

## Rutgers Finishes as National Semifinalists in 2018 AMCP P&T Competition

The AMCP Foundation holds an annual Pharmacy and Therapeutics Competition inviting teams of four student pharmacists from colleges of pharmacy across the United States to review a study drug for formulary addition to a hypothetical managed care plan. This year, the drug was Xultophy® 100/3.6 (Liraglutide/Insulin Degludec) for Type II Diabetes Mellitus.

After the announcement of the drug name on November 30, 2017, teams began a two-month deep dive into clinical trials and real world evidence. Teams review an extensive product dossier created by the manufacturer, Novo Nordisk, and conduct secondary research and literature searches. The information is compiled into four submission materials: an evaluation of the dossier, a report created using the Collaborative Effectiveness Research Tool, a 20-page monograph, and a PowerPoint slide presentation. These materials are reviewed by a panel of judges at each college of pharmacy, who each select one team that will continue on for a chance to compete at a national level.

This year, 46 teams entered a submission for the national competition. The competition gets tougher every year, as schools incorporate complex managed care tools and evidence to bolster their submissions. The Rutgers Team consisted of four students: Soham Shukla, Nihal Narsipur, Hannah Lee, and Brianna Devitt.

Below are some pearls from the Rutgers team:

*Develop clinical skills by evaluating trials:* As diabetes is an extremely prevalent disease with numerous products available, there were many clinical trials that had to be reviewed. The team became experts of journal clubs by the end of the competition, and were able to pick apart a clinical study, and recommend how they would design their own ideal trial.

*Conduct primary research:* In order to stand out from the competition, the team explored unique avenues to create their submission. The team developed their own budget impact model to inform the economic considerations of Xultophy®, and the financial impact the drug would have on their hypothetical population. The team also spoke with a pharmacist at ICER to discuss creative methodologies for evaluating new diabetes medications.

*Improve presentation skills:* The top teams at each college present the PowerPoint slides from their submission to a panel of judges, which is factored into choosing the top team that will represent the school. The Rutgers team prepared for the presentation for several weeks, perfecting their delivery, and anticipating questions that they might be asked by the judges.

*Utilize managed care tools:* Beyond the incorporation of traditional managed care tools such as a prior authorization, quantity limits, and specialty pharmacy into their formulary recommendation, the team also created an Outcomes Based Contract for Xultophy®. This was to show the emphasis that the pharmaceutical industry and managed care place on outcomes and value, especially with new, expensive medications in diabetes.

