

Media release

Wednesday 29 April 2020

Future-proofing pharmacy: Light ahead as call for MM2020 abstracts opens

As Australia continues to make progress tracking and containing the spread of coronavirus, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has [opened the call for abstracts](#) for Australia's largest scientific pharmacy conference, scheduled to take place in Adelaide in November.

With flashes of dazzling neon and a nod to our digital tomorrow, the theme and branding for Medicines Management 2020, the 46th SHPA National Conference (MM2020), 19-21 November 2020 has also been revealed, under the theme of 'future-proof'.

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says the theme aptly reflects the need to anticipate, plan and prepare for uncertain futures.

'As across all areas of work, industry, sporting and social life, we are closely following Australia's progress toward a temporary normal, in which large events are held under COVID-19 mitigation rules and regulations.

'We are certainly preparing to deliver the blockbuster MM2020 conference this November, and hope we can welcome pharmacists and technicians from across the country to Adelaide, in person. Of course, we will also work on alternative contingencies.

'Importantly, submission of an abstract to MM2020 does not preclude its use in other scientific settings and we expect demand to showcase the latest in practice innovation – both before and since coronavirus upended our health care system – to be as strong as ever.'

Ms Michaels says the striking MM2020 branding, employing visual elements of programming, electronics and architecture, embraces the true meaning of future-proofing.

'Future-proofing means strengthening an agile hospital pharmacy workforce in the face of systemic change in Australian healthcare and fostering innovative pharmacy practice that is ready for coming health challenges, changing demographics and technological disruption.

'Future-proofing also means optimising the sustainable use of resources to reduce the environmental impact of pharmacy and healthcare while, for the individual, planning and supporting career pathways that consider the future and anticipate and embrace change.'

Duncan McKenzie, Chair of the MM2020 Scientific Program Committee says the theme of 'future-proof' encapsulates the desire to embed sustainability across all aspects of pharmacy practice.

'We want to inspire practitioners to look at their everyday, in the short-term, and the broader community and the environment in the longer term, to encourage action to improve their positive impact on patient care, and the health of our communities and the world we live in.'

[Abstract submissions](#) close **Wednesday 5 August 11.59pm** (AEST).

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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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