

Editors' Welcome - The Future is Bright

Editorial

Completed 2024

Annabelle Gov, 4th year BPharm(Hons) ^{1,2,4}

Brielle Geard, 3rd year BPharm(Hons) ^{1,3,5}

¹ Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Australian Pharmacy Students' Journal*, Australia

² Discipline of Pharmacy, University of Canberra, Canberra, Australia

³ School of Pharmacy, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia

⁴ Executive Director of Research, National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association, Australia

⁵ *Australian Pharmacy Students' Journal* Chair, National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association, Australia

Pharmacists are the medication experts in our healthcare system. In the past, their roles have been limited mainly to community and hospital pharmacy, however, over time, we have seen advancements of pharmacists being placed into new settings to align with the idea that, pharmacists should be wherever there are medicines. This was seen through the progression of pharmacists working in residential aged care facilities (RACFs) and General Practitioner (GP) clinics.¹ This expansion of the pharmacists' role within the community has highlighted the level of expertise they possess.

Nowadays, a number of changes are occurring in Australia, ranging from the Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice pilot, partnered pharmacist charting, vaccinations, and Tasmanian aged care prescribing to name a few.^{2,3} With changes comes growth and opportunities. The future holds great potential for students, as they are in the perfect place to witness where the pharmacy profession is headed. This is the message we want to convey in this issue: the future of pharmacy has never looked brighter, and we are excited to be a part of this journey.

We start off this issue with a collaborative piece written

by Brielle Geard, one of our Co-Editors-in-Chief, and Tom Simpson, President of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA). This editorial highlights the importance of recognition within the pharmacy profession for students, interns and pharmacists.

The editorials are followed by three feature articles. The first one is written by Chloe Kappel, an intern at LiveLife Pharmacy, and Kay Dunkley, Executive Officer at Pharmacists' Support Services (PSS). They highlight the importance of practicing compassionate care for our patients, as well as self-compassion for our own well-being. The second feature article is written by Cait Treloar, the president of the Griffith University Association of Pharmacy Students (GUAPS), on her experience in volunteering in student pharmacy associations and how it can benefit your career. Finally, we welcome back Sumayyah Khalid, a pharmacy student at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom. In her piece, she focuses on the upcoming changes in community pharmacy happening in England, and how clinical and digital services will improve the future of pharmacy practice.

We are proud to present three original research articles discussing the use of potentially inappropriate

medicines (PIMS) in the elderly, antibacterial activity of complementary medicines, and pharmacist prescribing capabilities. The first piece is a narrative review written by Shylee-Jade Hadar-Pagliari from James Cook University, on the prevalence and impact of PIMS in residential aged care facilities and how the risk of medication misadventures could be reduced. The second original research article was written by Chantelle Florenca, a pharmacy student from Griffith University. The article discusses the antibacterial activity of Buchu Leaf and Pygeum Bark against a panel of both antibiotic-sensitive and antibiotic-resistant pathogens. The last original research article is a cross-sectional study written by Mathew Donato from Charles Sturt University, that investigates the confidence, willingness and feasibility of pharmacists prescribing antidiabetic medicines.

Then, we hosted our bi-annual opinion piece competition. With the theme of this issue being “The Future is Bright”, we wanted to reflect on the past, present and future of the pharmacy profession. The following questions were asked to students:

- With the expansion of the scope of practice, is there a limit to what pharmacists should be allowed to do?
- As the pharmacy field evolves, what do you envision pharmacists accomplishing in the next decade?

We received many submissions from students across the country and internationally, and would like to thank all the authors for their participation. The three most impactful pieces were chosen and published in this issue of the Journal. The first piece is written by Olivia Dolkens, a student from Griffith University, followed by a piece from James Oh, an intern pharmacist at LiveLife Pharmacy. The final opinion piece is written by Jonathan C.H. Chan, a pharmacy student from the University of Alberta, Canada.

Finally, the last piece of this issue is a letter written by Zineb Medrek, the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association's (NAPSA) Congress Chair from 2023 which was held in Canberra. She shares her experience on organizing the biggest conference for pharmacy students across Australia and New Zealand.

This issue is the result of months of hard work that would not have been possible without the endless support of our APSJ Academic Advisory Board. We would like to thank our amazing team of associate editors, copyeditors and publications officer for their work in this issue. We would

also like to thank all the academic and student reviewers who contributed to this issue, thus helping the *Journal* flourish during its early years of publication. To all the authors who published in this issue, we would like to congratulate you and thank you for your never-ending trust. We would also like to acknowledge the support of our strategic partner, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) and the support of the Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association (APSA).

As we finalise our first editorial, we would like to reflect on our student journey and the opportunities that the APSJ offers, being the first peer-reviewed pharmacy students' journal in the world. As Co-Editors-in-Chief, we stand behind the APSJ's motto “A Journal Created By Students, For Students”, and would like to invite you to partake in its journey.

REFERENCES

1. Moles, R. J, et al. (2015). Pharmacy Practice in Australia. *Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy*,68(5):418-26, Doi 10.4212/cjhp.v68i5.1492.
2. Queensland Government. About the pilot (updated 2023 Feb 1; cited 2024 Feb 22). *Website*, available from: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/community-pharmacy-scope-of-practice-pilot/about>
3. Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. Nation-leading partnered prescribing pilot to support Tasmanian aged care residents (updated 2023 Sep 14; cited 2024 Feb 22). *Website*, available from: <https://www.psa.org.au/nation-leading-partnered-prescribing-pilot-to-support-tasmanian-aged-care-residents/>

CORRESPONDENCE

Annabelle Gov: research@napsa.org.au