

Letters *from* Rising Pharmacy Stars



Advice on Creating
and Advancing Your
Career in a Changing
Profession

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to those pharmacists who selflessly give of their time serving as teachers, preceptors, residency directors, and mentors for the future leaders of our profession.

Acknowledgments

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Preface

Eleanor Roosevelt, former American first lady, diplomat, and activist, once famously said “The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” Those of us who are fortunate to be a part of the pharmacy community can attest to that statement. There are countless examples of pharmacists who, by believing in the beauty of their dreams, have blazed new trails, helped to reshape the profession, improved the lives of patients, and achieved extraordinary career successes. The stories of these accomplished pharmacy leaders are inspiring, and we believe that future or beginning pharmacists can learn a great deal from them.

Through mentorship of young and mid-career pharmacists, speaking to pharmacy residency classes, and serving as a preceptor to student pharmacists, we learned that young pharmacists have stories to share. We were inspired by many of these stories and realized, based on the success of the first *Letters* book, others might be as well. *Letters from Rising Pharmacy Stars* provides examples of young and mid-career pharmacy leaders faced with real-world issues and challenges—even some graduates of the “school of hard knocks”—and how they overcame and learned from their experiences.

One thing that was clear from the start, and became even clearer after we read the contributors’ letters, was that the advice gleaned from these rising stars would be as compelling as the advice given by more seasoned pharmacists though quite different in perspectives and themes. The rising stars are, after all, still creating their stories and will have much more to tell. Likewise, they are practicing in a very different world of pharmacy than those who came before them. At the time of this writing, 38 states allow for some level of pharmacists’ prescribing or modifying therapy under collaborative practice agreements with physicians, something that could barely be fathomed two decades ago. Most believe that pharmacists in the near future will receive provider status under the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regulations, something for which national pharmacy associations have diligently advocated. The world of pharmacy is in a period of rapid change, and these rising stars are not just living in it but are leading it.

The letters in this book describe how the words of famous people or the advice of mentors serve as a leadership moment, providing young pharmacists with courage and inspiration to follow paths less traveled in pharmacy practice. They offer advice on crafting your story, an important skill for new graduates and those seeking new career opportunities; navigating life and career as a two-pharmacist couple; becoming a pharmacist when both parents are pharmacists; developing a career as a pharmacogenetics clinical scientist; and dealing with the impact of

significant life events such as a serious auto accident on your career and life. There are stories of how it is possible to have it all—family and successful careers. Letters also give insight into how to coordinate postgraduate year 1 and 2 (PGY1 and 2) residencies, what makes a good boss, and the irreplaceable value of mentors.

It is our hope that *Letters from Rising Pharmacy Stars* can shed light on some of the challenges and opportunities that might lie ahead and provide advice on how to handle them. The profession of pharmacy is a nurturing and close-knit community. Giving back to support those who come behind us is a well-regarded tradition in this great profession; it is in this spirit that we share these letters with our readers. We hope you will learn from others—both seasoned pharmacists and rising stars. To borrow the words of that great philosopher Yogi Berra, “You can observe a lot by just watching.”

Susan A. Cantrell and Sara J. White

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