Department Chair Perceptions of the New Investigator Award (NIA)

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BACKGROUND

Importance of Scholarship in Pharmacy Academia

- Active research programs are important elements for pharmacy faculty members
- It can be challenging for faculty to gain the funding needed to begin successful scholarly endeavors.

Essential Element

- ACPE Standards 2016: Standard 18.1
- Key element for promotion and tenure

Challenges in Early Career

- Limited start-up funding
- Limited grant writing experience (in some cases)

New Investigator Award (NIA)

- Provides start-up funding for the independent research programs of early-career pharmacy faculty
- For more than 10 years, AACP has awarded 15-20 NIA recipients each year
  - Grant funds range from $7,000 to $10,000
  - Stipend to present NIA final research findings at AACP Annual Meeting

Task Force

- 2022-2023 AACP NIA Task Force created and tasked with evaluating the outcomes of the program

OBJECTIVE

To describe department chairs' perceptions of the NIA award

METHODS

Development

NIA information | Literature review | Piloted

Structure (15-items)

Demographics | Perceptions of NIA | Department outcomes related to NIA

Distribution

All department chairs | Qualtrics with 3 reminders | Targeted follow-up to improve response rate

Data Analysis

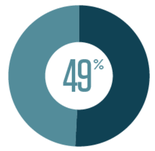
- SPSS v 28
- Descriptive statistics

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

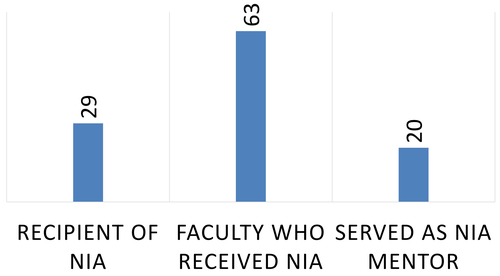
Thank you to the AACP COS and the AACP Staff for their support!

RESULTS

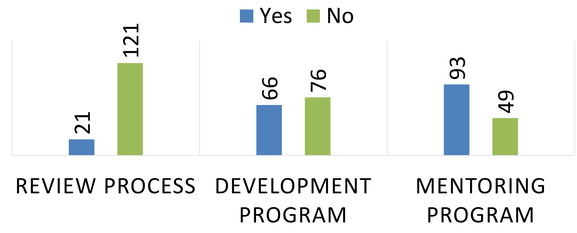
SURVEY RESPONSE RATE, N=157



DEPT CHAIR CHARACTERISTICS



FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

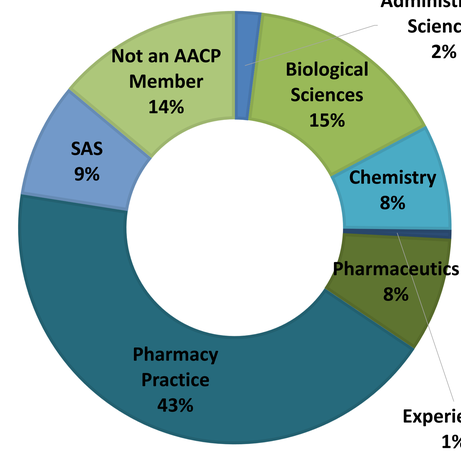


PERCEIVED VALUE OF NIA

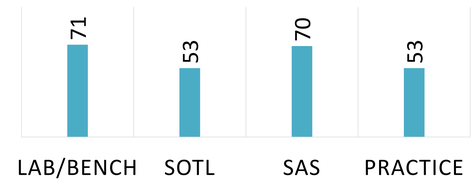
Item	Median (IQR)
Perceptions of Success by Grant Type[a]	
NIA	4 (3-4)
Other entry-level grants (AACP, SOTL, etc.)	4 (3-4)
Federal (NIH, NSF)	4 (2-4)
State (Department of Health, etc.)	4 (3-4)
Foundation (pharmaceutical company, Community Pharmacists Foundation, etc.)	4 (4-4)
Perceptions of Success by Faculty Types[a]	
Early-Career	4 (2-4)
Mid-Career	4 (3-4)
Late-Career	4 (4-5)
Engaged in Bench Research	4 (3-5)
Engaged in SOTL Research	4 (3-4)
Engaged in SAS Research	4 (3-4)
Engaged in Practice Research	3 (2-4)
Value of NIA program to faculty members' progression as a research/academic[b]	
Progression as a researcher	3 (2-4)
Academic advancement	3 (2-4)
Development of a research/scholarship program	3 (2-4)
Aspects of the NIA Program[b]	
Grant funding	3 (2-4)
Submission process/writing	3 (3-4)
NIA mentorship	3 (2-4)
Reviewer feedback	3 (2-4)

a: 1=Extremely unlikely, 2-Somewhat unlikely, 3=Neither likely nor likely, 4=Somewhat likely, 5-Extremely likely
b: 1=Limited value, 2=Somewhat valuable, 3=Valuable, 4=Very valuable

SECTION MEMBERSHIP



DEPT CHAIR ENCOURAGEMENT TO SUBMIT NIA BY RESEARCH AREA (MEDIAN %)



DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Discussion and Conclusions

- Department chairs are more likely to encourage faculty who are likely PhD-trained (lab/bench or social administrative science disciplines) to seek NIA funding.

Limitations

- Respondents may not represent the true perceptions of Department Chairs overall.
- Unable to directly measure value of NIA to academic achievement, research success or research funding amounts.

Future Directions

- Future studies should seek to identify the perceptions of Dean CEOs and directly measure the success of NIA recipients in future funding, including funding amounts.