Our Inaugural Newsletter from the University of Florida Online Pharmaceutical Outcomes & Policy Program

ALUMNI INTERVIEW: DR. JAMES PATRICK

James Patrick, Jr., Pharm.D., M.P.A., M.S. received his MS degree with a specialty track focus in Applied Pharmacoeconomics in December, 2015.

Dr. Patrick spoke with POP Topics about how the UF Online Pharmaceutical Outcomes & Policy (POP) MS Program changed his career.

Current job title:
HEOR Lead, Sr. Medical Liaison, Strongbridge Biopharma.

Currently resides in:
San Antonio, TX

Job held during graduate school:
Regional Medical Science/Outcomes Liaison, Novo Nordisk.

Join our new LinkedIn Group:
University of Florida Online POP Alumni https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12151395

Hold the Date: Informational Webinar on POP Graduate Program + Mini-Lecture, Wed, Feb 27, 2019 12-2pm EST

3 Words to describe the UF Online POP Graduate program:

Why did you choose this program?
I could see the health care landscape changing, including the need to better manage costs so that patients could access quality medications. I wanted to more actively contribute to making that a reality. In my job at the time (Regional Medical Science/Outcomes Liaison at Novo Nordisk), I worked with providers wrestling with wanting to prescribe better quality products but not being able to due to costs.

The WHY:
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I wanted to be more deeply involved in the economics of healthcare and drug decision-making, and to contribute to process improvement by directly helping improve health outcomes."

~James Patrick, Jr., Pharm.D., M.P.A., M.S.

Favorite Class:
Managed Prescription Drug Systems, taught by Dr. Robert Navarro. This class was so practical since I was also seeing these changes in my current MSL role. Dr. Navarro made us think deeper about our own personal work experiences and marry these with pharmacoeconomic and business principles.

How did you select your Specialty Track?
Being already involved in the pharma industry as an MSL, I selected the Applied Pharmaco- economics track because I thought that by having some pre-existing access in key institutions, I could provide more value to my customers with my clinical expertise as well as new training in health economics.

Most challenging project:
Decision-tree analysis with TreeAge® software. It was challenging because I had never done any decision-modeling before, but it was a great deal of fun! And, my knowledge of decision analysis is a unique and important skill for my current company since I’m one of the few MSLs with this knowledge.
Can you really balance work, life, and graduate school?

All kidding aside, it’s not an easy task, but it is absolutely doable. I focused on what I wanted the outcome to be and feel like, not what was hard at the time. For example, I always envisioned myself in a leadership role in HEOR and managed care at a pharma company.

Since graduating, the vision is quickly becoming a reality, and it’s happening faster than I even imagined!

What about the faculty and staff in the UF Online POP Program?

To quote Maya Angelou, the American poet, “People will seldom remember the things you did, but they will always remember how you made them feel.”

Dr. Navarro and Heather Steingraber always made me feel like I could do it, that what I had to contribute matters, and that health care could be impacted by what I do or say each day. That feeling is what enhances and encourages learning. That’s what it’s all about.

What career opportunities have occurred because you have this degree?

My career opportunities began to escalate immediately, even during my enrollment in the MS POP program. In class, we learned about non-traditional care models (ACOs, IDNs), and I was encountering these in my role as an MSL at Novo Nordisk. I changed how I cultivated those relationships and corporate leadership took notice. At a national level, we began using our approach for MSLs, and I was named Field Team Support Chairperson to spearhead the initiative.

I eventually voluntarily left Novo Nordisk to spread my wings and am now with Strongbridge Biopharma, a small biotech company. With my UF training, I was able to become HEOR lead and Senior MSL for the national team.

I feel very confident that the opportunities are just beginning for me!