



FIVE YEARS OF SPECIALTY PRACTICE

REPORT

August 2022

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) acknowledges the success of Specialty Practice is due to the passion and commitment of elected volunteer, expert, specialist pharmacists from the membership.

We thank all past and current Leadership Committee Chairs, and their fellow Leadership Committee members, for their dedication to their clinical discipline, contribution to SHPA's mission and support for their colleagues and peers.

A complete list of 2018-2022 Specialty Practice Leadership Committee Chairs can be found on the inside back cover.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is five years since the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) revitalised the Specialty Practice program, providing members with a contemporary framework for engaging and supporting each other across the spectrum of experience and practice, while shaping education and driving change at a national level.

The milestone provides a moment to reflect on the innumerable successes borne from the new approach, which built on SHPA's venerable Committees of Specialty Practice (COSPs) while increasing access to earlier career pharmacists and technicians.

Since 2017, Specialty Practice has fostered greater connection between members – and greater engagement between SHPA and its members – with the ultimate aim of supporting best practice in medicines management and improving outcomes for Australian patients.

As detailed in this report, the program has played a key role in the achievement of many of SHPA's strategic priorities, by harnessing and empowering our greatest collective asset: specialised member expertise.

The success of Specialty Practice is not due to simple strength in numbers, it is the power of consensus-building and the effective translation of expertise into influence.

On behalf of the SHPA Board of Directors, and a grateful SHPA membership, I sincerely thank all who have helped embed Specialty Practice as a pillar of Australian hospital pharmacy.

Here's to the next five years, and beyond.



Peter Fowler
President

INTRODUCTION

Shaped by the significant contributions of leading members, Specialty Practice has enabled SHPA to:

- expand education offerings
- update and develop new Standards of Practice
- broaden and strengthen influence with policy and decision makers
- advance the pharmacy workforce
- become a valued stakeholder across key healthcare programs and projects
- strengthen its respected voice on quality use of medicines.

In turn our members have embraced their online communities of peers, the support they provide to their practice and the opportunities to deepen their involvement in Specialty Practice as their practice has evolved, including progressing to leadership positions.

The *Five Years of Specialty Practice* report is structured to reflect this range of contributions, impacts and outcomes:

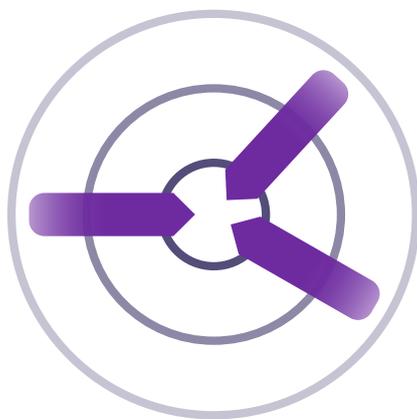
NEW MODEL OF MUTUAL BENEFIT	5
EXPANDING SPECIALTIES.....	6
GROWING POOL OF EXPERTISE AND OUTPUT	7
CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY	8
COLLECTIVE ADVOCACY	10
SETTING THE STANDARD	13
A BRIGHT FUTURE.....	28

NEW MODEL OF MUTUAL BENEFIT

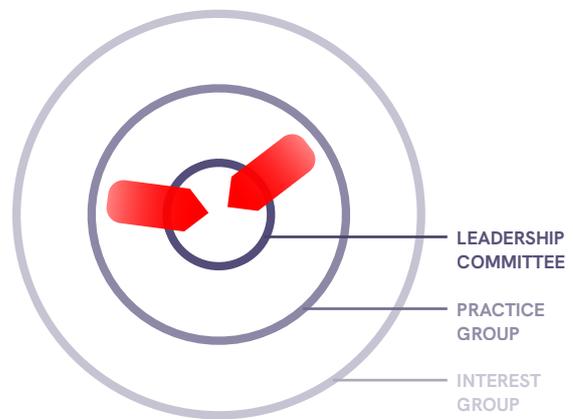
The drive from SHPA members to build networks of greater equity and accessibility informed the Specialty Practice model, in which all members can self-enroll into any number of **Interest Groups**, which are organised into subsets of increasing expertise and experience.

Within Interest Groups, members who are accomplished and invested in the specialty apply to join its **Practice Group**, to work with SHPA and Leadership Committees on projects and to promote and develop pharmacy practice in the specialty. Acceptance to the Practice Group also confers eligibility for election to the Leadership Committee.

The smallest subset of the Interest Group is the **Leadership Committee**, 27 dynamic groups of elected members with deeper involvement and expertise in their specialty who drive activities for the benefit of all members and the broader profession.



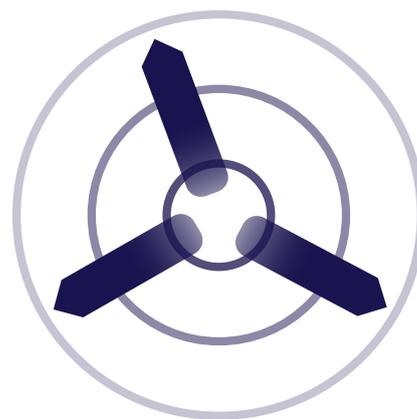
- ✓ Gaining knowledge and building networks
- ✓ Progress from early career to experienced
- ✓ Progress from generalist to specialist



- ✓ Support publications, CPD, policy and submissions
- ✓ Election marking career progression



- ✓ Online communities, networks of peers
- ✓ Engage members with common interest
- ✓ Engage all member types



- ✓ Sharing information and knowledge
- ✓ Support, informal mentoring
- ✓ Identify experts and leaders

EXPANDING SPECIALTIES

Launching with 26 specialties in 2017, Specialty Practice has grown to 31 specialties with the subsequent addition of:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (May 2019)
- Research, replacing the National Translational Research Collaboration (NTRC) (July 2019)
- Medical Specialties (October 2019)
- Technicians and Assistants, replacing National Pharmacy Technician Network (July 2020)
- Aid and Volunteering (March 2021)

Of the 31 specialties, 27 have the complete subsets of Practice Group and Leadership Committee ☉.

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health ☉

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Aid and Volunteering |  Medicines Information ☉ |
|  Cardiology ☉ |  Mental Health ☉ |
|  Clinical Trials ☉ |  Nephrology ☉ |
|  Compounding Services ☉ |  Neurology |
|  Critical Care ☉ |  Oncology and Haematology ☉ |
|  Dispensing and Distribution ☉ |  Paediatrics and Neonatology ☉ |
|  Education and Educational Visiting ☉ |  Pain Management ☉ |
|  Electronic Medication Management ☉ |  Palliative Care ☉ |
|  Emergency Medicine ☉ |  Research ☉ |
|  General Medicine ☉ |  Respiratory |
|  Geriatric Medicine ☉ |  Rural and Remote ☉ |
|  Infectious Diseases ☉ |  Surgery and Perioperative Medicine ☉ |
|  Leadership and Management ☉ |  Technicians and Assistants ☉ |
|  Medical Specialties |  Transitions of Care and Primary Care ☉ |
|  Medication Safety ☉ |  Women's and Newborn Health ☉ |

*Please note: the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Specialty Practice icon is being developed as part of SHPA's 'Reflect' Reconciliation Action Plan.

