

BECOMING AN HOSPITAL PHARMACIST: AN OBSERVATIONAL CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY ON THE EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS FROM STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE



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Background

Despite the Common Training Framework project, routes to become an hospital pharmacist in Europe remain extremely patchy. Enrollment in a post-graduate Hospital Pharmacy School (SHP) is the way to become a hospital pharmacist in Italy. Despite a harmonizing effort occurred in 2015, students still describe a heterogeneous real life situation of SHPs between different universities which results in learning difficulties and lack of scholarship.

Purpose

The main objective of our study is to **evaluate**, through the first national survey, **the possible differences in the educational** pathway of Italian SHP students.

Methods

This is an observational cross-sectional students-oriented study. We investigated, through a questionnaire, 5 main topics:

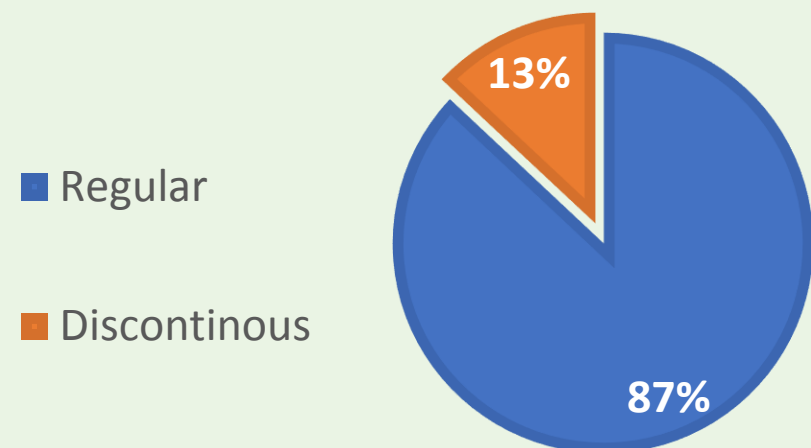
- structure of residency training,
- study plan adherence,
- relationship between students and tutors,
- economic compensation,
- research activity.



Results (1)

68% (172/278) of national SHP students voluntarily participated to the survey.

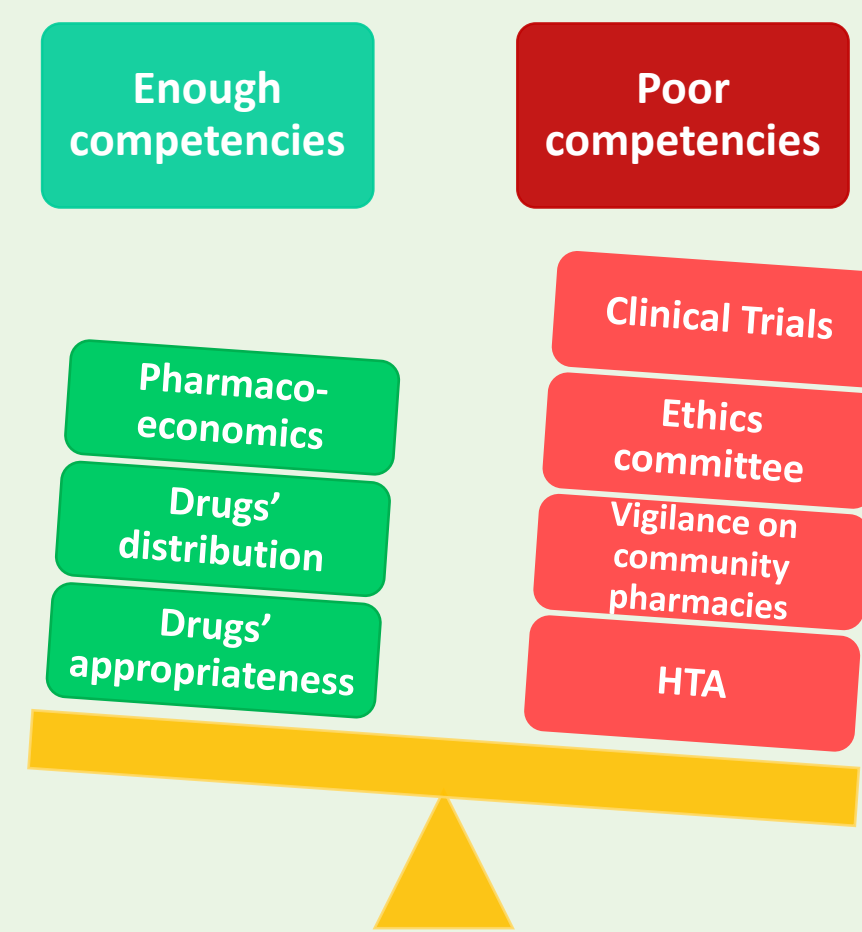
ROTATION AMONG
ASSIGNED TRAINING
HOSPITALS



87% of students rotate between hospitals assigned for residency training, but 66% of them thought that lessons' schedule didn't fit with residency.

