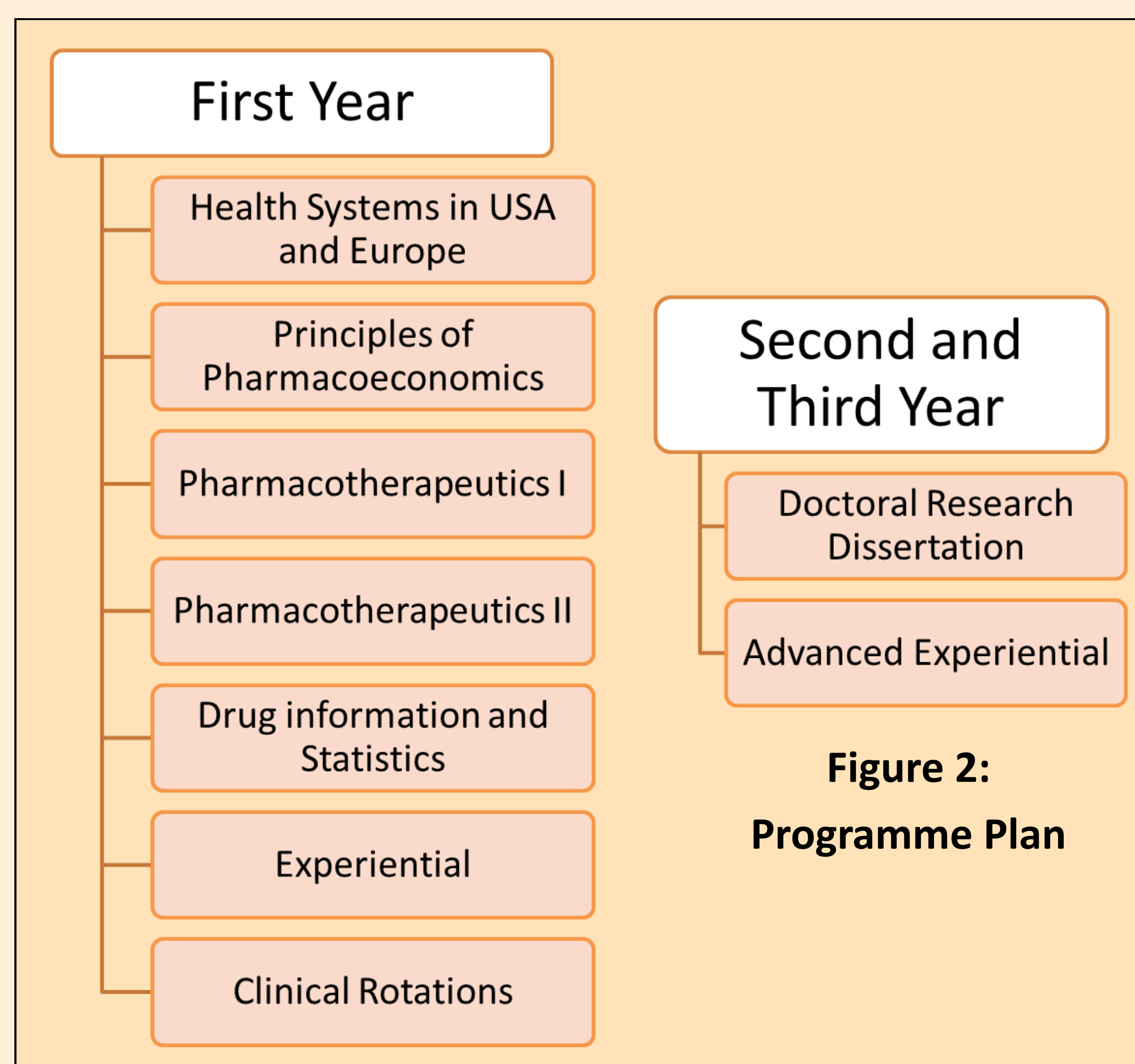


Figure 2: Programme Plan

CONCLUSION

The programme is approved and will start in October 2014. It was developed and is offered by the Department of Pharmacy of the University of Malta in collaboration with the College of Pharmacy of the University of Illinois at Chicago, USA.