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## PCI introduces faculty-industry training programme for teachers to make students industry-ready after graduation

**Peethambaran Kunnathoor, Chennai**

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With a noble vision to train the students of B Pharm and M Pharm industry-ready once they graduate from the institutes or universities, the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) has chalked out a comprehensive and continuous industry training programme for pharmacy teachers of approved colleges to equip them with industrial skills.

The novel initiative of the PCI, which is labeled as, 'Scheme for Capacity Building Industrial Training (CBIT) Programme for Pharmacy Teachers', is expected to provide the academicians a greater understanding about the requirements and expectations of the pharmaceutical industry, thus they can train their students for the requirement of the industry. The council hopes that, apart from making the students for industrial requirements, this will help the technical knowledge of the pharmacy graduates through revised syllabus.

It is intended that since it is impossible to train all the students in industrial units, selected teachers will be given training on capacity building, who will share the skill and knowledge with their students. The council has issued a circular in this regard inviting nomination of teachers from approved institutions.

The ambitious scheme for the faculty-industry interaction will be carried out in association with Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IP Alliance), the association of multi-national pharmaceutical companies in India. At the outset, the training programme is set for one hundred teachers representing one hundred institutions.

Permission to attend the programme is limited to one teacher from one institution which should be approved under Section 12 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948. The nominating institution should be conducting the courses, B Pharm and M Pharm, continuously for ten years or more. According to the circular of the PCI, the council prefers government institutions to private ones to entertain nominations of teacher candidates. However, government funded institutes/departments, NAAC/NBA approved institutions' nominations will also be considered.

For conducting the capacity-building programme, PCI has reached an agreement with the IP Alliance who will identify the manufacturing companies where training can be organized. The council has decided to admit 100 teachers to the first programme wherein the teachers will be trained in the latest technology and trends at the pharmaceutical plant locations of companies of repute. The period of the programme is 30 days for which all expenses will be met by the PCI. One teacher candidate will be given Rs. 50,000 for travel expenses, lodging and food for thirty days. On successful completion of the training, the trainee faculty will be given a certificate jointly by PCI and the IP Alliance.

Sources from the central pharmacy council have informed Pharmabiz that the council is uncompromisingly striving to empower the teachers in terms of their capability in teaching, learning, professional development, research and other scholarly activities leading to development of appropriate expertise, pedagogical and assessment competence. The scheme envisages teachers to work hands on with working professionals in various verticals of the industry to understand their expectations about the pharmacy graduates and post-graduates.

On completion of the training programme, PCI and the IP Alliance will jointly work together to improve the syllabus for the pharmacy courses in the country, says the circular.