

IN THIS ISSUE

CEO REPORT	01	Pharmacists furnishing their skills for a good cause – 30 June	02
APC supporting experiential learning in all practice areas	01	Life Long Learning in Pharmacy 2018 Brisbane, Australia, 6-9 July 2018!	03
Intern Year Blueprint Project	02		

APC CEO INSPIRES FILIPINO PHARMACISTS

The importance of education standards, quality assurance and the concepts and developments around new practices in pharmacy were top of mind for the President and Executive of the Philippines Pharmacists Association (PPHA) who heard APC CEO Bronwyn Clark's keynote speech at their annual conference in May.

As Guest of Honour before 5,000 attendees, Bronwyn's speech *Filipino Pharmacists; embracing the challenge of change*, acknowledged and promoted the fact that Filipino pharmacy is in a period of exciting development with the recent passing of a new Pharmacy Law that will see the expansion of pharmacist services, including vaccinations by pharmacists.

Bronwyn's presentation focused on needs-based education to enable practice changes and showcased practice from Australia and New Zealand, and the quality assurance of the education and professional development that underpins our high quality systems.

APC is continually assuring, advancing and promoting the quality in pharmacy education in Australia and New Zealand.

APC supporting experiential learning in all practice areas

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) is pleased that a number of universities have reviewed and updated their placement programs and are now offering experiential learning in a variety of novel practice environments, including industry, community and hospital pharmacies.

In fact, through APC's ongoing accreditation cycle we can confirm that by the end of the year all but 4 of the 20 Australian and New Zealand universities are offering pharmacy programs now assessed against the recent 2014 standards.

However, our concern is the recent joint position statement by the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA)/Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) which noted that 'six out of 19 universities offering pharmacy degrees do not have any compulsory hospital placement in their curriculum' (Nov 2016).



Philippines Pharmacist Association Executive, PPHA National Congress, Puerto Princessa, Philippines, May 2017.
Left to right: Ms Marilyn Tiu Ms Zenaida Lamacang, Dr Yolanda Robles (PPHA President), Bronwyn Clark (APC), Ms Leonila Campo, Dr Imelda Pena, Mr Aldrin Santiago.

**REGISTRATIONS
FOR THE NEXT
INTERN WRITTEN
EXAM AND
CAOP EXAM**

**OPEN ON
22 AUGUST**

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It's important to note that as the independent accrediting authority for pharmacy education and training, we published new *Accreditation Standards for Pharmacy programs in Australia and New Zealand* in 2014.

The new standards are outcomes-based and allow for and encourage innovation in education to support emerging areas of practice underpinned by educational quality assurance. Included in the standards are experiential placements in a variety of clinical settings (hospital, community and other non-traditional sites) as well as locations (rural and remote as well as metropolitan). The standards have been designed to provide students with broad placement exposure to expand students' understanding of roles and responsibilities in different settings and to help develop the communication and clinical skills for professional practice. The impact of the new standards and innovation in universities educational approaches will take some time to emerge however graduates will be prepared and equipped to respond to emerging consumer and community needs.

We acknowledge the important role NAPSA and SHPA play in representing pharmacy students and hospital pharmacists (respectively) within Australia and their joint findings serve very well to improve the learning opportunities for students as they develop their professional careers.

Intern Year Blueprint Project

A new blueprint that will set the framework and map out assessments and competencies for Intern Year assessments will be provided to the Pharmacy Board of Australia (PBA) in September.



The APC in partnership with the PBA is reviewing the current Intern Year assessments to ensure our assessment practices and processes are contemporary and evidenced-based.

The intern year is the vital final step in preparing pharmacy graduates to enter the workforce and take up trusted positions as health care professionals. Our assessments need to be able to effectively measure the knowledge and competencies of pharmacists so that we can assure the public their pharmacist is highly competent and professional.

The new blueprint will also integrate the recently reviewed and released national competencies for pharmacists 2016.

To guide and provide oversight of the project a steering committee comprising representatives from the major pharmacy associations, consumer representatives, specialists in assessment practices and the PBA has been appointed.

To date we have completed an international literature review scanning the published literature for the latest on assessment blueprinting and processes. This is to ensure our practices are aligned with international best practice. The results so far indicate there is more we could do. Consultations are also underway with the intern year providers, recently registered pharmacists and preceptors across the various worksites of interns

Following this review, we will have a draft blueprint to consult with the broader pharmacy sector prior to finalisation.

Pharmacists furnishing their skills for a good cause – 30 June

What has pharmacy education and furniture got in common? A good cause and a whole lot of learning and professional development.

APC has created and donated furniture to support victims of family violence as part of its end of year team-work project.

A good organisation works cooperatively and effectively through challenging tasks and this *Flat Pack Frenzy* activity got us thinking collectively and strategically, in each of our teams. The better the team's problem solving skills, the better the necessary tools to build the flat packs. However, when power tools were up for grabs, the challenge became 'respectfully intense!'

Between the red team and the blue team the race was on to build a chest of drawers and a single bed respectively.

We highly recommend this activity as part of a team building exercise for any organisation that wants to build team rapport and develop strategic thinking. The real joy came when St Vincent de Paul Society's Conference President, Maria Stark joined us at the end of the fun day to surprise our colleagues that all their hard work would go to families who needed the practical and carefully built flat pack furniture.

Life Long Learning in Pharmacy 2018 Brisbane, Australia, 6-9 July 2018!

APC is delighted to be hosting the next *International Conference of Life Long Learning in Pharmacy*. This international conference will be the latest in a series that will delve into advancing pharmacy practice through continuing professional development (CPD) and lifelong learning.

This is all about:

shaping tomorrow's practitioners today.

Finally, it's Australia's turn to showcase the advances in pharmacy following success at LLLP events in the USA, Europe, the UK, South Africa, Canada, Croatia and New Zealand!

LLLP is for pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, educators, researchers, regulators, policy-makers and professional associations from around the world. This is the time and place in which we share our ideas, developments and even our concerns about the future of pharmacy. As thought leaders, LLLP will enable experts to discuss the future of pharmacy education, especially in this digital world which is fundamentally changing the pace and quality of education in pharmacy.

Keynote speaker *Prof Zubin Austin* will be joining us in Brisbane as we work through four key themes over four days:

- » Working with others: How do we learn to practise together?
- » Preparing for the 21st century: future skills, social accountability, innovation and entrepreneurship
- » Turning the Tables: Focusing on educator development and the scholarship of Teaching and Learning
- » Setting the standards for assessment of practitioners and accreditation of programs

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