

MOVING TOWARDS REGULATORY SCIENCES THROUGH EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Annalise Attard¹, Caroline Muscat¹, Luana Mifsud Buhagiar¹, Lilian M Azzopardi², Anthony Serracino-Inglott¹

¹Malta Medicines Authority, San Gwann, Malta

²Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Malta, Msida, Malta

email: annalise.a.attard@gov.mt

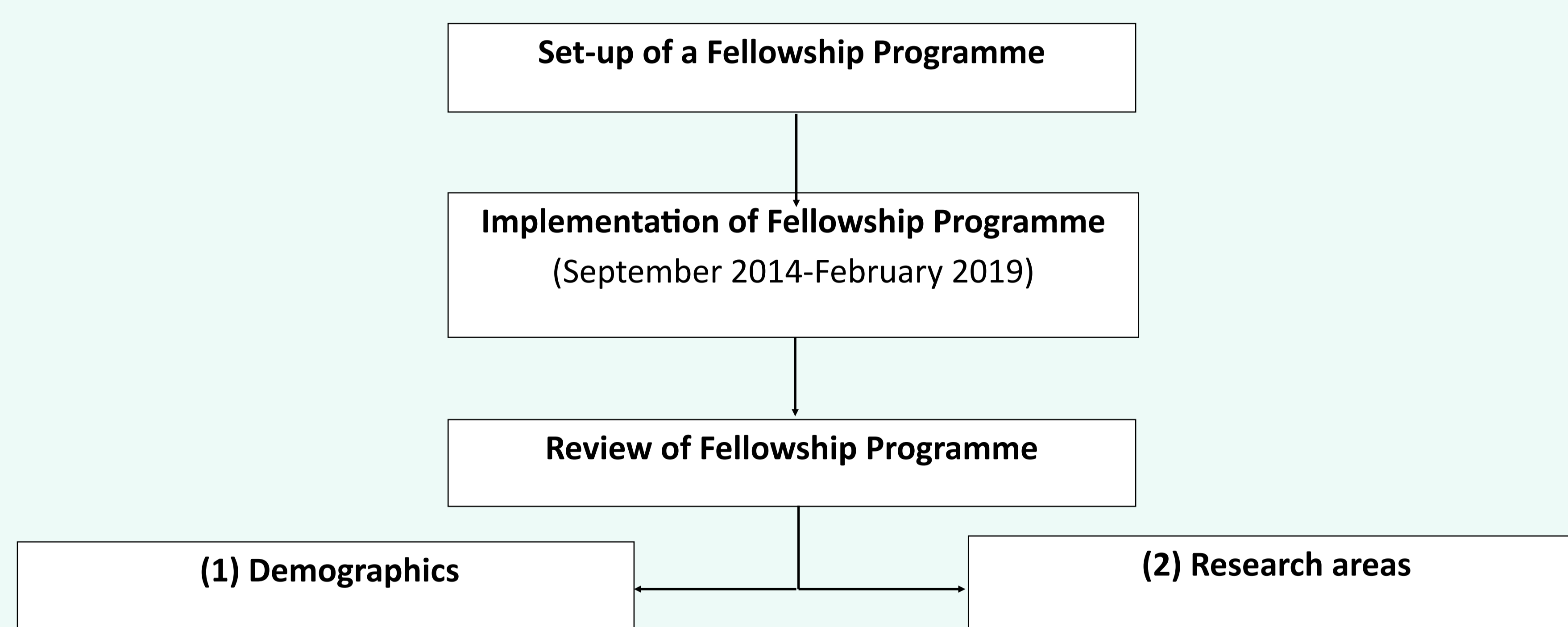
INTRODUCTION

- There is the need for training in regulatory sciences for pharmacy students.
- Training may be facilitated by exposure within National Competent Authorities.
- Training can involve rotations in the diverse directorates within a National Competent Authority.

AIMS

- To develop a fellowship programme for pharmacy students, at the Malta Medicines Authority and
- To assist students to train in the regulatory sciences field during the process of obtaining their qualification.

METHOD



RESULTS

- Over a timeframe of 53 months a total of 41 students have enrolled for the programme.
- Thirty-five (35) students enrolled for Doctorate stream, (Level 8), 5 students for Masters stream (Level 7) and 1 student for Diploma stream (Level 5).
- Out of the stream 1 students, 20 were from European Union (EU) countries and 15 from non-EU countries, while students of stream 2 and 3 were from Malta.
- Ten students have terminated the fellowship programme before conducting their course research, while out of the remaining 31 students, 15 have carried out their research related to regulatory sciences, 11 have not started their research and 5 have conducted their research in other pharmacy areas.
- The research carried out by the students was conducted in 15 innovative regulatory sciences areas, such as clinical trials, stem cells, cannabis and medicines access, with 26 presentations at various conferences.
- The fellowship programme was reviewed to include a new stream related to Bachelor (Level 6) qualification.

CONCLUSION

The fellowship programme offered a unique opportunity for local and international pharmacy students exposing them to the regulatory sciences field. This initiative enhances the appreciation of the importance of quality, safety and efficacy, and improves the regulatory knowledge of academic researchers for the benefit of patients and the healthcare system.