

UCB PharmD Second-Year Fellows Share Reflections and Advice

UCB is committed to investing in the future generation of leaders. The PharmD Fellowship Program partners with the Industry Pharmacists Organization (IPhO) to offer two-year programs where new pharmacy graduates can gain experience within the biopharmaceutical industry. Below are the experiences of four second-year fellows reflecting on their time at UCB and advice for future PharmD fellows.



Walter Ebile A. – Global Clinical Sciences and Operations Fellow

Walter Ebile is a second-year and inaugural Global Clinical Sciences and Operations (GCSO) fellow. He graduated from Mercer University College of Pharmacy in 2023 and has several years of experience working on health operations research projects both in the US and abroad. His passion for clinical research and unwavering commitment to putting patients first led him to join the UCB PharmD fellowship program.

Walter has already completed two five-month rotations in Clinical Project Management and Clinical Data and Innovation (CDI). He is currently completing his Medical Writing (MW) rotation, which will continue until October 2024. These experiences have contributed significantly to his professional development and allowed him to add value to his teams. He particularly enjoys leading workstreams, participating in clinical study team discussions, and bringing positive energy and a creative mindset to problem-solving.

Walter's advice to students interested in the UCB PharmD program is to remain curious and open-minded, as there are countless opportunities to learn. He emphasizes the importance of teamwork, encouraging students to always look for ways to support and add value to their teams. Finally, he reminds them to enjoy the experience.

Collins Kofi Asamoah – Medical Safety and Pharmacovigilance Fellow

Collins Asamoah is a second-year Medical Safety and Pharmacovigilance Fellow currently rotating within Safety Risk Management. Collins graduated from Temple University with his Doctor of Pharmacy and Master's in Global Clinical and Pharmacovigilance Regulations in May 2023. Due to his upbringing and witnessing the health disparities that exist across the round, as a student, he always thought of what he can make an impact in patients' lives. His mentors influenced him to pursue a career within the pharmaceutical industry because of his eagerness and willingness to help patients at a global scale. His patient-centric values attracted him to UCB as he believed they are closely aligned with UCB's values.

His time at UCB since starting in July 2023 has been "magical" to sum it all up in one word. His contribution to different global initiatives, patient-centric activities and adaptation to the ever-changing pharmacovigilance landscape has enabled him to build new skillsets and assets while sharpening old ones as well. Collins loves the challenges that accompany his daily tasks because he believes those challenges make his understanding of the pharmacovigilance world stronger.

Collins advises those interested in fellowship programs to learn to be adaptable, flexible and be authentic. While this is a learning journey, understand your "WHY" because if you know your "WHY" the "HOW" is not a problem. The combination of your WHYs and HOWs is as exclusive as your fingerprint and that can only be defined if you are true to yourself.

Aakash Patel – Medical Affairs – Immunology Fellow

Aakash Patel is the second Medical Affairs - Immunology Fellow in his second year. He graduated from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Pharmacy in 2023 where he concurrently also pursued his MBA. There, he had many leadership and research experiences and found his passion for scientific communication and relationship building. In addition to the Medical Affairs fellowship, he serves as a co-lead of the Professional Programming Committee on the IPhO National Fellows Council. The opportunity to help shape the program alongside the program directors drew Aakash to UCB; however, the patient focus of UCB's culture and being in his hometown of Atlanta made this fellowship his top choice.

In his fellowship, Aakash works to optimize and manage field-based presence and sponsorships at key conferences. He also helps developing educational campaign materials for our MSL team to use with medical professionals. He enjoys the challenge the fellowship presents as well as the ability to strategize, as well as using the science, business, and creative ways of thinking in the face of change to provide innovative solutions for our patients.

Embracing new skills and incorporating feedback has been integral to Aakash's experience, and as such, he shared this advice for those interested in the PharmD

Fellowships; “Be kind to yourself, as being a first-year fellow while being surrounded by people with years of experience can make imposture syndrome prevalent. Take each piece of feedback as an opportunity to grow and improve a little bit each day. Fellowships are meant to be a marathon – not a race, so be patient with your growth and development, you will become a well-rounded medical affairs professional at the conclusion of the program.”

Megan Griffin – Global Regulatory Affairs Fellow

Megan Griffin is the second-year Global Regulatory Affairs Fellow and is currently completing the labeling, advertising, and promotion rotation of the program. She is an alumna of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Eshelman School of Pharmacy class of 2023 where she immediately began involvement with IPhO. As a result of her membership and networking, she completed Regulatory Affairs learning courses, an internship and a rotation with the FDA, and multiple industry-related projects in various rotations that ultimately exposed her to fellowship programs. Upon learning about UCB, Megan was highly interested in the company’s therapeutic areas and rotational fellowship curriculum.

As a fellow, Megan has supported submission of clinical trial data to FDA, multiple FDA meeting requests for an asset in development, development and submission of post-approval product lifecycle maintenance updates, and labeling submissions. She is also appreciative of the ability to continue involvement with IPhO through the National Fellows Council (NFC), in which she serves as the Diversity and Representation Co-Lead, working to highlight diverse industry pharmacists. Megan also values her opportunity to co-lead fellowship recruitment efforts and the upcoming elective rotation in her curriculum, which both highlight the autonomy and impact that UCB fellows are allowed to exhibit throughout the program.

For students interested in the program, Megan emphasizes the importance of networking. Utilizing LinkedIn and IPhO resources, attending conferences, and connecting with school of pharmacy faculty are essential for creating opportunities for a path to industry. Additionally, having a mentor and a coach in the industry are important to receive sound advice and to be informed on what makes candidates particularly strong as the field is very dynamic. Most importantly, Megan advises to always show up as your best and true self – the qualities that make you unique are the most important ones.

The UCB PharmD Fellowship Program is now accepting applications. The deadline to apply is October 25, 2024. Learn more [here](#).