

# Media release

Wednesday 22 January 2020

## Essential 'pillars' a priority as SHPA's latest specialty conference opens

Australia's latest specialty pharmacy conference has been revealed, with the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) today [opening the call for abstracts](#) for the [2020 SHPA Pharmacy Practice Pillars Conference](#).

The conference will see innovation in three areas of pharmacy practice converge over Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 May in Melbourne – with the program shaped by hospital pharmacy leaders from across SHPA's **Medication Safety, Dispensing and Distribution** and **Electronic Medication Management (EMM)** streams – within one year of medication safety being confirmed as Australia's latest National Health Priority Area.

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says the conference recognises these areas as the 'pillars' of hospital pharmacy.

'The triple input into the 2020 Pharmacy Practice Pillars Conference reflects the interconnectivity of these pillars, while the conference has been designed to meet the needs of advanced health practitioners, as pharmacy practice is grounded in these essential disciplines.

'Now is the time to upskill; medication safety and quality use of medicines will only become more important as our population ages and more Australians take more medicines than ever before.'

Abstracts for the 2020 Pharmacy Practice Pillars Conference must relate to one of the three specialty areas; the submission deadline is **11.59am AEDT Thursday 26 March 2020**.

Ms Michaels says the conference will focus on building a 'stronger human safety net in a digital future'.

'In all aspects of our lives, we are inundated with forecasts of a complete digital integration and automation as an imminent reality.

'In pharmacy practice however, there will always be a need for nuanced human analysis and outside the box thinking and, with medication safety increasingly in focus as a National Health Priority Area, our new specialty conference will draw together these essential and complementary streams.'

Further information on invited speakers and registration will be announced in February.

– ends –

### For more information contact:

Nick Sharp-Paul, Head of Strategy and Communication  
[nsharp-paul@shpa.org.au](mailto:nsharp-paul@shpa.org.au) | 0411 098 838

## 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.

[shpa.org.au](http://shpa.org.au) |   