America’s Got Regulatory Science Talent Competition: Our Experiences

James E. Polli
jpolli@rx.umaryland.edu
Motivation

• To promote student interest in regulatory science – the science of developing new tools, standards and approaches to assess the safety, efficacy, quality and performance of FDA-regulated products

• Co-curricular learning and interprofessional (i.e. optional and fun event)
  – Open to all students at the Baltimore and College Park campuses of the University of Maryland
What has happened?

• “America’s Got Regulatory Science Talent” Competition (first held Jan 2012)
• Each team presents a proposed solution to a current problem in regulatory science
  – Students are referred to the September 2014 “FDA Strategic Priorities” document and other references
  – Can have UM and/or FDA mentor
• See material provided to students
  – http://www.pharmacy.umaryland.edu/admissions/regulatoryscience/talent.html
• Food and prizes!
Timing at U of Maryland

- Start to promote around mid-Nov
- Mid-Dec deadline to request a UM or FDA mentor (if have not self-identified a mentor)
- Application deadline is 1 week before the event
- Hold event in late Jan or early Feb (i.e. 2-3 weeks into semester)
- Present at FDA in April or May
Past winning teams

- Online MEDWATCH interface to increase adverse event reporting by consumers
- Liquid barcoding pharmaceuticals for counterfeit pharmaceutical drug detection
- Mobile application conveying safety information to communicate drug hazards
- Leverage search engines to increase participation and signal detection in pharmacovigilance
- A high visibility universal labelling system to communicate risks of hazardous drugs
Interprofessional and co-curricular learning

• Professional students
  – Pharmacy, medicine, law

• Graduate students
  – Life sciences, health services research, public health, pharmaceutical sciences

• Undergraduate students
  – Only one student, but ...
Logistics/Rules

• A team can be either an individual or any number of students, although each team member has to contribute to the proposed solution or the presentation.
• The presentation must be five minutes in duration or less.
• Each presentation is followed by two minutes of Q&A.
Evaluation

• Panel of judges from Maryland and FDA in terms of proposed solution and presentation quality.
  – Proposed solution: novelty and potential significance. Short-term feasibility is a plus, but not a requirement.
  – Presentation quality: verbal communication, visual communication, impact of any AV materials or demonstrations, and Q&A responses
Impact of America’s Got Regulatory Science Talent Competition

• Promote student interest in regulatory science
• Students relay how their involvement was a major discussion point during fellowship/job interviews