

# Development of a Faculty Writing Club to Promote Scholarship

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## INTENT

- One of the strategic initiatives of the Division of Pharmacy Practice and Experiential Education is to facilitate individual scholarship, professional service, and leadership in education and practice.
- Faculty desired assistance with incorporating scholarship into their daily activities.
- A writing club was established to promote and support scholarship through topic discussions and internal peer review of abstracts, posters and manuscripts.

## PROCESS

A senior faculty member rotates as the facilitator



Group meets monthly



Discussion topics are determined by members of the writing club

Discussion Topics (Sept 2008 – May 2009)	
Designing an effective poster	Journal impact factors
Developing a research project	Peer review of posters
Introduction to COS (Community of Science)	Serving as a journal reviewer
Introduction to grantsmanship	Writing an abstract

- To facilitate communication among writing club members, a Blackboard™ site and PBwiki® page were created.
- To showcase scholarly achievements, two display boards were set up in the Division's office suite. Faculty members place copies of posters, book chapters and publications on the display boards (See Figure 1).

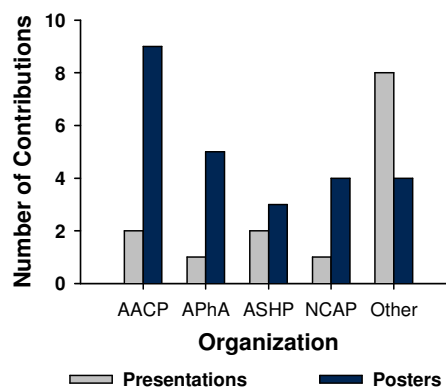
## OUTCOMES

- Participants (n = 20):
  - 19 faculty members (15 on campus and 4 off-campus)
  - 13 Clinical Assistant Professors
  - 6 Clinical Associate Professors
  - 1 PGY1 community resident
- Blackboard™ site allows for posting of relevant articles, sharing of documents, and hosts a calendar of scholarly conferences with submission dates.
- Productivity: 27 abstracts/posters, 14 invited presentations and 7 manuscripts (See Figure 2).



Figure 1: Display boards within Division's office suite.

Figure 2: Productivity of Writing Club



"I'm much more likely to jump into a research project or publication now that I'm in a group of colleagues that support each other."

"Being a part of the writing club has helped to open doors for me with regard to exploring new ways to seek out grant funding opportunities."

"Participating in the writing club has enabled me to feel more confident about my writing abilities."

### Comments from Writing Club Members:

"Utilizing the writing club for editorial review of posters and other publications is an effective way to obtain a lot of good advice in one hour."

"This group provides practical advice to move from ideas to publications."

"I have learned to incorporate writing into my daily routine. And the collaboration has been extremely valuable!"

## IMPLICATIONS

- Creation of a writing club facilitates individual scholarship, faculty collaboration, and helps mentor new to mid-level faculty.
- Members of the writing club benefit from having a health sciences librarian as a participant and facilitator.
- Sharing materials via Adobe Connect™ and Blackboard™ allows those who are not physically present to benefit from the group.
- The writing club decided to discontinue use of the PBwiki® page since the group was more comfortable with Blackboard™.
- The number of abstracts, invited presentations, and manuscripts will continue to be monitored in order to document the success of the group.