

Survival Strategies for Your New Career

Reile DM, Nickols JL, editors. American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Bethesda, Maryland, 2002. Soft cover, 106 pages, ISBN 1-58528-031-3. US\$16 (member), US\$20 (nonmember).

Survival Strategies for Your New Career, written by pharmacists from hospital settings and intended for pharmacy students and new pharmacy practitioners, is designed to guide pharmacists through the transition from student to health care professional. The discussion focuses on 4 key areas: career choices in pharmacy, professional development, work survival, and balancing work and personal life.

Students new to pharmacy, especially those contemplating a pharmacy residency, will find the discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of a residency useful. Similarly, for those seeking employment, the potential interview questions and the recommended questions to ask prospective employers will prove indispensable. Also useful for new graduates are tips on writing curriculum vitae that emphasize pharmacy experience. The book's greatest strength lies in the career profiles of hospital pharmacists, which illustrate the wide variety of opportunities available to pharmacists. These brief sketches are useful not only for students interested in career opportunities outside the community setting, but also for individuals seeking a career change within pharmacy.

One of the book's shortcomings is its lack of depth in certain sections. Although the authors of one chapter offer a comprehensive questionnaire about life values and goals, including an explanation of how to calculate your own results, there is no instruction on applying these results to particular

career paths. Similarly, the sections on financial planning and investing offer only general advice and provide little specific direction. Some of the information, particularly about job postings and procedures for residency application, is written for an American audience and, as such, may be of limited interest to Canadians. Nevertheless, despite this clear American slant, the book offers important general information for Canadian readers.

Ultimately, the breadth of material covered in this book will meet the varied information needs of Canadian pharmacy students and new practitioners. Although the American perspective causes the book to fall short of being a well-rounded resource for Canadian pharmacists contemplating postbaccalaureate career and training opportunities, this book would be a good, reasonably priced addition to a pharmacy school or hospital pharmacy library.

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	Ad Page	Prescribing Information
Altana Pharma / Panto IV	273	305
EPS Inc. / Packaging Systems	269	—
Genpharm / Venofer	IBC	309
Mayne Pharma (Canada) Inc. / Corporate	266	—
Novopharm / Corporate	270	—
Pfizer / Lipitor	IFC	303, 304
Pharmaceutical Partners of Canada / Pamidronate	OBC	306–308

