Suggested Reference


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Pharmacy Students: Personality Types, Professionalism and Decision Making


Introduction:
Facebook© use has become increasingly popular for pharmacy students. Recent debate about the ethical and professional principles pharmacy students possess when social networking online prompted this study. We aimed to identify links between personality types within the University of Auckland (UoA) pharmacy cohort, their activity on Facebook©, and their professional decision making skills.

Objectives:
• To determine pharmacy student personality types using the Cloninger personality test
• To determine pharmacy student decision making processes when posting messages on Facebook©
• To determine whether there is a relationship between decision making and professionalism.

Methodology:
Pharmacy students from parts two and three at the University of Auckland completed both the Cloninger Temperament and Character Inventory and a social media questionnaire. The results were analysed using SPSS and two-tailed p-values to identify the relationship between students’ Facebook© activity, behaviour and professionalism.

Results:
The overall response rate was 59%, with 48 part 2 students and 55 part 3 students participating, and their ethnicity largely reflected the student population.

Discussion:
There was a direct relationship found between personality types and behaviour on Facebook©. Year two students were found to be higher in persistence and year three students were higher in reward dependence. This warrants further investigation as to whether this is a cohort effect or from the collective nature of the course.

Conclusion:
This study confirmed the hypotheses that certain personality traits have an effect on behaviour and professionalism. This may be due to the collective nature of the pharmacy course and could be compared with that of other health professions.

References: