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FROM OUR CEO Inter-professional collaboration as part of driving excellence

Our aim to ensure the highest standards of education and training for our pharmacy profession, to meet the needs of the public, is our reason for being at the APC.

We believe our knowledge of the profession, coupled with our expertise in quality assurance and our commitment to quality improvement, is instrumental to us providing the best service and outcomes. We have pharmacists working within our staff, on our Council and Committees, and as contractors on our exam-writing and accreditation teams, and I am very proud of the work we do and the standard of work that we produce.

While we believe that the pharmacy profession is best served by an independent accrediting body for pharmacists, we actively work with other professional bodies and accreditation councils in initiatives to ensure we are both efficient and effective in what we do.

As an active member of the Health Professions Accreditation Councils' Forum, we were instrumental in leading the development of a High Level Accreditation Principles document which describe how each of us are working towards meeting the best accreditation outcomes for the public. This outlines clearly the APC approach to accreditation, including the use of outcomes-based standards and robust and transparent processes.

We have also worked closely with our colleagues in Medicine, Nursing and Chiropractic in the development of inter-professional accreditation standards for application across all the health professions. Following consultation with key stakeholder groups, we validated our findings in a workshop at the OTTAWA medical education conference in March



this year with an international audience. From this, we have commenced work with our other health professions colleagues on the development of an accreditation standard for prescribing, for implementation across all the regulated health professions.

Our advanced practice credentialing program relies on an inter-professional evaluation panels to peer-review the portfolios of pharmacists who seek to be assessed against the advanced practice framework. Our use of medical practitioners, physiotherapists and nurses as panellists alongside pharmacists is a world-leading model, and one that reinforces the importance of inter-professional communication and teamwork for best patient care.

I believe that our collaborative approach, underpinned by our pharmacy base, allows us to provide accreditation services that result in the highest and consistent standard of pharmacists to serve the public. I welcome any feedback from our stakeholders on how we can continue to improve on our work to meet this end.

**Bronwyn Clark DipPharm,
MClinPharm, FPS**

now open

**Applications for the
National Program for
Advanced Practice
Pharmacists are now
open.**

**Lodge your application
today.**

**Applications
close 30
September
2016.**

Want to know more, listen to our Podcast on credentialing – Why Credentialing?

Click here

Credentialing of advanced practice pharmacist applications NOW OPEN

The next round of applications for the National Credentialing Program for Advanced Practice Pharmacists are now open until the end of September. This is an exciting opportunity for pharmacists from all areas of practice to have their contributions to the healthcare system independently recognised, and to participate in the international trend toward credentialing of [advancing pharmacists](#).

We had an excellent response to the first round of applicants in June 2016. These pharmacists are now compiling their portfolios for submission to the APC within the next three or six months.

This national program is a portfolio-based evaluation of a pharmacist's practice by an inter-professional panel of peers and other health professionals, which gives an **independent credential** as an advanced practice pharmacist in one of three stages and advancement.

Pharmacists interested in the September round can choose to submit their portfolio either in January or April next year. Most of the professional pharmacy organisations are supporting their members in the preparation of their portfolios as [Readiness Support Organisations \(RSOs\)](#).

The National Credentialing Program supports the professional growth of all pharmacists in all pharmacy practice environments, and is an opportunity for pharmacists to differentiate their practice from that at initial registration.

Breaking News – new FIP Global Report “Transforming our workforce”

On Tuesday 30 August, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) released the global report “Transforming our workforce”. The report is available at www.fip.org/educationreports.

We are delighted that we at APC are one of 13 countries from around the world who have contributed in-depth case studies to this report and shared our examples of transformation of the profession.

Our case study is on our advanced practice credentialing program, and describes the pilot program completed in 2015. It includes the quote below from our CEO

Bronwyn Clark said: “Our advanced practice credentialing program has been a great success in showing the maturing of our pharmacy profession in Australia. It is also an important step in assuring the public of the safety and competence of pharmacists to deliver services now and into the future”

Next Intern Written Exam

Registrations for the December Australian Intern Written Exam will be open from **October 4 - November 14 2016**. As part of internship requirements, all pharmacy interns in Australia must sit and pass the Intern Written Examination.

The exams are for interns who have completed 30% of their supervised practice hours prior to the exam, as approved by the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

The online exam contains 125 multiple-choice questions, to be completed in three hours. To help candidates prepare for the exam, we have [four online training modules](#) and a Pearson VUE tutorial that shows what the actual computer-delivered exam feels like.