GROWING POOL OF EXPERTISE AND OUTPUT

Specialty Practice was embraced by members from the beginning; by early 2019 more than half of SHPA's members had enrolled in at least one **Interest Group**, a level of interest that has been maintained through to 2022.

Currently 51% of SHPA members are enrolled in an average of seven Interest Groups each. Members consistently cite the value of access to experts and leaders in Interest Groups, and the knowledge they gain, as a key SHPA member benefit.

The steady growth in **Practice Group** membership signifies members' desire to share their expertise and support fellow members and the development of pharmacy practice in their specialty. More than 600 SHPA members now belong to at least one Practice Group, growth of 45% since 2018.

The growing Practice Groups are essential to the sustainability of Specialty Practice, by:

- identifying and supporting emerging leaders
- enabling succession planning
- providing greater diversity in the pool of member expertise.

At the core of the framework, the significant commitment from elected **Leadership Committee** members is further proof of members' passion and dedication to their specialty. Working with their fellow committee members and SHPA through well-attended monthly meetings, they:

- engage with and advise members in the broader Interest Group
- identifying opportunities for Practice Group members to contribute
- expand the knowledge base in the specialty through:
 - sharing recent research via dedicated channels, including discussion forums, DrugScan, Practice in Focus, newsletters and MI Q&A
 - contribute to and lead SHPA education
 - write, edit and review Standards of Practice
 - develop Position Statements
 - publish Practice Updates.
- engage external stakeholders
- escalate clinical practice concerns
- represent and advise SHPA.



More than 600 SHPA members now belong to at least one **Practice Group**, growth of 45% since 2018.

Dedicated support

The assignment of SHPA Secretariat staff to support Specialty Practice is another enhancement of the new model. Staff attend and provide administrative support to all Leadership Committee meetings, acting as a conduit between Leadership Committees and key SHPA executives and teams such as Education, Policy and Advocacy, Workforce Advancement, to escalate issues of concern on behalf of members. Employing a Pharmacy Standards Lead to oversee reviewing and writing SHPA's expanding series of Standards of Practice ensures that these projects are approached in a consistent way and completed in a timely manner.

CONNECTION AND COMMUNITY

Specialty Practice continues to connect members around the country, in all practice settings.

By belonging to an online community of peers and leaders in the field, who generously share their knowledge through discussion forums and online resources, members and their practice are supported by reliable and timely information.

Members report that belonging to Specialty Practice Interest Groups reduces their professional isolation, which is very important not only to members in smaller pharmacy teams, but members who may be in larger pharmacy teams but are the only practitioner in the specialty in their hospital, or for members who are designing a new service.

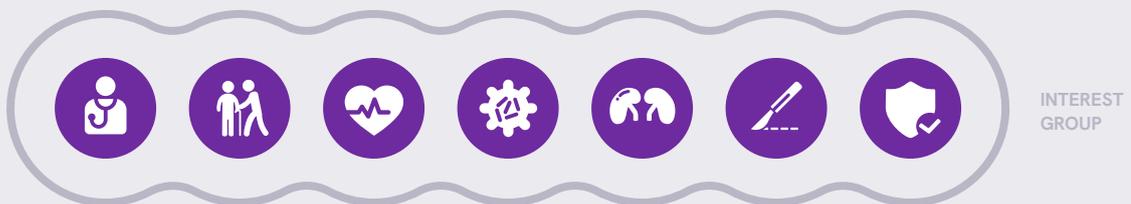


Members at all stages of their career and all levels of expertise – anywhere in the country – benefit from the collective knowledge of all members of their Interest Groups.

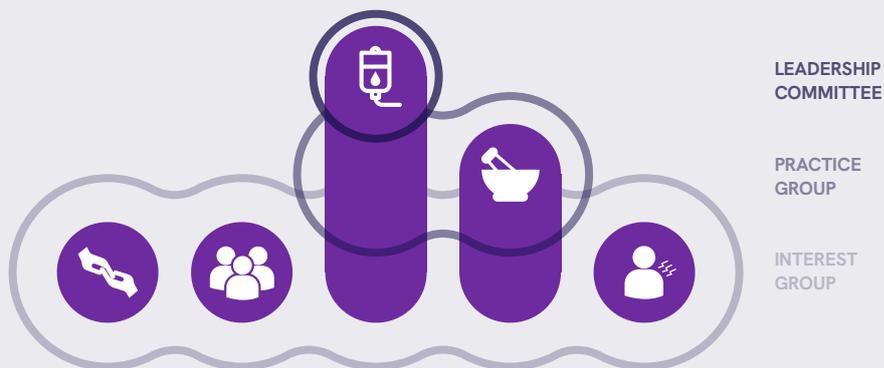
Support at every career stage

With different levels of engagement in each specialty, members curate an individual Specialty Practice profile that reflects their practice.

Intern, early-career and rotational pharmacists may join Interest Groups across many specialties relevant to their broad practice, while members whose practice is highly specialised have narrower but deeper Specialty Practice engagement.



Example profile of a generalist pharmacist, reflecting multiple areas of interest.



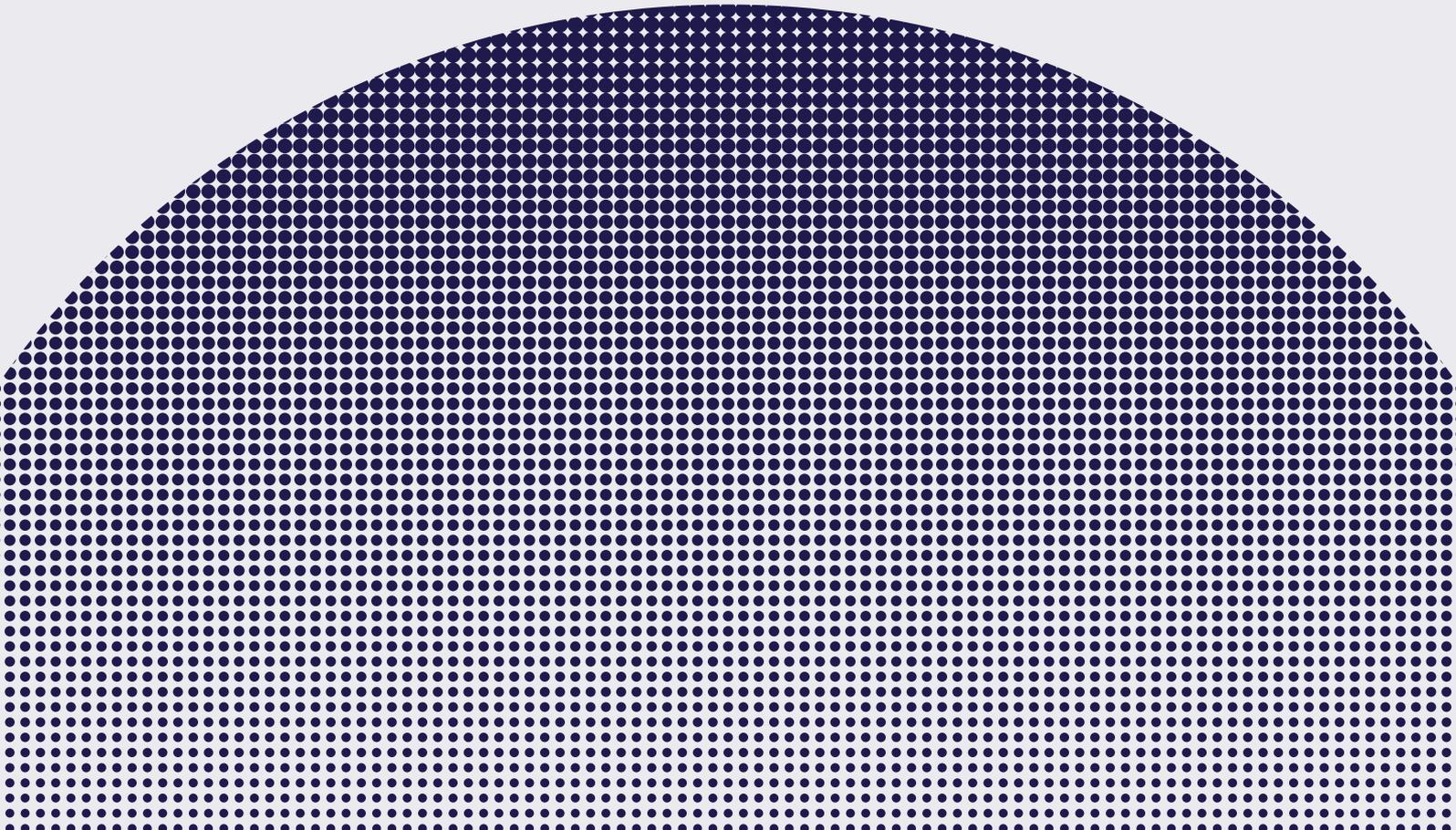
Example profile of an Oncology Pharmacist: a member of the Oncology and Haematology Leadership Committee, Compounding Practice Group, and interest groups for other relevant specialties.

