

Media release

Thursday 3 June 2020

'Future-proofing' pharmacy as call for MM2021 abstracts opens

As Australia's COVID-19 vaccine rollout grows dramatically in scale across the country, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has [opened the call for abstracts](#) for Australia's largest scientific pharmacy conference in Adelaide this November.

Medicines Management 2021, the 46th SHPA National Conference (MM2021) is scheduled to take place 25-27 November 2021, challenging leading pharmacists and technicians from across Australia to consider the many aspects of 'future-proofing', from fostering innovation and building agile workforces, to optimising the sustainable use of resources and anticipating technological disruption.

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says the theme is particularly prescient given the world's shift to a 'new normal' in the shadow of, and beyond, the COVID-19 pandemic.

'We are laser-focused on delivering our blockbuster MM2021 conference this November, preparing to welcome Australia's leading community of pharmacists and technicians from across the country to Adelaide in person.

'Even in an incredibly challenging year we saw innovative advances in pharmacy research and practice, and we encourage pharmacists and technicians to [shine a light on their achievements and submit abstracts](#) so their work can be shared.

'Importantly, submitting an abstract to MM2021 does not preclude its use in other scientific settings and we expect demand to showcase the latest in hospital pharmacy – both before and since the disruption of coronavirus – to be as strong as ever.'

Ms Michaels says SHPA is closely following Australia's progress toward a 'new normal', in which large events can be held safely.

'We will remain responsive to the changing environment, with early bird registration remaining on sale until just seven weeks before the event, providing additional flexibility to our delegates and supporters.'

MM2021 Scientific Program Committee Chair Duncan McKenzie says the 'future-proof' theme encapsulates the desire to look ahead, and to embed sustainability across pharmacy practice.

'We're excited to again prepare in earnest for this fantastic event, and the committee is enthusiastic about presenting a comprehensive cross-section of hospital pharmacy today – this will not be a "COVID conference"!

'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 **11.59pm Monday 23 August** (AEST). Planning to submit an abstract? Sharpen your abstract writing skills by accessing '[How to write an abstract](#)', a webinar recording and presentation slides, free for SHPA members.

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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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