

# Attitudes and Perceptions of the Benefits and Barriers to Precepting Pharmacy Practice Residents in a Large and Diverse Health Authority

Jessica Granberg, B.S.P.; Nicole Bruchet, B.Sc., B.Sc.(Pharm), ACPR, PharmD; Dawn Dalen, B.S.P., ACPR, PharmD; Richard Slavik, B.Sc.(Pharm), ACPR, PharmD, FCSHP; Erica Wang, B.Sc.(Pharm), ACPR, PharmD

## Background

- Experiential learning is a core component of pharmacy education
- The need for pharmacy experiential learning rotation sites and pharmacist preceptors continues to grow secondary to:
  - Increasing pharmacy undergraduate student enrolment
  - Expanding pharmacy residency positions
  - Changing models of experiential learning
- Understanding the perceived benefits and barriers to being a preceptor could aid in rotation development and preceptor training and may help to increase capacity for experiential learning rotations
- Within Interior Health:
  - The perceived benefits and barriers to precepting pharmacy practice residents are not known
  - Pharmacists' attitudes towards novel precepting models are not known

## Objectives

- To characterize the benefits and barriers to precepting pharmacy practice residents that exist amongst staff pharmacists
- To characterize pharmacists' attitudes towards two novel precepting models: (1) precepting multiple learners of one type on rotation at the same time and (2) tiered precepting

## Methods

### Design

- Prospective, observational study via an electronic 10 minute survey to all Interior Health pharmacists
- Survey respondents rated level of agreement to each statement using a 5-point Likert scale, from strongly disagree to strongly agree

### Primary Outcome

- % of staff pharmacist respondents who respond agree/strongly agree to each survey statement regarding the benefits and barriers to precepting pharmacy practice residents

### Secondary Outcomes

- % of following respondents who respond agree/strongly agree to each survey statement regarding the benefits and barriers to precepting pharmacy practice residents:
  - Pharmacy managers
  - Staff pharmacists compared to pharmacy managers
  - Current residency preceptors compared to not current residency preceptors
- % of respondents who agree with each survey statement regarding novel precepting models

### Statistical Analysis

- Descriptive statistics, Fisher Exact test, statistical significance determined by a p-value less than 0.05

## Definitions

- **Staff Pharmacist:** licensed pharmacist employed by a hospital pharmacy department within Interior Health
- **Pharmacy Manager:** manager of a department of pharmacy within Interior Health
- **Current Residency Preceptor:** pharmacist who is precepting a pharmacy resident, June 2012 to June 2013