Belonging to Specialty Practice also helps members stay engaged in their professional lives and in touch with professional networks. The flexible nature of online communities enables convenient access to information and support, including while away from regular work, including many instances of parental and sabbatical leave over the past five years.

Facilitating collaboration

Specialty Practice harnesses synergies between specialties and facilitates formal and informal collaboration and consultation between our leading members. When there is complementary or overlapping expertise and common goals, collaborations allow cross fertilisation of ideas between specialties and the development of useful resources or guidance that is informed by broader perspectives than a single specialty can provide – such as:

- SHPA's substantial work on opioid harm and opioid stewardship has involved members from both Pain Management and Surgery and Perioperative Medicine Leadership Committees
- Geriatric Medicine and Transitions of Care and Primary Care collaborate on many initiatives and advocacy activities – especially the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and the resulting response by government to embed pharmacists in aged care
- the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and the Transitions of Care and Primary Care Leadership Committees are collaborating on a project to showcase success stories relating to Closing the Gap initiatives and exploring culturally appropriate consent processes for research that will involve Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people
- the Leadership and Management Leadership Committee collaborated with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Rural and Remote Leadership Committees calling on leaders to provide culturally safe workplaces – publishing an open letter *How do you, as a leader, ensure that your workplace is a culturally safe environment for those who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, and for those of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds?*
- the Nephrology, Critical Care and Oncology and Haematology Leadership Committees are developing a consensus statement to guide pharmacy practitioners and educators about the most appropriate method to estimate renal function
- the Research Leadership Committee has collaborated with Transitions of Care and Primary Care, Cardiology, and Infectious Diseases on a Journal Club Webinar series.



COLLECTIVE ADVOCACY

Specialty Practice provides a 'brains trust' that ensures SHPA's opinion is informed by the latest research, data and experiences at the coalface.

The contribution of member expertise, sourced through Specialty Practice, has reinforced the authority of SHPA's key publications and statements, including Standards of Practice, Position Statements, Hospital Pharmacy Practice Updates, submissions, contributions to important stakeholder groups, correspondence and endorsements.

Through Specialty Practice, member expertise has influenced decision-makers and policy, facilitating profession- and nation-wide impact. Members' voices have shaped submissions to Royal Commissions and government inquiries in recent years, activities that define the essence and values of Australian hospital pharmacy.



ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHT

Reducing Opioid-related Harm

SHPA's 2018 Medicines Leadership Forum showcased effective stakeholder collaboration as leaders from Specialty Practice helped highlight Australia's growing opioid misuse epidemic. The forum engaged leaders from ten healthcare organisations culminating in **Reducing Opioid-related Harm's 33 prioritised recommendations**; advice was provided to the Commonwealth and commitments to mandate smaller pack sizes, better warnings, and fentanyl patch restrictions were subsequently **announced by Health Minister Greg Hunt** in 2019.



ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHT

Embedding pharmacists in Aged Care

SHPA's 2019 submission to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety called for high quality, embedded clinical pharmacy services for aged care residents and the codifying of pharmacist-led medication management services in national standards, as urgently needed to reduce alarmingly high rates of medication-related problems experienced by older Australians.

In following years, other organisations adopted SHPA's recommended pharmacist-to-resident ratio of 1:200, as per the **Standard of practice in geriatric medicine for pharmacy services** and, in March 2022, the **Federal Government announced funding of nearly \$350m** for new embedded pharmacist positions to improve medication management and safety for aged care residents.

Through rigorous, democratic elections, Specialty Practice leadership is a powerful endorsement from informed peers. The election process has provided SHPA with great confidence that representatives on external stakeholder or project groups possess the skills and expertise that will confirm SHPA as a valued and collaborative partner, and hospital pharmacy as an indispensable stakeholder voice.

The below lists provide an overview of the significant output enabled by access to member expertise through Specialty Practice.

Position Statements

- Closing the loop of medication management in hospitals to improve patient safety with barcoding technology on unit dose packaging
- Codeine: Up-scheduling of codeine containing medicines to Schedule 4 Prescription Only Geriatric Medicine and Aged Care Clinical Pharmacy Services
- Medication Safety

Contribution to key clinical guidelines

- Therapeutic guidelines
- Clinical care standards – Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
 - Antimicrobial Stewardship
 - Delirium
 - Sepsis
 - Opioid Analgesic Stewardship in Acute Pain
- Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and Handbook
- NPS MedicineWise
- Heart Foundation

Hospital Pharmacy Practice Updates

- Factors to consider for the implementation of automated pharmacy distribution systems in hospitals and health services
- Hospital-initiated medication reviews Preparation of Mycobacterium bovis (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin) immunotherapy

Organisations with SHPA Specialty Practice representation on collaborative projects, 2017-2022

- Australian College of Critical Care Nurses (ACCCN)
- Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists – Faculty of Pain Medicine
- Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society
- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
- Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS)
- Australian Health Facility Guidelines
- Australian Medicines Handbook
- Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and Handbook (APF)
- Consumer Medicines Information (TGA Working Group)
- Council of Australian Therapeutic Advisory Groups
- Heart Foundation
- International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)
- Medical Oncology Group of Australia
- National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce
- National Pain Alliance Reference Group
- National Rural Health Alliance
- NPS MedicineWise
- NSW TAFE Industry Collaboration Reference Group for Pharmacy
- Palliative Care Australia
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme - Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy
- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
- Queensland Health
- Society of Obstetric Medicine of Australia and New Zealand (SOMANZ)
- Standard Australia - ME-60 Controlled Environments
- Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)
- Therapeutic Guidelines
- Victorian Department of Health and Human Services
- WA Health
- Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health COVID-19 Coalition
- WorkSafe Victoria

Empowering member voices

Through Specialty Practice discussion forums, members have influenced SHPA, and healthcare and regulatory authorities. By monitoring forum posts, Leadership Committees are aware of the issues confronting members in their day-to-day practice and take action to address them.

