

Dr. Amit Somani, Ph.D, B.Pharm.

PILLS II

By Aayush H. Kubavat

Introduction

- Time: The said event began at 11:30 AM by an introductory speech by Dr. Kitika Shenmar.
- Venue: The lecture took place in the auditorium of the LJ college of Architecture.
- Audience: Most of the students present were from the second and third year of B Pharm. A few students of the final year were also present.

Dr. Amit Somani

- Dr. Somani passed his bachelor's from Shri B.M. Shah College of Pharmaceutical Education and Research college in Modasa, Gujarat, India.
- He performed his Ph.D in Pharmaceutical sciences (Pharmacokinetics, Clinical Research and Pharmaceutics) from Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science, School of Pharmacy, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Richmond, VA, USA.
- Dr. Somani was a post-doctoral research associate in Center for Pharmacometrics and Systems Pharmacology (CPSP), School of Pharmacy, University of Florida.
- He has also received many awards, one of which is the American College of Clinical Pharmacology award.

It is truly a marvel how much a person can achieve even from a small town in India. He now works as a post-doctoral research associate in Center for Pharmacometrics and Systems Pharmacology (CPSP), School of Pharmacy, University of Florida. He is very well versed in English and managed to deliver his lecture in a timely and satisfactory manner.

The Lecture.

The lecture began by Dr. Shreeraj Shah welcoming him with a Tulsi pot, a sign of purity in India.

He started the lecture by describing his own journey including his father who had supported him as well as his wife who had done a degree in Pharmacoeconomics and how he could help her reach her full potential.

He asked for us to find our passion and to find our skills knowing that it is the key to success.

In his next slide, he had listed out many fields of Pharmacy in which students could go forward in. He explained many of these fields to the students such as Pharmacometrics and Pharmacovigilance.

He helped guide students towards new fields if they ever wished to enter it such as pharmacoeconomics which includes statistics which not every pharmacy student is familiar with. He particularly pushed for US education as it offers a better standard of living and above all, a relatively better standard of education.

His behavior was entertaining as he frequently told his own funny stories to relieve any built-up tension.

In his third slide, he discussed the importance of networking, be it verbally or through online services like LinkedIn and Facebook. He told us the importance of joining internships and building a good CV.

He quoted quite a good quote by one of his senior:

Focus on solving problems, do not focus on chasing after money.

He advised the students to let the money come to them rather than running after money and being in the wrong field at the end.

He discussed quite a lot about “soft skills”, skills which cannot be learnt from a book such as communication skills, teamwork, etc. His fourth slide was based on these soft and hard skills. He told us a story about his professor who had hired people based alone on their soft skills because it is near impossible to mold the soft skills if the student/job applicant does not wish to change.

His final slide held a few quotes from Steve Jobs and Muhammad Ali.

Stay Hungry, Stay Foolish – Steve Jobs.

Don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion. – Muhammed Ali

He provided his e-mail to the students for any help that they may need in their career:
somaniamit27@gmail.com

Q/A

The questions were mostly about moving abroad for education.

A few final year students consulted about the move to USA and what was required for it, emotionally and legally. He also answered a few doubts about the PharmD courses. He took time to answer questions from younger students about his early life as well as about failure and how to avoid it. Dr. Somani also talked about students who wished to stay in India and how beneficial it was to the country.

Conclusion and Memento

The memento was given by Dr. Dilip Maheshwari to Dr. Amit Somani in the form of a Charkha reminding him of the Indian culture.

All in all, it was wonderful lecture lasting for about two hours. His English was extremely breathtaking especially for us students who don't get a chance to converse in English except for lectures. He helped guide students and give them lots of info. For students who wish to go to USA, his lecture must have been a blessing.

That was all for the second session of PILLS and everyone involved must have gained something from that experience.