Planting the Seed for Climate and Health Education Efforts at VCU

Sustainable Pharmacy Project

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Targeting Student Involvement

● Connecting with larger student organizations
  ○ Advocacy meeting with SPPAA
● Direct student outreach with monthly General Body Meetings and guest speakers
  ○ “What questions do you have?”
● Hosting SPP’s first in-person event
  ○ Less Litter, More Health
● Instagram and Newsletter outreach
  ○ Sustainable Spotlight Newsletter
Currently

VCU Planetary Report Card: D

Met with Dr. Alice Gahbauer from University of Charleston WV School of Pharmacy and mentioned working with Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) to integrate topics related pharmaceutical waste into curriculum

Previously had a sustainability elective that was discontinued once the faculty member left the university
Proposal Method

Using a method that's previously been successful by Georgetown med students, we are aiming to work with a similar method:

- By provident initial framework, it decreases workload for the faculty
- Not changing the current material, only an addition

We also have materials from MS4SF as a starting point (Climate Change and Health Web Documents)

Identify relevant climate and health topics that impact patient health

Prepare proposals and lecture materials

Present proposals to module coordinators and gather dean support for curriculum integration
Room in Curriculum

- **Infectious Diseases Clinical Therapeutics Module:**
  - Vector ecology, parasitic diseases, antimicrobial resistance as a result of mismanaged pharma waste/manufacturing

- **Respiratory Clinical Therapeutics Module:**
  - Air pollution, allergens, inhaler propellants and the environment

- **Foundations Lab:**
  - Medication disposal counseling, advertising disposal services, accepted items, reducing PRN medications, asking about patient home meds

- **Biopharmaceutics:**
  - Inhaler component disposal (MDIs vs. DPIs/SMIs), medication containers and their disposal (#5 plastic, PP), FDA Environmental Risk Assessment as part of NDA process

- **Medicinal chemistry:**
  - Green chemistry, degradation by design (ACS Green Chemistry Institute)

- **IPEC:** interprofessional responsibility

Photo from "Hyderabad’s pharmaceutical pollution crisis: Heavy metal and solvent contamination at factories in a major Indian drug manufacturing hub"
Questions?

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