Instigated by discussion forum posts from members and actioned by Leadership Committees, the following are examples of member influence that is possible because of Specialty Practice:

SHPA meeting with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and Pharmacy Board of Australia to discuss compounding issues

A change to a monograph in the Australian Medicines Handbook (AMH)

Hydromorphone PBS changes

SHPA publishing the Hospital pharmacy practice update: *Preparation of Mycobacterium bovis (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin) immunotherapy.*

SHPA flagging risks of weekly methotrexate dosing with Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)

SETTING THE STANDARD

Standards of Practice

SHPA's Standards of Practice series remains widely utilised and well-referenced by pharmacists and health professionals seeking guidance on the delivery of clinical, operational and specialty hospital pharmacy services. The series draws on the collective expertise of members across all areas of practice and is written by the respective Specialty Practice Leadership Committees or a dedicated Working Group.

The revitalisation of Specialty Practice in 2017 enabled a comprehensive review and expansion of the series with enhancements relevant to current practice.

Standard of Practice progress (at August 2022)

 Completed
  In progress
  On the horizon



Education

SHPA's renowned education program remains Australia's pre-eminent source of continuing professional development for hospital pharmacists and has been strengthened by access to member expertise through Specialty Practice.

The broadening of Specialty Practice has enabled more members to participate in developing and delivering education to members and the wider profession.

Additional education offerings have been developed by some Leadership Committees for their Interest Group members, to complement national SHPA offerings, including:

- Stat-ED – Medication Safety Interest Group,
- NeoPa-ED – Paediatrics and Neonatology Interest Group.

Workforce advancement

SHPA's Foundation Residency program was launched in 2017, alongside the revitalisation of Specialty Practice. Specialty Practice members have been integral in shaping and refining the Foundation Residency Program and supporting Foundation Residents in practice as preceptors or program leads.

The Education and Educational Visiting Leadership Committee continues to develop tools and education to support members running Residency Programs.

The contribution of member expertise is key to SHPA's Advanced Training Residencies program as developing the Practice Area Specific Frameworks and Knowledge Guides requires expert knowledge. Since their inception in 2019, Specialty Practice members have developed or are currently developing Advanced Training Residencies Framework and Knowledge Guides in the following areas:



Emergency Medicine



Critical Care



Geriatric Medicine



**Medicines
Information**



Mental Health



Paediatrics



**Surgery and
Perioperative
Medicine**

In progress:



Emergency Medicine



Infectious Diseases



Medication Safety



Nephrology



**Women's and
Newborns Health**

Specialty Practice has also greatly benefited both Foundation and Advanced Training Residents, facilitating access to an online community of collective expertise that supports them in their residency and beyond.

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Advocacy and policy submissions

The past five years has seen a strong synergy between Leadership Committees and SHPA's Advocacy and Policy team, who acknowledge the enormous contribution that members make to ensure SHPA's submissions are well informed, and that members' views are represented. The following lists the vast range of submissions, feedback and engagement that has been informed by the valuable contribution of the specialties listed.

2022

Title	Streams consulted
National Medicines Traceability Framework Consultation	EMM, DispDist
Review and Revision of the National Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Development Strategy	MentHlth, AboriginalHlth
Australian Cancer Plan 2023-2033 Consultation	OncHaem
TGA consultation on Extemporaneous Compounding of Emergency Medicines: Proposal to improve patient access to critical medicines in acute-care settings	Comp, L+M, Paeds, Crit Care, Emerg, WNBH, Med Safety, OncHaem, Geri, MH, SurgPeriOp, Cardiol43
Inquiry into Childhood Rheumatic Diseases	AboriginalHlth, Paeds, Rural
Review of Pharmaceutical Reform Agreements	Rural, AboriginalHlth, Geri, L+M, MedSafety, TCPC, EMM, Emerg, OncHaem
NPS MedicineWise Safe Use of Opioids	Pain, Edu, SurgPeriOp, Emerg
Stakeholder consultation forum for the ODTP Post-market review	MedSafety, Pain, SurgPeriOp, TCPC, Emerg, MentHlth
IHPA Work Program and Corporate Plan 2022-23	L+M
Proposed update to the evidence guidelines for listed medicines	Research, MedSafety, MedInfo
Feedback on the revised proposal to amend S19A of the TGA and permit the import and supply of discontinued and cancelled medicines from the ARTG	DispDist
TGA follow-up consultation on the Repurposing of medicines	Paeds, OncHaem, Crit care, WNBH, L+M, MedSafety, MedSpecialties, Geri, MedInfo, Pain, Comp, GenMed
Maintaining and improving transparency of medicine adverse event information on the TGA	MedInfo, MedSafety, DispDist
TGA Medicine Recall Procedure	MedSafety, MedInfo, DispDist

2022

Title	Streams consulted
PSA draft Guideline for pharmacists supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with medicines management	AboriginalHlth, L+M, Rural, TCPC
PBS listing of hydromorphone oral solution	PallCare
Draft Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Bill 2022 (NSW)	Comp, DispDist, L+M
NSW Health Draft revised policy: Approval Process of Medicines and Their Use	DispDist, MedSafety, L+M
Pricing Framework for Australian Public Hospital Services 2023–24	L+M
National Health (Take Home Naloxone Pilot) Special Arrangement Amendment (2022 Measures No. 1) Instrument 2022	Pain, Emerg, DispDist
NSW Regional Health Plan	Rural
University of Sydney guidelines on Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline for Deprescribing Opioid Analgesics	Pain, SurgPeriOp

2021

Title	Streams consulted
National QUM Publication - Guiding Principles for medication management in the community	MedSafety, Rural, AboriginalHlth, EMM, L+M, TCPC, Geri
National QUM Publication - Guiding Principles for medication management in RACF	MedSafety, Rural, AboriginalHlth, EMM, L+M, TCPC, Geri
ACSQHC National Medication Management Plan User Guide	MedSafety
TGA Interim decisions to amend (or not amend) the current Poisons Standard (oral contraceptive substances)	WNBH, MedSafety
PBS draft TOR on the post-market review of medicines available under the PBS Opiate Dependence Treatment Program	DispDist, TCPC, Emerg, MentHlth, Pain
Acute Anaphylaxis Clinical Care Standards	Emerg, CritCare, Paeds, Resp
Improving access to life-saving unapproved medicines via the Special Access Scheme Category A pathway in emergency situations	Emerg, CritCare
Victorian Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy	ID, MedSafety, Emerg, TCPC, DispDist

