

Potential Roles of Pharmacist in Clinical Research Field in the Developing Countries

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Abstract

Background: There are many challenges for clinical research in the developing countries including shortage of qualified research staff who are interested and able to conduct research project.

Objective: To determine the various potential roles of pharmacist in clinical research field in the developing countries.

Methods: Literature review, personal experience and discussion with experts and pharmacists in the field.

Results: Pharmacists can play vital roles in the research area in the region due to their training, education and qualifications. The pharmacist's knowledge of pharmacology and other drug related issues will be a vital strength to the research operation. Pharmacist can function as scientist in phase 1 unit, clinical research coordinator, clinical research associate, reviewer, research clinical pharmacist in Investigational Drug Service (IDS) pharmacy and principal investigator for various studies.

Although pharmacist in the Arab countries require further training in regulatory and ethical issues, such as human subject protection, but that is not different from all other health care provider, including physician.

Conclusion: Research career track is a viable option for pharmacist in the developing countries with potential major contribution to the advancement of science and patient care