

A Closer Look at the Clinical Administration PRN

Overview of the PRN

The Clinical Administration (CADM) PRN was started in 2001 by Tom Gray and a group of clinical pharmacists involved in pharmacy administration. There was a clear need for a PRN that served the needs of directors, clinical coordinators, clinical managers, and administrators. Membership surveys have indicated that most members of the PRN are members of Pharmacy and Therapeutics, Medication Safety, Infection Control, and Joint Commission Readiness committees within their organizations, as well as participants in other activities such as clinical intervention reporting, clinical program development, personnel management, budgets, competency testing, and non-formulary drug control. The CADM PRN also includes members engaged in academia, particularly those in shared faculty roles within a health care institution and a college of pharmacy. Members practice in both inpatient and outpatient sites, and informatics has become a recent focus area. CADM PRN membership has grown by almost 50% in the past 5 years, likely reflecting the growing need for and interest in pharmacy leadership and health-system administration (see Figure).

In 2007, the PRN became involved in the steering committee for the ACCP Academy Leadership and Management Certificate Program and helped identify and plan its electives. Over the years, the CADM PRN has hosted many outstanding educational programs and focus sessions at the Annual Meeting that pertain to pharmacy administration. Example topics have included developing and implementing preceptor development programs, facing challenges in implementing clinical decision support, improving patient safety, and, most recently, improving medication-related key performance indicators with innovative use of pharmacy students (2014), using patient monitoring prioritization and productivity measurement to grow and sustain pharmacy services (2015), and integrating an established performance improvement method for implementing change (2016).

Clinical administrators are key people in translating knowledge about drug therapy into general practice through systematic organizational policies. Beyond administrative residencies and master's degree programs, the opportunities to prepare people for this role are relatively few, and the PRN provides a forum for practitioners to learn from each other. In short, the CADM PRN has been a rewarding home for the growing number of members who practice in leadership and clinical administration.

Membership Overview

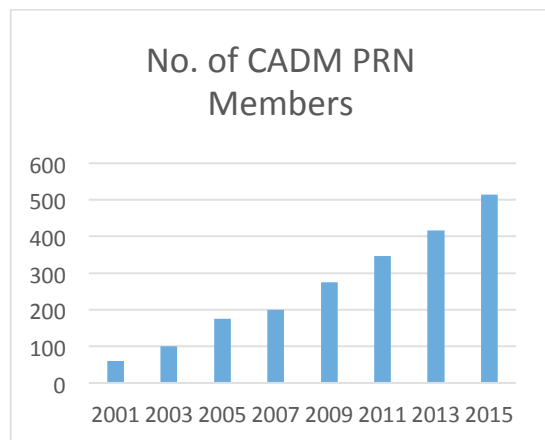
Total Members: 514

Student Members: 127

Resident Members: 20

Fellow Members: 2

Figure. Growth of the CADM PRN Membership.



Opportunities for Student, Resident, and Fellow Members

The CADM has an active student and resident contingency, especially for those interested in health-system administration. The Student and Resident Committee hosts many webinars each year with guest speakers on topics relevant to students and residents. Topics have included “What’s Next?! Tips and Advice for Recently Matched Residents,” “Pharmacy Informatics,” and “Preparing for the Administration Residency Application Process.”

Each year, the CADM PRN offers three travel awards to the Annual Meeting to students, residents, and fellows. The PRN is interested in supporting students and residents who are focusing their education and training in pharmacy administration or informatics, and award winners present their projects to the PRN members at the business meeting.

The CADM PRN is a great opportunity to network with other young pharmacists who are interested in or pursuing pharmacy administration together with more senior leaders who can serve as mentors or contacts for future positions.

Current Issues

The work is never done for administrators and leaders! Every year brings new challenges, and 2016 has been no exception. Some of the trends currently keeping administrators busy include:

- Improving the patient care experience (quality and satisfaction), improving the health of populations, and reducing per capita health care costs according to the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Triple Aim
- Making the most of a data-rich environment in an era of electronic health records
- Ensuring patient safety, with particular emphasis on preventing and controlling health care-associated infections

We are in the midst of a major transformation across the health care industry. Pharmacy leaders and administrators are focused on ensuring their departments and organizations are delivering the best experience, best care, and best possible outcomes for patients. Forward-thinking leaders are tapping into networks such as the CADM PRN to assist them in meeting these strategic goals and contemporary challenges.

Submitted by:

Elizabeth Michalets, Pharm.D., FCCP, BCPS, CPP

Venita Papillion, Pharm.D., MBA

Tamara Malm, Pharm.D., MPH, BCPS