## Table 1. Characteristics of Survey Respondents

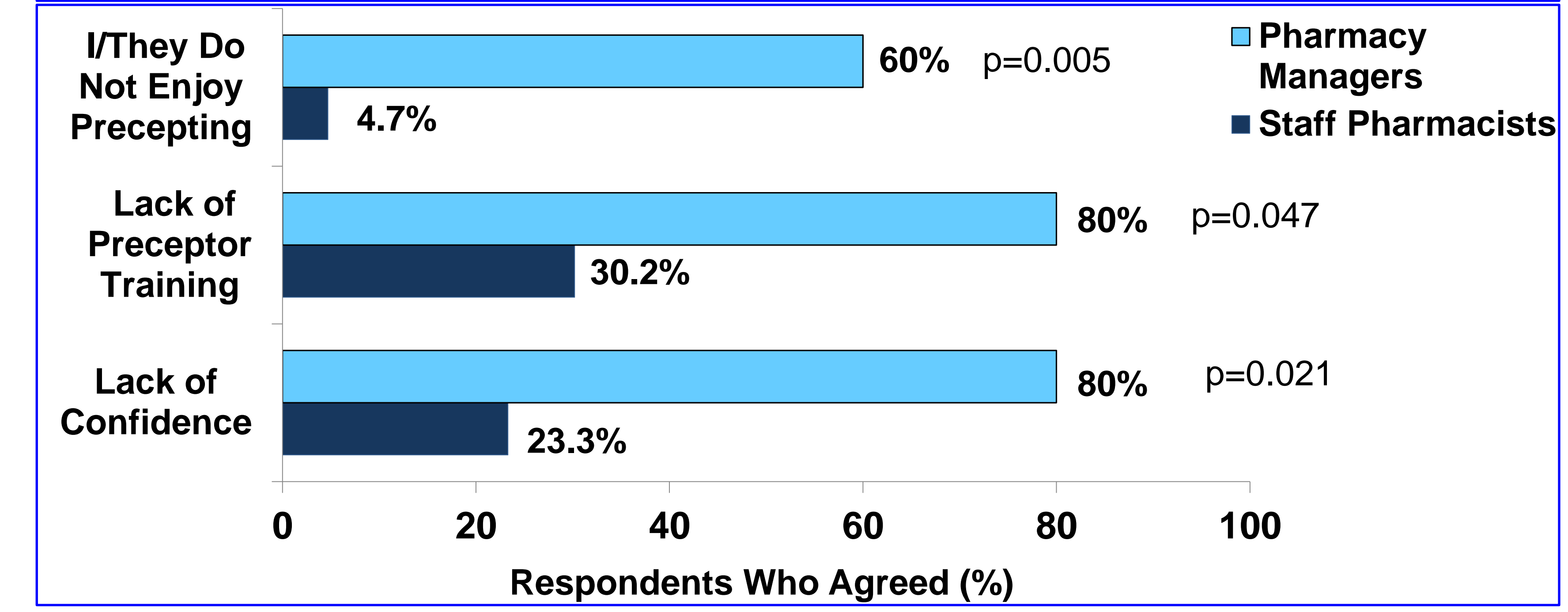
Characteristic	N (%)
<b>Survey Response</b>	48 (54.5)
<b>Age</b>	
20 to 40 years	24 (50)
Greater than 40 years	24 (50)
<b>Highest Pharmacy Education</b>	
Pharmacy Undergraduate Degree	37 (77.1)
Doctor of Pharmacy Degree	9 (18.8)
Pharmacy Practice Residency Certificate	28 (58.3)
<b>Current Pharmacy Position<sup>§</sup></b>	
Staff Pharmacist	38 (79.2)
Pharmacy Manager	5 (10.4)
<b>Primary Practice Setting<sup>¶</sup></b>	
Clinical inpatient/outpatient	24 (50)
Dispensary	9 (18.8)
Manager or Coordinator	8 (16.7)
<b>Current Residency Preceptor</b>	18 (37.5)

Note: <sup>§</sup>5 additional respondents selected "other"; <sup>¶</sup>7 additional respondents selected "other"