New Accreditation Committee

In reviewing the scope and complexity of our responsibilities under the National Law, earlier this year our Council decided to redesign and refocus our Accreditation Committee under a new By-law. Following extensive consultation this new By-law encapsulates a number of changes including:

- » Establishing a skilled based membership
- » Focusing the terms of reference on review and decisions regarding accreditation status
- » Reduction of the overall membership from 14 to up to eight members and
- » An increase in meeting frequency from three to six per annum.

The By-law and new Committee membership can be found at: www.pharmacycouncil.org.au/about-apc/committees.

The newly formed Accreditation Committee held its first meeting in Canberra on 27 July 2016. The Committee will have two more meetings this year – 22 September and 8 December.

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How will the future pharmacy workforce look? Have your say!

The World Health Organization and World Bank Group recently predicted that 40 to 50 million new health and social care workers are needed if “universal health coverage” is to be achieved – greater than all previous projections.

A meeting of minds in Nanjing, China, is set to create a global vision for pharmacy education and workforce. FIP will hold a unique international meeting: the [Global Conference on Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Education](#) 7 & 8 November, 2016.

This seminal platform will establish dialogue and consensus among policymakers, education leaders and regulators **on how pharmaceutical workforce competence can be assured through education.**

Our CEO Bronwyn Clark has been invited to present at this major international event. In a session on *Changing today and tomorrow's workforce*, Bronwyn will be talking about the role and importance of quality assurance in pharmacy education, in both the undergraduate and post-graduate space.

To achieve universal health coverage to support the World Health Organization's human resources for health strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals, it is critical that the pharmacy workforce is sufficient in number and qualified to promote and improve the development, distribution and responsible use of medicines. Pharmacists have to be accountable for improving patient outcomes and competent to deliver a full range of health services to address national challenges for global health. So says Phil Schneider, chair of the planning committee of FIP's Global Conference on Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Education, a momentous event that will take place in Nanjing, China, in November.

Transforming and scaling up the pharmacy workforce is an essential component of achieving universal health coverage and promoting positive health outcomes. The FIPeD “Global pharmacy workforce intelligence: Trends report” (2015) revealed an increase in workforce across all nations and regions. This is good news, but there are still many countries with an insufficient number of pharmacists and progress is inconsistent. In low-income countries in

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particular, the pharmacy workforce needs to be strengthened in order to improve overall capacity for delivering appropriate care and a broad range of pharmaceutical services. Moreover, there is a need to ensure that the pharmacy workforce practises according to the full capability of its skills and competencies, in a wide array of environments and in collaboration with multiple stakeholders in health care.

Pharmacists, through existing roles and new roles, need to advocate for more encompassing health systems that ensure population needs are met through access to multi-professional health care teams. We need to create and adopt a global shared vision for the profession that can guide country-level initiatives aimed at improving access to pharmaceutical expertise through workforce strengthening and development. And that requires a focus on education.

Setting the agenda

Pharmacy, through the leadership role of FIP, is the first health profession playing an active role in translating the WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030, adopted in May 2016, into a professional context. In order to promote change in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, FIP will host the first Global Conference on Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Education, aiming to set future milestones for education and training.

This conference will make a significant contribution to improved global health outcomes by ensuring that the pharmacy workforce is appropriately educated and competent to close gaps in the development, distribution, and responsible use of medicines.

With this event FIP will set new and future ways of conducting policy development on education and pharmacy workforce on national levels, according to international models and best practices, leading to the adoption of a clear roadmap on which

the international community can rely to advance education and training.

Leaders from practice, education and research should collaborate in workforce planning efforts on a national level to ensure that plans include adequate attention to the integration of pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists and pharmacy support roles to meet local health needs.

To inform future activities in the field of education in a workforce development context, FIP will lead the adoption of:

- » A global vision for the workforce and workforce development (in the context of education and training);
- » Workforce development goals to activate and give purpose to the workforce vision in order to frame and contextualise the future direction of the profession; and
- » Professional statements on pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences education to share recommendations on the process of education, enhancing professional standards worldwide.

Unique in its format, the Global Conference on Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Education is a strategic, two-day conference creating an innovative environment in which international experts and leaders will adopt a vision to guide the future activities of the profession. Through a series of workshops it will establish the tools and information on how to translate the end products of the global conference into mechanisms applicable and meaningful at a national level.

Drafts of the global vision, workforce development goals and professional statements on pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences education are available for public consultation in order to reflect the voice of the profession. Every pharmacist is welcome to contribute in order to shape the future of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences education and training.