2021

Title	Streams consulted
Proposed changes to Required Advisory Statements for Medicine Labels (RASML): Chlorhexidine, hydrocortisone, ibuprofen	MedInfo, MedSafety
Proposed Changes to the Controlled Substances (Poisons) Regulations 2011 - ScriptCheck SA	DispDist
Senate Inquiry on Provision of general practitioner and related primary health services to outer metropolitan rural and regional Australians	TCPC
Draft Opioid Analgesic Stewardship in Acute Pain Clinical Care Standard	Emerg, Pain, SurgPeriOp, TCPC
Draft Sepsis Clinical Care Standard	ID, CritCare, Emerg, TCPC
Draft National Mental Health Workforce Strategy	MentHlth, Rural
Draft Guiding principles for the governance of high-cost medicines in Australian hospitals	L+M
National Digital Health Strategy	EMM
Review of the National Medicines Policy (NMP) Discussion Paper 2021	All
Victorian Department of Health re new Mental Health and Wellbeing Act	MentHlth
Draft Victorian Pharmacy Authority Standards	Comp
Draft consent forms and proposed FAQs for DAAs in the new Commonwealth Programs	AboriginalHlth, Rural
Review of the Efficient Funding of Chemotherapy (EFC) program Discussion Paper	OncHaem, L+M, EMM, MedSafety, Rural, Comp, DispDist, TCPC, AboriginalHlth
Draft Palliative Care Strategic Framework 2021-2026	PallCare
PBS draft TOR on the post-market review of medicines available under the PBS Opiate Dependence Treatment Program	DispDist, TCPC, Emerg, MentHlth, Pain
National Opioid Analgesic Stewardship Program	Emerg, SurgPeriOp, Edu, MedSafety, Pain, Geri
TGA on the Proposed changes to Required Advisory Statements for Medicine Labels (RASML): Sedating antihistamines	MedSafety, MedInfo, WNBH, Paeds
TGA on the Proposed changes to Required Advisory Statements for Medicine Labels (RASML): Lidocaine (lignocaine)	MedSafety, MedInfo, WNBH, Paeds
Building a more robust medicine supply	L+M, DispDist

2021

Title	Streams consulted
QAIHC Making tracks towards health equity	AboriginalHlth, Rural
TGA TGO 110 Standard for Vaporiser Nicotine	MedSafety, MedInfo, AboriginalHlth, DispDist, Rural
Repurposing of Prescription Medicines	MedInfo, MedSafety, DispDist, WNBH, Paeds
ACSQHC National standard for labelling dispensed medicines Round 3	EMM, DispDist, MedSafety
Draft 2 Cert III and Cert IV in Hospital Services Pharmacy Support	L+M, Techs
Draft National standard for labelling dispensed medicines	EMM, DispDist, MedSafety
Inquiry into Health outcomes & access to health & hospital services in rural, regional and remote NSW	PallCare, OncHaem, Rural
ACSQHC Active Ingredient Prescribing LMBC	All

2020

Title	Streams consulted
TGA's revision of 'Compounded medicines and good manufacturing practice (GMP) – Guide to the interpretation of the PIC/S guide to GMP for compounded medicinal products'	ID, OncHaem
Royal Commission into Aged Care – Counsel Assisting	Geri
TGA interim decision in relation to nicotine	DispDist, GenMed, Resp, TCPC
National Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care Information Priorities	PallCare
NPS MedicineWise QUIM Health Technologies survey	MedInfo
Review of the My Health Record legislation	EMM
PBA Code of Conduct preliminary consultation	AboriginalHlth, L+M, MedSafety
Quality Use of Medicines and Medicines Safety (10th National Health Priority) – Phase 1: Aged Care	TCPC, Geri, MedSafety
Indigenous Dose Administration Aids Program: Discussion Paper	AboriginalHlth
Therapeutic Goods Order 106 – Data Matrix codes and serialisation of medicines (TGO 106)	DispDist, EMM, MedSafety

2020

Title	Streams consulted
National standard for labelling dispensed prescription medicines	DispDist, EMM, MedSafety
SkillsIQ RE Cert III and Cert IV in Hospital Services Pharmacy Support	Techs, DispDist, L+M, Edu, Comp
ADHA Digital Medicines Safety Blueprint	EMM, MedSafety, L+M
TGA proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard (cannabidiol, ibuprofen, sildenafil)	MentHlth, Pain, GenMed, MedSafety, Geri
PBS post-market review of medicines for smoking cessation	DispDist, GenMed, Resp, OncHaem, TCPC, AboriginalHlth
Therapeutic Guidelines: Gastrointestinal	GenMed, MedSpecialties, SurgPeriOp, CritCare, ID, WNBH, Paeds, MedInfo
TGA amendments to the Poisons Standard (ondansetron, melatonin)	GeMed, Geri, MentHlth, OncHaem, TCPC, MedSafety
Aged Care Program Redesign Consultation	Geri, TCPC, MedSafety, PallCare
NPS – Choosing Wisely Representative Panel	Emerg, MedSafety, MentHlth, Pain, TCPC
PSA Opioid cautionary and advisory labels (CALs) and patient information	MedSafety, Pain, DispDist, TCPC
Senate inquiry into current barriers to patient access to medicinal cannabis in Australia	OncHaem, Paeds, DispDist, L+M, Neuro, Pain
ACSQHC prescribing with active ingredient names	MedSafety, DispDist
ACSQHC Review of the Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Clinical Care Standard	ID

2019

Title	Streams consulted
National Asthma Council Australian Asthma Handbook	GenMed, Paeds
Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety	Geri
National Clinical Trials Governance Framework	ClinTrials
Report from the Allied Health reference Group recommending pharmacists on MBS	TCPC, Geri

2019

Title	Streams consulted
Pain Management Clinical Committee report	Pain
TGA publishing of prescription medicine evaluations	MedSafety, MedInfo
Proposed criteria for Appendix M of the Poisons Standard – rescheduling of substances from S4 to S3	MedSafety, MedInfo
Public and stakeholder feedback on pharmacist prescribing	All
Therapeutic Guidelines: Psychotropics	MentHlth, Geri, Paeds, GenMed, Emerg
WA Voluntary Assisted Dying Legislation consultation	PallCare
Therapeutic Guidelines: Developmental Disability	WNBH, Paeds, MentHlth, GenMed, MedSafety, Neuro
Therapeutic Guidelines: Respiratory	Resp, Paed, WNBH, GenMed, CritCare, Cardio
WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: Medication without harm	All
NRHA: Policy options to improve rural allied health services	Rural
PBS: Standardised redactions of public summary documents	ClinTrials, MedInfo, L+M
WA Cancer Plan – cancer control	OncHaem
AHPRA: Public consultation on the review of the guidelines for mandatory notifications	All
Review of the Tasmanian Mental Health Act 2013	MentHlth
ADHA Medicines Safety Program draft Blueprint	EMM, MedSafety, TCPC, GenMed, L+M
Vic Cancer Plan 2020-2021	OncHaem
Victorian Core Capability Framework	Edu
Therapeutic Guidelines: Gastrointestinal	MedSpecialties
PBS Post market review of medicines for smoking cessation	DispDist, GenMed, Resp, OncHaem, TCPC, AboriginalHlth, MentHlth

