

Media release

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Hospital appeal grows as Australian pharmacy students gather virtually

More than four-fifths of Australian pharmacy students wish to undertake hospital pharmacy residency, while hospitals remain the workplace destination of choice according to latest data, as pharmacy students gathered virtually at the 2021 Congress of the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) last week.

The results of the NAPSA National Pharmacy Students Survey 2020, released earlier this month, show awareness of the SHPA Residency Program and understanding of its objectives increased 5% to 51%, while 82% of respondents would be keen to undertake a hospital pharmacy residency in following registration as a pharmacist, an annual increase of 3%.

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says hospital continues to lead among desirable future career settings.

'We're pleased to see two in five pharmacy students see themselves working in hospitals in five years' time, and SHPA is committed to supporting expanded opportunities for undergraduate students to prepare for the hospital pharmacy setting.

'Underscoring this need, 40% of students do not feel they have enough guidance in applying for hospital employment and a similar proportion don't believe they have gained enough exposure to the hospital setting while studying.

'We renew our support of revised accreditation standards that include mandated hospital placements and will continue to call for more hospital placements to be embedded in undergraduate programs nationwide.'

In last week's closing session of the NAPSA Congress, SHPA Head of Pharmacy Futures Dan Guidone led delegates through a deep dive into the dynamic world of hospital pharmacy, and the many new and emerging roles of hospital pharmacists.

'The challenging and rewarding world of hospital pharmacy' saw advice and tips on entry pathways, landing a first job, embedding robust lifelong learning practices into every career stage, and how membership with SHPA supports early career pharmacists in the hospital setting; the session will be available to SHPA members through SHPA's Online CPD.

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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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