

## **Student Pharmacist Perceptions of Palliative Care in the Academic Setting**

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Statement of Problem: Palliative care is not an ACPE accreditation requirement for schools of pharmacy, creating inconsistent palliative care pharmacy education.

Background/Review of Literature: A literature review was conducted using the PubMed MEDLINE and Clinical Key Databases. Keywords including palliative, education and pharmacist were used to identify relevant articles. This review demonstrated a lack of consistency in palliative care education in pharmacy curriculum.

Purpose: The purpose of this project was to assess knowledge, perceived importance and perceived need for increased palliative care knowledge of student pharmacists at a single school of pharmacy.

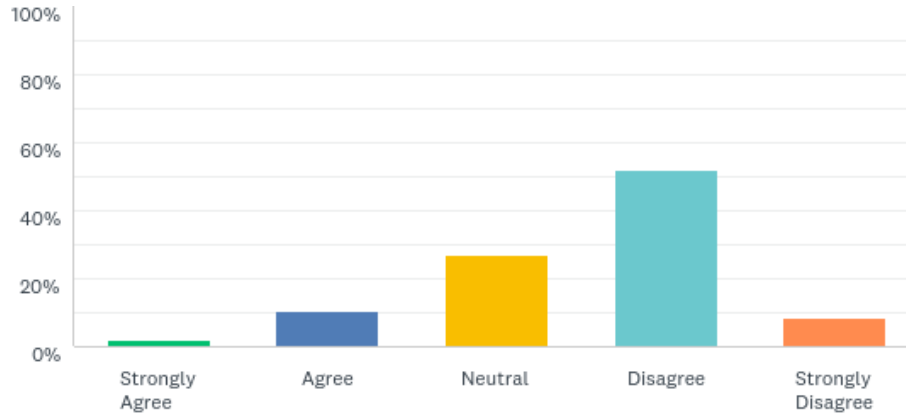
Methods/Measures: One-hour educational sessions were conducted in the PACE800 and DPET812 elective courses at the University of North Carolina Eshelman School of Pharmacy to expose 46 third-year pharmacy students to palliative care. Surveys were administered via Survey Monkey® before and after sessions and compared with responses of fourth-year students having completed Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experiences (APPEs). Descriptive statistics were used to evaluate data.

Implementation Timeline: This project was submitted to the UNC Educational Research Review Committee in October 2017 and final surveys were collected in April 2018. Results will be shared with the Associate Dean for Professional Education in Summer 2018.

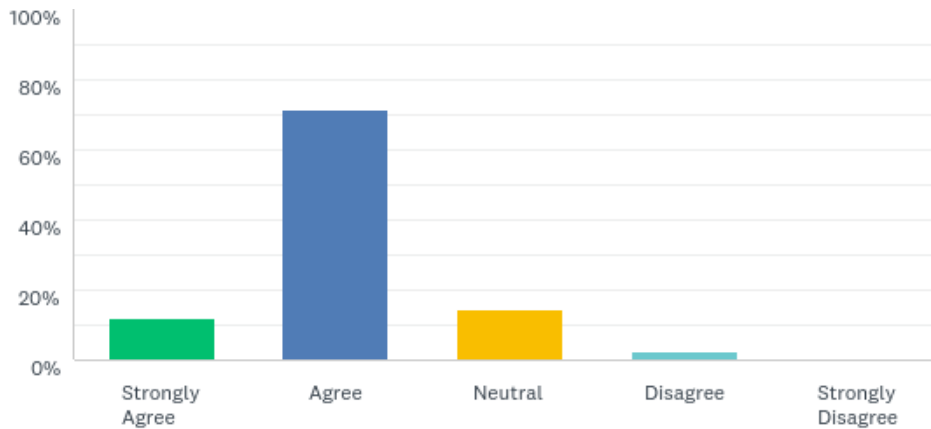
Findings/Results: Students reported a better understanding of palliative care after educational sessions. However, most students completing third-year and fourth-year experiences indicated they desired additional exposure to palliative and end-of-life care during required coursework and APPEs.

Sample Survey Statement: I have a comprehensive understanding of palliative care.

Third-Year Pre-Intervention Responses:



Third-Year Post-Intervention Responses:



Likert Scale: Strongly Agree=5, Agree=4, Neutral=3, Disagree=2, Strongly Disagree=1

**Conclusions/Implications:** Student pharmacists included in this project perceive pharmacists as having an important role in end-of-life care and feel palliative care should be included in required pharmacy education. Further investigation is warranted to ensure schools of pharmacy are graduating pharmacists prepared to provide palliative care.