

Sunday 20 October 2019

Leading Queensland pharmacists honoured

Outstanding Queensland pharmacists Gary West of Mermaid Waters (Lifetime Achievement Gold Medal), Vivien Hsu from Surfers' Paradise (Bowl of Hygeia Pharmacist of the Year), Brisbane's Nicolette Ellis (Early Career Pharmacist of the Year) and Emma Dall'Alba, from Malanda outside of Cairns (James Dare Graduate of the Year) have been recognised for their exceptional contribution to the health of Queenslanders in the Queensland PSA President's Awards presented at the Queensland Annual Therapeutic Update in Brisbane last night.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Queensland President, Chris Campbell was delighted to congratulate this year's award winners.

'These awards highlight the impact pharmacists have through the various roles and career pathways pharmacists can take in supporting safe, quality and effective use of medicines in the community,' he said. 'These winners demonstrate not only their commitment to the profession and innovative practice, but their dedication to improving the health of Queenslanders.'

PSA awarded Life Membership to Mr William (Bill) Newman, Mr James Delahunty, and Ms Dinah Fraser in recognition of 50 continuous years of PSA membership and contribution to the community in services to the profession.

Mr Campbell congratulated all the award nominees and winners on their outstanding work and contribution to the profession. Nominations for the 2020 President's Awards will open in July next year.

Quotes attributable to Mr Chris Campbell regarding award recipients:

'Gary West has always been a leader in education and mentoring, including through his roles as a Professional Officer with Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL). His drive to give back and develop future pharmacists is a testament to his ongoing commitment to the profession.'

'Viv Hsu's role as a credentialled diabetes educator pharmacist on the Gold Coast exemplifies the important role that a pharmacist plays as part of a multi-disciplinary team in patient care.'

'Nicolette Ellis' online presence and engagement as the 'Rainbow Pharmacist' shines a light on the roles of pharmacists across multiple practice settings and clearly demonstrates the importance of embedding pharmacists wherever medicines are.'

'Emma Dall'Alba is a role model for her peers through her leadership as the JCUPSA president and as an ambassador for the profession and James Cook University'.

Interviews with award winners and additional photos are available through Mark Lock

Profiles of award winners follow on next page

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Queensland 2019 PSA President Awards – full list of awardees

- *Lifetime Achievement Gold Medal*
Mr Gary West, Mermaid Waters
- *Bowl of Hygeia Pharmacist of the Year*
Ms Vivien Hsu, Surfers' Paradise
- *Early Career Pharmacist of the Year*
Ms Nicolette Ellis, Brisbane
- *James Dare Graduate of the Year*
Emma Dall'Alba, Malanda

Queensland 2019 PSA President Awards Winners – profiles

Gary West, Lifetime Achievement Gold Medal

A career pharmacist with more than 30 years-experience, Gary was the Managing Partner of Currumbin Pharmacy from 1989 to 2008.

Over the course of his career, Gary has provided mentoring and training to others, including convening courses and workshops for pharmacy students at Griffith University, facilitating intern training for PSA and assessing interns for registration on behalf of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

Gary is highly respected for the long-term commitment he has made to the training and development of pharmacy students.

Gary has contributed to pharmacy research and minimising risks for his colleagues through his work with PDL.

Ms Vivien Hsu, Bowl of Hygeia Pharmacist of the Year

Vivien is a Consultant Clinical Pharmacist, Credentialed Diabetes Educator (CDE), and a weight management practitioner making a difference in primary care.

Viv provides services through her engagement with VIP Diabetes at Gold Coast Surgery Centre and various medical centres across Brisbane and the Gold Coast, including Southport, Ormeau, Browns Plains, Mt Warren Park and Jimboomba. Viv is also a guest lecturer at Southern Cross University (SCU) in their Graduate Certificate of Diabetes Education and Management course.

She is the author of "Build Your Confidence to Live Well with Diabetes," which was published last year.

Viv has a patient-centred focus to her practice and displays empathy and compassion. Her enthusiasm is evident when she teaches. She draws on her many years of pharmacy experience and expertise to make lectures engaging and interactive, and most of all, easy to understand for non-pharmacy health professionals.

Viv volunteers her time with many organisations across the health and community sector with a life purpose and professional focus on helping people regardless of setting or background. She assists with translation services in the community for people from non-English speaking backgrounds and strives constantly to improve health outcomes for patients.

Ms Nicolette Ellis, Early Career Pharmacist of the Year

Nicolette is a clinical pharmacist, consultant and educator specialised in persistent pain treatment, opioid management, mental health conditions and Substance Use Disorder.

A graduate of QUT, Nicolette has established a career through which she is making a significant contribution to pharmacy and the broader community.

Nicolette is currently a Senior Clinical Pharmacist and Program Facilitator at the Gold Coast PHN Persistent Pain Clinic and Senior Clinical Pharmacist Consultant to Beyond Pain.

As the Professional Practice Pharmacist at PSA, Nicolette is helping develop pharmacy education programs to improve the delivery of health care, while through her role as a Lecturer and Tutor at QUT, she is inspiring future pharmacists.

Nicolette's innovative 'Rainbow Pharmacists' website showcases the breadth of practice and opportunities for pharmacists in the health sector, encouraging others to consider all the profession offers.

While still early in her career, Nicolette has earned the respect of her colleagues and helped establish Australia's first dedicated chronic pain video conferencing services with a pharmacist as part of the team.

Emma Dall'Alba, James Dare Graduate of the Year

Emma has excelled during her studies at James Cook University (JCU). She has been an active member of the JCU Pharmacy Students Association, including holding the positions of President and Secretary during this time, and been chosen to represent JCU Pharmacy at a number of interdisciplinary events.

As President of the JCU Pharmacy Students Association, Emma was a member of the NAPSA Advisory Council National Board as it worked to institute policy changes on behalf of all Australian pharmacy students.

Helping new students as they enter university, Emma has participated in the JCU Student Mentor program every year since her second year.

Emma has gained professional experience through placements, including a placement at Mt Isa Hospital, and by working as a student pharmacy assistance at Mareeba Hospital. She has undertaken projects specific to her workplaces designed to improve health care delivery and outcomes.

In 2017, Emma was the recipient of the Sally Tagney Memorial Prize and the PSA Queensland Best Academic Achievement for First Year Award. She has also been honoured with the PGA Rural and Remote Pharmacy Practice Award, the Guild Insurance Limited Pharmaceutical Sciences Award, and the PSA Queensland Best Academic Achievement for Second Year.

Emma is informed and passionate about pharmacy and is an excellent and enthusiastic role model for her peers.