Tending the Seedling for Climate and Health Education at VCU SOP

Sustainable Pharmacy Project
Presented by: Hayley Baker and Briton Vanmaanen
Student Involvement

- Connecting with external student organizations
- Direct student outreach
  - Meeting students from other SoPs (internationally!)
  - Publicizing the issues
- Less Litter, More Health
  - ~ 40 bags of trash in 2021
  - Will be hosting another trash pick up over Earth week
- Instagram and Newsletter outreach
  - Sustainable Spotlight Newsletter
  - More than 300 followers on Instagram!
Upcoming Involvement

- Earth Week Collaboration with NEO
  - Hosting screening of Sacrifice Zone
  - Wrapping up the trash pick up
  - Hosting a medication take back table

Plans for the future

- Potential interdisciplinary elective between SoM and SoP
  - Incorporating elective SoP previously had before the faculty member left
- Utilize PHRC to recommend curriculum changes
  - Provide as reference for researching faculty and Deans office
- Still working on networking and solidifying our group (legacy)
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
Publicizing the Issues

- **Manuscript to Journal of Ethics**
  - Invited manuscript through medical student collaboration to contribute to a policy forum on the shared responsibility of medication disposal
  - Realizing that it’s important to leverage pharmacist voices, as medication experts

- **Pharmacy Times Article**
  - In collaboration with UCWV SoP students, published an article on how pharmacy students can start initiatives then carry onto practice after graduation

- **APhA-Podcast**
  - In collaboration with OSU SoP, we were able to bring light into why sustainability matters in pharmacy and make it approachable

- **Addition of Pharmacy in the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education**
  - More collaborations in events, sharing our pharmacy contacts, making events more interprofessional
Thank You!

Questions?

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