

Media release

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Special *Pharmacy GRIT* coronavirus issue open to all

Reflecting on months of unity across hospital pharmacy amid the upheaval of coronavirus, the latest issue of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA)'s *Pharmacy GRIT* has shifted focus to the societal and clinical impacts of COVID-19 while marking the move to digital publication.

With special open access to all articles and features, the [Autumn 2020 issue of *Pharmacy GRIT*](#) aligns with the comprehensive suite of free initiatives in place since March, and a freeze on membership prices for 2020-21, as part of SHPA's ramped up response to support individuals and the profession.

SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels says the release of the issue comes as the hospital system enjoys comparative stability, due to the positive impact of coronavirus restrictions in Australia.

'Although we will continue to monitor the situation alongside hospitals and our healthcare and government partners, local transmissions are currently at a manageable level and we are fortunate to be able to pause and reflect on the incredible passion and commitment pharmacists displayed in the most uncertain days of this pandemic.

'This recent history is brought to life through features on early preparations, rapidly evolving understanding of the virus' clinical profile, shift to 24-hour pharmacy services and the impact such changes had – and may continue to have – on interdisciplinary relationships and electronic health records.'

Ms Michaels says the magazine's long-mooted online shift will offer a number of benefits to members and readers.

'Moving *Pharmacy GRIT* online will increase the searchability of articles, which is increasingly important to researchers and contributors in our age of digital impact.

'Features will also be strengthened through direct links to relevant online content, references and additional reading, and we will unlock greater flexibility to support our special issues featuring the work and worldview of residents and interns through the SHPA Residency Program, and pharmacy students through our publishing partnership with the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA).

Ms Michaels says the issue is timely as hospital pharmacists and the communities they serve look more positively to the future.

'Just as we see a gradual return to elective surgery and other key indicators of relaxed restrictions, SHPA is relaunching its CPD and events program for Australia's "new normal" and ensuring our bold and innovative programs and services continue to provide maximum value to our 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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