

Media release

Wednesday 21 October 2020

Professor Jeff Hughes receives 2020 Fred J Boyd Award

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) President Peter Fowler today announced Professor Jeff Hughes as the 2020 recipient of the prestigious Fred J Boyd Award, recognising his commitment to excellence in teaching, learning and innovation, and extensive accomplishments as an outstanding pharmacy practitioner, educator and researcher.

Professor Hughes, who is a former Head of the Curtin University (WA) School of Pharmacy and retains a senior teaching and research appointment, was commended for his strong evidence-based, patient-centred approach to improving healthcare outcomes through excellent pharmacy practice.

'I am thrilled to congratulate Jeff as SHPA's 2020 Fred J Boyd Award recipient, which is richly deserved and commensurate with his stature in Australian pharmacy,' says Mr Fowler.

'The breadth of his impact across pharmacy and beyond is clear: he has been awarded \$14m worth of grants – exploring topics including pharmacist mentoring, facilitating Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) between hospital and community settings, patient-centred disease management services and health literacy in pharmacy – authored more than 190 published peer reviewed papers, and contributed to the authorship of 36 textbooks and textbooks chapters.

'Beyond numerical achievements, Jeff has cultivated a reputation as one of pharmacy's most popular presenters and the impact of his energetic and dynamic leadership has been felt by countless students, clinicians, patients and allies in health.'

Established in 1978 in memory of SHPA's Founding President, the Fred J Boyd Award is the organisation's most prestigious award, recognising a member who has made a significant contribution to hospital pharmacy in Australia through outstanding achievement impacting public health and patient care.

In a letter of commendation, Queensland University of Technology's Associate Professor Debbie Rigby highlighted the tangible positive impact of Professor Hughes' entrepreneurial approach to health care.

'Over the past few years Jeff has pioneered PainChek[®], a facial recognition app transforming pain management by giving a voice to those who cannot verbalise their pain.

'Today, the Australian Government funds PainChek[®] to all Australian residential aged care facilities and the app has received world-wide recognition. As Chief Scientific Officer of PainChek, Jeff continues to explore new ways for this technology to be used in other vulnerable patient groups, such as infants and people suffering from delirium, a testament to his determination to make a real difference to those in need.'

Associate Professor Bhavini Patel, Executive Director Medicines Management at Top End Health Service (NT) noted the man behind the achievements.

'Despite Jeff's stellar pharmacy career and maybe because of it, many people experience the caring qualities that he embodies.

'Whether you were a patient during his time as a hospital clinical pharmacist, a student at Curtin University, a researcher, attending a seminar or a colleague, Jeff always makes time to understand what is important to you, tries to create meaningful relationships and supports people to achieve their goals.'

Professor Hughes will formally accept the 2020 Fred J Boyd Award and deliver his oration to open Day 1 of the [2020 SHPA Virtual Congress](#) on Saturday 21 November.

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About SHPA

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is the national, professional, for-purpose organisation for leading pharmacists and pharmacy technicians 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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