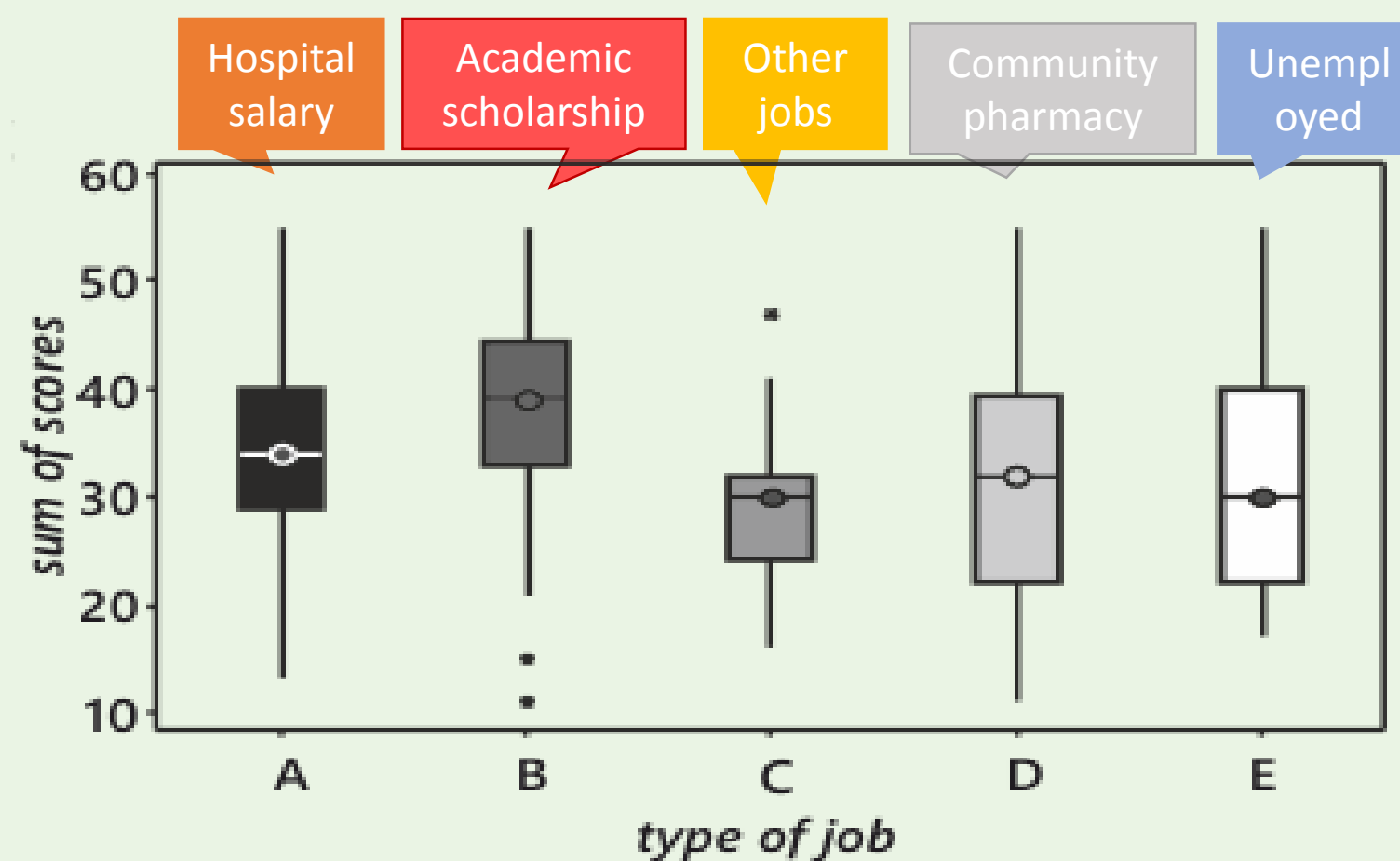
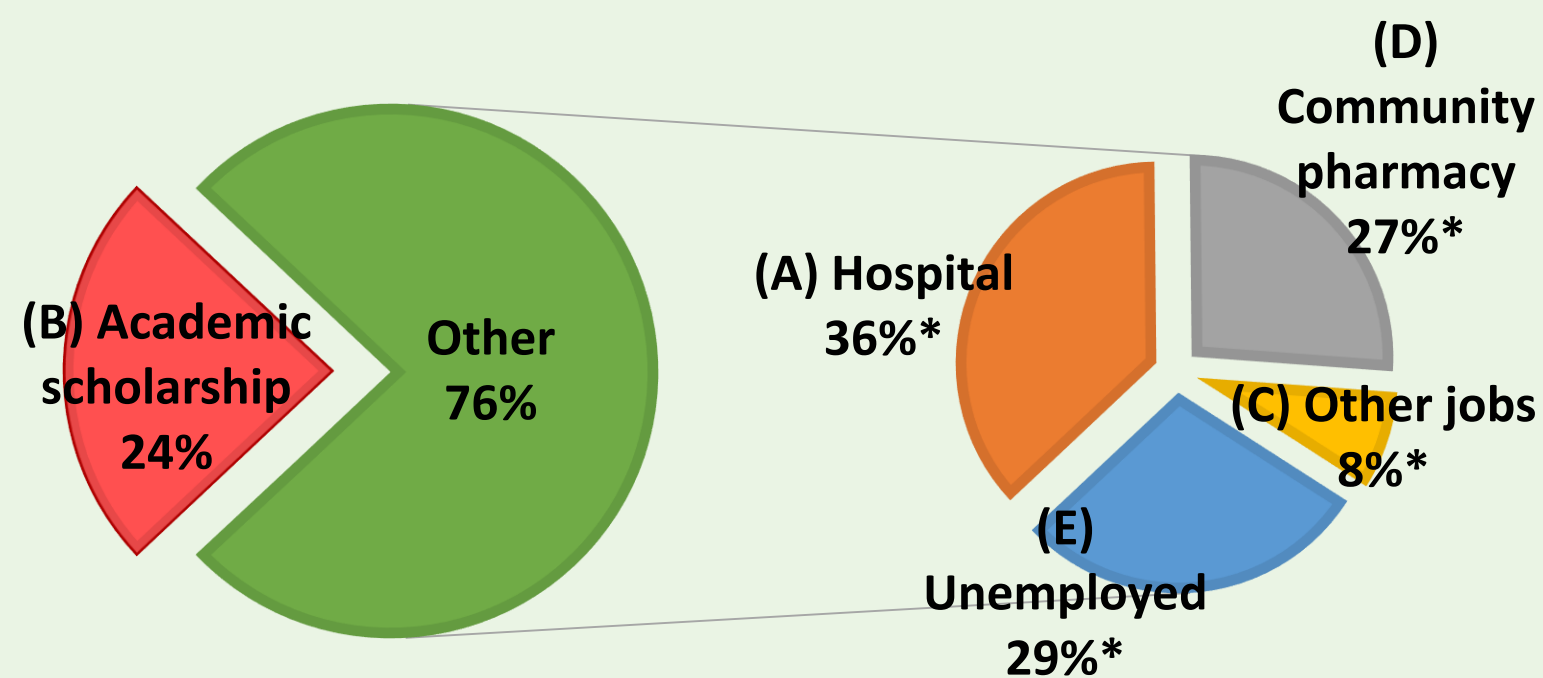
Results (2)

We asked students to score the adherence to study plan in 11 key topics for training as hospital pharmacist.



Results (3)

WHERE DO STUDENTS FIND THEIR SALARY?



Despite SHP required a full-time residency, only 24% of students received a scholarship funded by university. *Among the other students: 36% were employed by hospitals, 27% by community pharmacies, 8% worked out of pharmaceutical field and 29% didn't received any salary.

Students receiving an academic scholarship reported a higher adherence to study plan ($P < 0.001$) and better educational scores.

Conclusion

National SHPs still presented a patchwork-organization and as long as an academic scholarship is not granted to all SHP students, the competing interests of employer institutions and academia may lead to **important differences** in training. Thus, we hope that our results encourage more investments in SHPs also in the view of the growing responsibility of our profession.