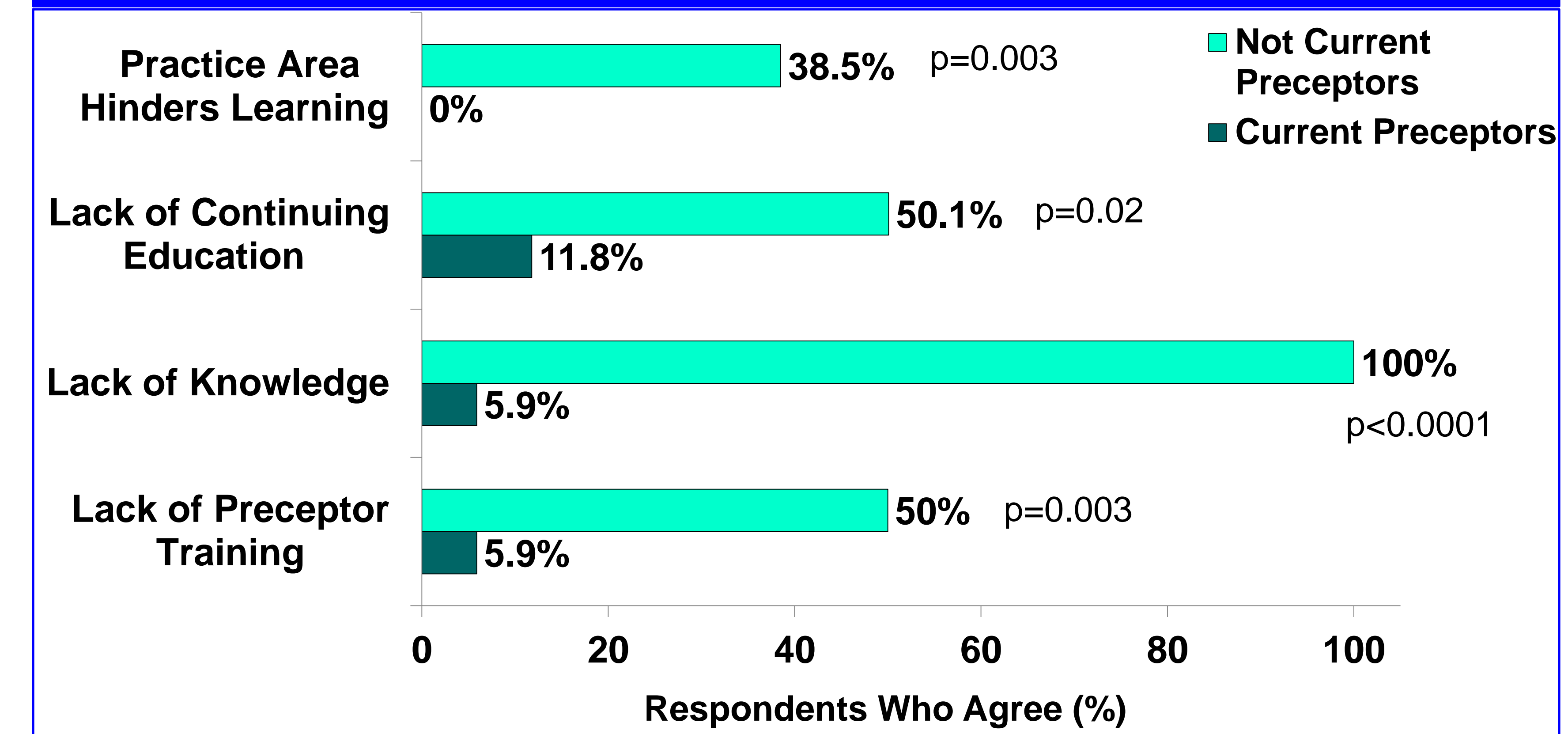
## Table 2. Precepting Benefits and Barriers

Pharmacist Responses	Agree (%)
<b>Personal Benefits</b>	
Increases job satisfaction	74.4
Allows for two-way learning	97.7
Develops teaching skills	100
<b>Department Benefits</b>	
Increases number of solved drug problems	86
Increases education opportunities for staff	86
Improves quality of patient care	81.4
Increases clinical pharmacist recruitment	83.7
<b>Personal Barriers</b>	
Insufficient time	67.4
Increases daily workload	62.8
Competing job priorities	71.4
Lack of work space	51.2
Not my professional responsibility	2.3
<b>Department Barriers</b>	
Current organization of clinical program	60
Increases departmental cost	20
Lack of department space	80

## Figure 1. Barriers: Staff Pharmacists vs. Pharmacy Managers



## Figure 2. Barriers: Current vs. Not Current Residency Preceptors



## Results: Novel Precepting Models

- Multiple Learners of One Type on Rotation at Same Time:**
  - 60.4% of pharmacists have not used this model; 45.8% would be willing to try
- Tiered Precepting:**
  - 83.3% of pharmacists have not used this model; 47.9% would be willing to try

## Limitations

- Responder bias, retrospective memory recall, moderate response rate, small sample size

## Conclusions

- Majority of pharmacists agreed that there are many benefits to precepting residents
- Lack of continuing education and training opportunities and a perceived lack of knowledge are main barriers to staff pharmacists precepting residents
- Pharmacy managers' perceptions that their staff pharmacists don't enjoy precepting is a main barrier to staff pharmacists precepting residents
- Most pharmacists have no previous experience using either novel precepting model, but some are willing to try using either of these models when precepting
- Future research will be conducted to address and remove the identified barriers