2018

Title	Streams consulted
TGA Communication plan for patients and health professionals on priority and provisionally registered medicines	MedInfo
National strategic approach to maternity services	WNBH
PD-1 and PD-L1 checkpoint inhibitor immunotherapies: options for subsidy consideration for multiple cancer types	OncHaem
Options for the implantation of a claimer for efficacy assessed non-prescription medicines	MedInfo
TGA proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard (miconazole and fluconazole)	MedSafety, WNBH
TGA proposed amendments to the Poisons Standard (sedating antihistamines)	MedSafety, Paeds
TGA on DTC advertising (Appendix H)	MedInfo
National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards user guide for health services providing care for people with mental health issues	MentHlth
Regulation of Australia's health professions: Keeping the national law up to date and fit for purpose	L+M
TGA proposed amendment to the current Poisons Standard	Pain, Geri
Therapeutic Guidelines: Analgesics	Pain, SurgPeriOp
A potentially preventable hospitalisation indicator for general practice	TCPC, Geri
Department of Health Pregnancy Care Guidelines	WNBH

Practice in Focus

A new initiative aligned to the revitalisation of Specialty Practice, *Practice in Focus* has drawn attention to key research findings and clinical practice guidelines to contribute towards improvements in patient care and foster professional development in specialty streams.

Instigated by the Women's and Newborn Health Leadership Committee in 2018 and since adopted by other Leadership Committees, *Practice in Focus* provides opportunities to engage Practice Group members and is published through their Interest Group discussion forum, to date 73 summaries have been published, accompanied by expert commentary from contributing pharmacists or technicians, offering a unique perspective on articles and how they apply to the everyday practice of clinical pharmacy.



Cardiology

Apr 2021 Use of Rivaroxaban in Coronary Artery Disease

Jan 2019 Weight-based dosing of aspirin?

Nov 2018 Aspirin for primary prevention



Education and Educational Visiting

Mar 2022 A Review of Entrustable Professional Activities in Pharmacy Education

Jun 2021 Methods of achieving psychological safety to enhance feedback efficacy



Geriatric Medicine

Jun 2022 Electronic decision support for deprescribing reduces inappropriate medications at discharge but not ADEs at 30-days post-discharge

Apr 2022 Do we AGREE on the targets of antihypertensive drug treatments in older adults?

Feb 2022 What is the time to benefit of bisphosphonates in postmenopausal women with osteoporosis?

Dec 2021 Effects of blood-pressure-lowering pharmacotherapy for the prevention of cardiovascular disease and death, stratified for age and BP

Oct 2021 Trial of pimavanserin in dementia-related psychosis

Aug 2021 Potential role for amyloid immunotherapy in mild Alzheimer's disease

Jun 2021 Lack of care coordination and increased clinical complexity implicated in the new prescribing of potentially inappropriate medications

Apr 2021 Clear cardiovascular benefits in older patients across different classes of LDL cholesterol lowering therapy

Feb 2021 A single anticholinergic medicine in people over the age 75 can impair cognition and mobility.

Dec 2020 AFFINITY trial - Does fluoxetine improve stroke recovery?

Oct 2020	Effectiveness of statin therapy for alleviating cerebral small vessel disease progression in people ≥ 75 years of age.
Aug 2020	Clopidogrel versus ticagrelor or prasugrel in patients aged 70 years or older with non-ST-elevation acute coronary syndrome (POPular AGE).
Jun 2020	Is suvorexant effective in treating insomnia in people with probable Alzheimer's Disease?
Apr 2020	Should subclinical hypothyroidism be treated in older patients?
Feb 2020	Blockade of renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system in elderly patients with heart failure and chronic kidney disease.
Oct 2019	Long-term anticholinergic drug exposure and risk of dementia-A nested control study
Aug 2019	Investigating the association between treatment for hypertension and falls in older women.
Jun 2019	Statin therapy for primary and secondary cardiovascular disease prevention in older people
Apr 2019	Early versus delayed-start of levodopa treatment in Parkinson's disease



Pain Management

Dec 2021	Impact of restricting access to codeine on prescription opioid-related emergency department presentations
Jun 2021	Effect of educational intervention for doctors and pharmacists on surgical discharge opioid prescribing
Nov 2020	Pharmacist-led Opioid De-escalation for Post-Operative Inpatients



Surgery and Perioperative Medicine

Jun 2022	Dexamethasone and Surgical-Site Infection
Mar 2021	Fourth Consensus Guidelines for the Management of Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting
Nov 2020	Pharmacist-led Opioid De-escalation for Post-Operative Inpatients
Sep 2019	Extended-release gabapentin for failed back surgery syndrome
Sep 2019	Therapeutic monitoring of vancomycin for serious MRSA infections: a revised consensus guideline
May 2019	Aspirin or Rivaroxaban for VTE Prophylaxis after Hip or Knee Arthroplasty



Transitions of Care and Primary Care

Dec 2021	A patient-centred approach is required to achieve effective medication reviews post-hospital discharge.
Sep 2021	Pharmacist interventions are effective in reducing medication errors and emergency department visits across transitions of care from hospital to the community
Aug 2021	Predicting which older patients may be harmed by their medications after discharge
Jun 2021	REMAIN HOME – setting the agenda and proving value of pharmacists in the early post-discharge period
Jun 2020	Impact of pharmacists' post discharge follow-up to reduce medication-related acute care episodes.
Feb 2020	Primary care providers believe that comprehensive medication management improves their work-life.
Sep 2018	Impact of pharmacist-physician collaborative care model on patient outcomes and health services utilization



Women's and Newborn Health

Jun 2022	Triptan use during pregnancy and risk of ADHD in offspring
Nov 2021	Early paracetamol to promote closure of the ductus arteriosus in preterm infants – EPAR Trial
Sep 2021	Progesterone Pessaries for Preventing Preterm Birth
Aug 2021	Diabetes in Pregnancy – Associated Health Service and Health Systems Costs
Jun 2021	Effectiveness and safety of management options for first-trimester miscarriage.
Apr 2021	Paracetamol for pain relief – in women and the newborn.
Nov 2020	Low dose aspirin may be effective for pre-eclampsia, but is it safe in pregnancy?
Sep 2020	Identifying unsafe excipients in medicines used in neonates
Aug 2020	SOMANZ Guidelines on the management of nausea and vomiting in pregnancy and hyperemesis gravidarum.
Jul 2020	Oral antihypertensive regimens (nifedipine retard, labetalol, and methyldopa) for management of severe hypertension in pregnancy: an open-label, randomised controlled trial.
May 2020	Antenatal vaccine uptake: A cross-sectional study investigating factors influencing women's choices in pregnancy.

