

What is One Thing You Wish You Would Have Known as a New Practitioner?

Michael Nagy, PharmD, BCACP

*Assistant Professor, Clinical Sciences Department
Medical College of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy*

While I still consider myself a new practitioner, I have come to realize the importance of support. Whether that support be from a peer, mentor, institution, or professional association there are other people who have gone through the same situations I experience and who are willing to help. The support I have and continue to receive motivates me to stay engaged and to “pay it forward” to my peers and mentees.



Michael Brown, PharmD

Associate Dean

Concordia University Wisconsin School of Pharmacy

I wish as a new practitioner I fully understood that I could not possibly have known everything that I thought I was supposed to know. Your pharmacy career is an amazing, intricate, and complex journey. Learning isn't a point-to-point path. Learning is better visualized as three-dimensional layers of interrelated knowledge, skills, and life experiences. My advice to new practitioners - be patient with yourself. Learning takes time and never ends.

Patricia Thornevell, PharmD
Medical Information & Education
Exact Sciences

I wish I would have had more exposure to the vast number and type of career paths that exist for pharmacists. When I was in pharmacy school, we were only exposed to two main career options: hospital or retail. Even then, I was already heading down a nontraditional career path and didn't really know where to find resources or support. Recently there's been more awareness around the plethora of career options available to pharmacists of all experience levels. I applaud the student pharmacists and new practitioners of today who are expanding and diversifying their professional networks and learning all they can about opportunities that may be available to them. And I'm honored to be one of the resources that they can turn to when considering nontraditional career paths including managed care and industry.



Melissa Heim, PharmD
Clinical Pharmacist & Residency Program Director
William S Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital

I wish I would have known that it is impossible to know everything. It is okay (and expected!) to reach out for help and ask others for advice and expertise. We are all in this profession together and together we provide our patients and our providers with the knowledge and trust relied upon in the profession.