

Rawya Obeidat
8578 Mabel Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32256
N01472132@unf.edu
304-972-8403

Scholarship Committee
The Dr. Mary K. Beyrer Graduate Student Scholarship

Subject: Demonstration of professional activity.

Dear Scholarship Committee Members,

Being a part-time retail pharmacist, I attend professional meetings with my managers and colleagues on a weekly basis to discuss the role of retail pharmacists to help patients on their path to better health. Along with dispensing prescriptions, pharmacists work as part of a clinical care team to provide counseling, give vaccinations, search for prescription savings and offer services that make staying on medications easier.

As a retail pharmacist, I'm trained to administer vaccinations for a range of ailments and diseases, from COVID-19 to chickenpox. At my pharmacy we offer 15+ vaccines. As part of my daily tasks at work, I offer my patients the vaccinations that they are eligible for based on their age and comorbidities, and discuss their concerns regarding cost and side effects.

As a pharmacist and a future public health professional, I am very proud to explain to my patients how vaccines are a great public health achievement and that vaccination is one of the most effective interventions against infectious diseases and how they resulted in the eradication of smallpox; elimination of poliomyelitis in the Americas; and control of measles, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, Haemophilus influenzae type B, and other infectious diseases in the United States and other parts of the world.

I always get rewarded for meeting our goals for vaccination, and my managers recognize me for having the public health passion when I offer vaccines to my patients and help those who are hesitant about them to make an informed decision towards better health.

My company also arranges meetings with medical representatives from manufacturing drug companies to educate us about the most updates regarding vaccine recommendations and schedules and how to access the most recent information to stay up to date on our information.

I am also a member of the Duval County Pharmacist Association (DCPA), where we meet monthly in a local restaurant and discuss many health issues and how to improve the health of the community overall. They always also have a speaker to present a specific subject which counts towards our continuing education requirements for license renewal and board certification.