Jan 2020	Effect of ibuprofen vs acetaminophen on postpartum hypertension in preeclampsia with severe features: a double-masked, randomized controlled trial
Oct 2019	The search for an effective strategy to manage intrahepatic cholestasis of pregnancy continues.
Sep 2019	Treatment of retinopathy of prematurity – an update on bevacizumab.
Aug 2019	Extended-release oxybutynin therapy for vasomotor symptoms in women: a randomized clinical trial
Jul 2019	Should we use prophylactic antibiotics for operative vaginal deliveries?
Jun 2019	Duration of initial empirical antibiotic therapy and outcomes in very low birth weight infants
May 2019	Progesterone therapy following early bleeding in pregnancy - does it improve outcomes?
Apr 2019	The search for effective pre-eclampsia prevention remains elusive
Mar 2019	Evaluation of congenital malformation risk in neonates exposed to ondansetron in-utero
Feb 2019	Furosemide exposure and prevention of bronchopulmonary dysplasia in premature infants
Dec 2018	Iron polymaltose vs ferric carboxymaltose vs oral ferrous sulphate for treatment of mild-moderate IDA in pregnancy
Nov 2018	Efficacy of ulipristal acetate for emergency contraception reduced by early re-initiation of combined oral contraceptives.
Oct 2018	Neonatal Early-Onset Sepsis – a decision support tool to reduce unnecessary antibiotic administration.
Sep 2018	Opioid Prescribing Patterns Among Post-Partum Women – Are We Over-Prescribing?

MI Q&A

The Medicines Information Leadership Committee has published eight issues of MI Q&A. These are based on questions that Medicines Information services are frequently asked and provide members of the Medicines Information Interest Group with concise, factual information, and facilitates the dissemination of consistent and authoritative advice.



Medicines Information

Jul 2021 Important dosing considerations in overweight and obese patients: what matters?

Mar 2021 Tips and Tricks: Limitations of common resources

Dec 2020 Effective communication: How do I record MI enquiries in clinical records?

Sep 2020 Animal-derived medicines – are patients making informed decisions?

Jun 2020 How do I manage a medicine temperature excursion?

Mar 2020 Which medicines are 'time critical'?

Dec 2019 Is a 'sulfur' allergy possible?

Jun 2019 CAM and Chemotherapy explores the use of complementary and alternative medicines in patients undergoing chemotherapy for the treatment of cancer.

Critical Care Bulletin

The Critical Care Leadership Committee has published regular bulletins for members of their Interest Group, covering news from the Committee, topical issues, upcoming key events and program highlights.

Leadership Profiles

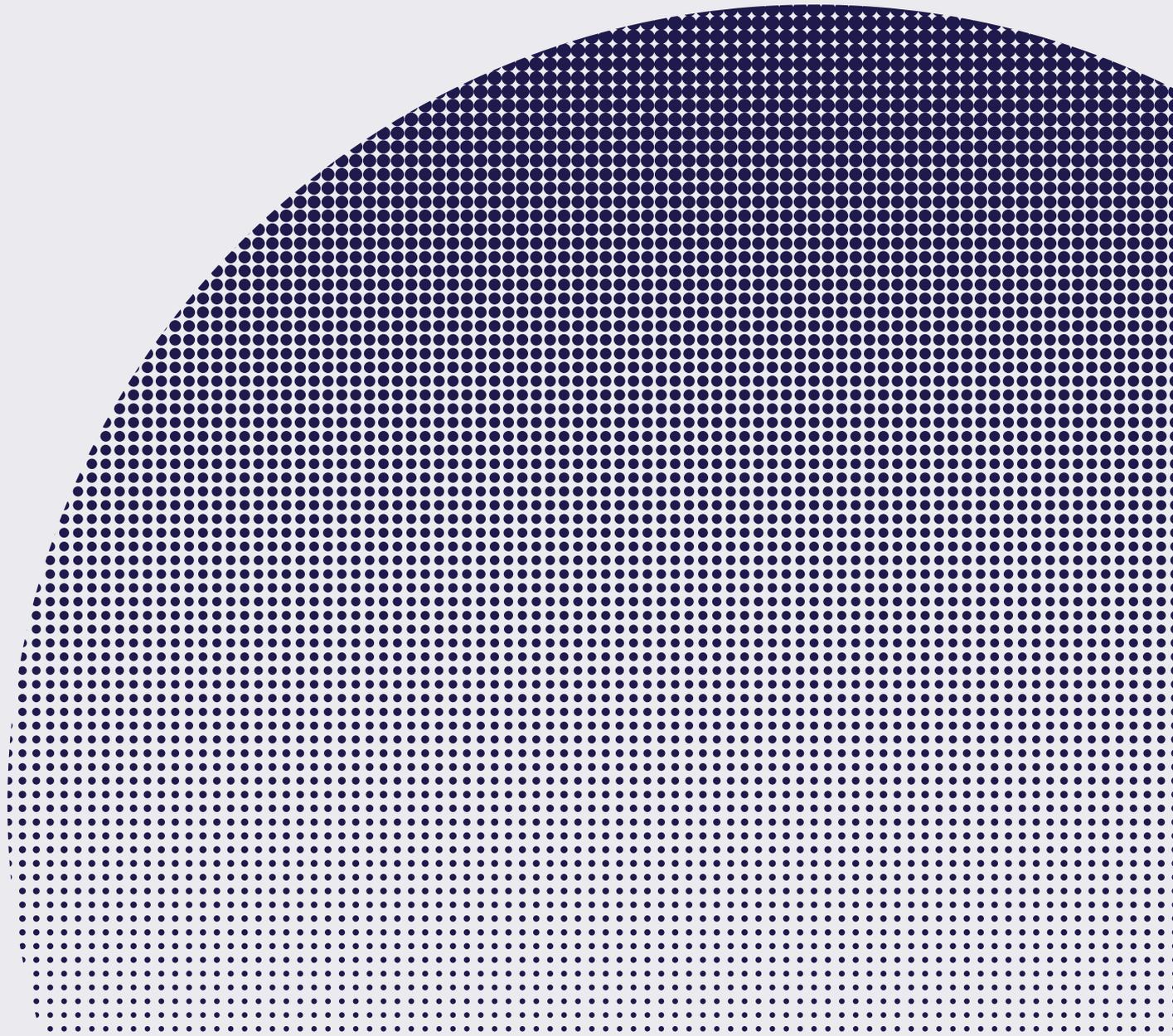
The Leadership and Management Leadership Committee has published seven leadership profiles, to inspire members of their Interest Group and provide some insight into the varied paths that members travel to their respective leadership positions.

Pharmacy GRIT

Unique to the Medication Safety Leadership Committee, the Medication Safety feature has continued in *Pharmacy GRIT*, with 20 reports over this period, covering issues such as:

- The safety of treating COVID-19 — including “Capturing COVID-19 adverse events” and “COVID-19 incidents in the USA” (Winter, 2020), and “COVID-19 missed doses” (Spring, 2020)
- Compelling interviews with experts such as: Dr Kimberly Blumenthal, an allergy specialist from the United States (Spring, 2021); Professor Parisa Aslani, Professor in Medicines Use Optimisation at the University of Sydney (Autumn–Winter, 2021); and E Robert Feroli, Medication Safety Officer (Summer, 2021–22)
- Developing a culture of medication safety (Summer, 2021–22).

