

Media release

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Hospital pharmacist Dr Lisa Pont's Aged Care research recognised as one of '10 of the Best'

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) are celebrating hospital pharmacist and SHPA Geriatric Medicine Leadership Committee member Dr Lisa Pont FANZCAP (Edu.GeriMed) on being recognised by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for research highlighting the systemic need for better use of medicines in aged care.

Dr Pont's research 'Driving Change in Aged Care pharmacy practices through data' was announced last week as [one of the ten best Australian health and medical research projects chosen from among the thousands of current NHMRC-funded projects](#).

Currently working as a clinician/researcher at the University of Technology Sydney, Dr Pont received a Translating Research in Practice fellowship fund in 2016 while she was at Macquarie University to lead a program exploring potentially harmful medicine use in Australian nursing homes, and trial deprescribing strategies of these medicines. Using real world data supplied to nursing homes from community pharmacies, Dr Pont was able to better understand what was happening with the medicines in the aged care setting, then working with NPS MedicineWise to develop the tools needed to facilitate change. Her findings also formed part of the evidence base of the Australian Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's recommendations on pharmacists and residential aged care.

Dr Pont says her research demonstrated the value in using routinely collected health data to monitor the impact of polypharmacy in aged care facilities.

'Polypharmacy is extremely common in the aged care setting and it can lead to many problems such as incorrectly prescribed doses, harmful interactions and the use of unnecessary or harmful medicines.

'By using real world data, we could provide feedback to people on what was happening in their facilities and arm them with the appropriate tools and support needed to enact change.'

As the incoming president of the International Society of Pharmacoepidemiology and outgoing Director of the SHPA, Dr Pont is now collaborating with colleagues around the world on the use of data in pharmacy research. She also sits on an expert advisory group for the Australian Pharmacy Council to help map out the integration of data analysis, non-drug therapies and multidisciplinary teams in pharmacy education.

'At the moment, you're either a data analyst, or you're a pharmacist,' said Dr Pont.

'But I think that's changing...the use of data is becoming much more essential in healthcare delivery.'

Read more about Dr Lisa Pont's research as part of the [10 of the best NHMRC Research Projects Fourteenth Edition](#).

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About SHPA

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is the national, professional organisation for the 6,100+ Hospital Pharmacists, and their Hospital Pharmacist Intern and Hospital Pharmacy Technician colleagues working across Australia's health system, advocating for their pivotal role improving the safety and quality of medicines use. Embedded in multidisciplinary medical teams and equipped with exceptional medicines management expertise, SHPA members are progressive advocates for clinical excellence, committed to evidence-based practice and passionate about patient care.

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