Also in *Pharmacy GRIT*, DrugScan has thrived over the past five years, with 22 issues comprising 689 research precis. Thanks to the contribution of Specialty Practice members appointed as GRIT Liaisons and the volunteer contributors from the Leadership Committee and Practice Group, the summaries of recent developments emerging in the international peer-reviewed therapeutics literature provided in DrugScan supports members and encourages them to explore the original publications and fosters a research culture.



A BRIGHT FUTURE

SHPA members are specialist, clinical pharmacists who lead Pharmacy Departments in all of Australia's principal hospitals, and work in departments covering metro, regional, rural and remote Australia.

SHPA's Specialty Practice framework enhances and empowers this exceptional knowledge base, ensuring the latest in medicines innovation and patient safety is distilled directly from the unique working environments of our specialised hospital-based profession and shared through an expansive multi-modal education program, and channels of advocacy and influence.

Uptake of and interest in the 31 streams is strong, with each supported as a nationwide network, in which busy discussion forums promptly discuss (and answer) clinical questions, improving patient care.

In August 2022, marking five years since the revitalisation of Specialty Practice, SHPA gathered elected Chairs of the 2022 Leadership Committees for a two-day forum to reflect on the past five years and its achievements and to strengthen the program for the next five years, while identifying new collaborative opportunities across education, advocacy and policy.

The commitment of Leadership Committee members and their passion has been plainly demonstrated by the last two and a half years, representing half of Specialty Practice's existence, which has been under the cloud of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges the pandemic brought, members continued to be heavily engaged in Specialty Practice and Leadership Committees continued to lead important projects and key SHPA offerings. For some Leadership Committees the Specialty Practice community was crucial support during the uncertainty and demands of the pandemic.

Feedback from exiting Leadership Committee members and the high retention of Leadership Committee members indicates the value that this leadership role brings to members. More than 260 members have been a member of a Leadership Committee; providing these members an unparalleled opportunity to develop their leadership skills, showcasing their expertise and appropriately recognising their standing. The fact that many members have joined multiple Leadership Committees and that more than half of the 171 members elected to the inaugural Leadership Committees in 2017 are still members of the same Leadership Committee, reflects their passion and commitment to the Specialty Practice program and its achievements, but also satisfaction with what Specialty Practice brings to them. The healthy turnover of Leadership Committee members has provided unique opportunities for emerging leaders to step into leadership roles surrounded by a supportive committee.

SHPA looks forward to continuing to nurture and work with our members through the Specialty Practice program and to constantly strengthen it to ensure that our members continue to be supported by engaged and informative networks, have a voice and are championed on their leadership journey. Through the healthy engagement of our members in Specialty Practice, SHPA's objective is that member expertise will continue to ensure that SHPA is an indispensable stakeholder voice that influences decision-makers and policy, supports best practice in medicines management and improves outcomes for Australian patients.

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP, 2018-2022

Stream		'18	'19	'20	'21	2022
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health	Aleena Williams, Chair	●	●	████████████████████		
Cardiology	Garth Birdsey, Chair	████████████████		●	●	●
	Joanna Pizzi, Chair	●	●	████	●	●
	Adam Livori, Chair	●	●	●	████████████████	
Clinical Trials	Peter Slobodian, Chair	████████████████████				
Compounding Services	Priti Prasad, Chair	████████████████		●	●	●
	Branko Radojkovic, Chair	●	●	████████████████		
Critical Care	Karlee Johnston, Chair	████████████████		●	●	●
	Melissa Ankravs, Chair	●	●	████████████████		●
	Rachel Fyfe, Chair	●	●	●	●	████████
Dispensing and Distribution	Patrick Lam, Chair	████████████████████				
Education and Educational Visiting	Daniel Guidone, Chair	████	●	●	●	●
	Sally Marotti, Chair	●	████	●	●	●
	Diana Sandulache, Chair	●	●	████	●	●
	Cathy Martin, Chair	●	●	●	████	●
	Lisa Pulver, Chair	●	●	●	●	████████
Electronic Medication Management	James Grant, Chair	████████████████████				●
	Erica Tong, Chair	●	●	●	●	████████
Emergency Medicine	Susan Welch, Chair	████████████████		●	●	●
	Cristina Roman, Chair	●	●	████████████████		
General Medicine	Erica Tong, Chair	████████████████████				●
	James Polmear, Chair	●	●	●	●	████████

Stream		'18	'19	'20	'21	2022
Geriatric Medicine	Rohan Elliott, Chair	█	●	●	●	
	Ivanka Koeper, Co-Chair	●	●	█	●	●
	Gauri Godbole, Co-Chair/Chair	●	●	█	█	█
Infectious Diseases	Kelly Cairns, Chair	█	█	█	█	●
	Minyon Avent, Chair	●	●	●	●	█
Leadership and Management	Sharon Goldsworthy, Chair	█	█	●	●	●
	Russell Hill, Chair	●	●	█	█	█
Medication Safety	Toni Howell, Chair	█	█	█	█	█
Medicines Information	Elizabeth Anderson, Chair	█	●	●	●	●
	Jeanie Misko, Chair	●	█	●	●	●
	Felicity Prior, Chair	●	●	█	█	●
	Claire Keith, Chair	●	●	●	●	●
Mental Health	Alice Gilbert, Chair	█	█	●	●	●
	Yvette Haselden, Chair	●	●	█	●	●
	Helen Lowy, Chair	●	●	●	█	█
Nephrology	Michelle Nalder, Chair	█	●	●	●	●
	Carla Scuderi, Chair/Co-Chair		█	█	█	█
	Hanh Tran, Co-Chair	●	●	●	●	█
Oncology and Haematology	John Coutsouvelis, Chair/Co-Chair	█	█	█	█	█
	Shaun O'Connor, Co-Chair	●	●	●	●	█
Paediatrics and Neonatology	Sonya Stacey, Chair	█	●	█	█	█
	Michael Petrovski, Chair	●	█	●	●	●
Pain Management	Daniel Lim, Chair	█	█	●	●	●
	Benita Suckling, Chair	●	●	█	█	●
	Shania Liu, Chair	●	●	●	●	█

Stream		'18	'19	'20	'21	2022
Palliative Care	Penelope Tuffin , Chair	████████████████████			●	●
	Josephine To , Chair	●	●	●	████████████████████	
Research	Jonathan Penm , Chair/Co-Chair	●	●	████████████████████		
	Amy Page , Co-Chair	●	●	●	●	████████
Rural and Remote	Michelle Rothwell , Chair	████████████████████			●	●
	Susan Trevillian , Chair	●	●	●	████████████████████	
Surgery and Perioperative Medicine	Thuy Bui , Chair	████████████████████				●
	Janelle Penno , Chair	●	●	●	●	████████
Technicians and Assistants	Tara Clayson-Fisher , Chair	●	●	████	●	●
	Mark Clifford , Chair	●	●	●	████	●
	Bryan Walker , Chair	●	●	●	●	████████
Transitions of Care and Primary Care	Deirdre Criddle , Chair	████████████████████			●	●
	Katie Phillips , Chair	●	●	●	████████████████████	
Women's and Newborn Health	Luke Grzeskowiak , Chair	████████████████████			●	●
	Treasure McGuire , Chair	●	●	●	████████████████████	

SHPA Specialty Practice Team

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