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Regional pharmacists to receive ‘more bang for their buck’

Australia’s first Professor of Rural Pharmacy, Patrick Ball, says Charles Sturt University’s (CSU) 2007 Continuing Education Program will enable regional and rural-based pharmacists to access training which is unlike any in the country.

The 2007 program will enable pharmacists in the Wagga Wagga, Orange and, for the first time, Dubbo regions to undertake the recommended study and professional development required by the industry without travelling to metropolitan areas.

Professor Ball is confident the increased Continuing Professional Development Points Value and partnership with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) will give regional pharmacists in NSW ‘more bang for their buck’.

“To date our sessions have offered four points for four hours of face-to-face provision,” said Professor Ball. “From this year, pharmacists will be able to undertake prescribed pre-reading and post-workshop assessments and attend the face-to-face sessions for the same attendance fee.”

In addition to the Wagga Wagga, Orange and Dubbo sessions, CSU also hopes to relay the program to Broken Hill and Lismore using the University’s departments of Rural Health. The regions will be linked by audio and visual conference technologies, allowing all locations to view and actively participate in the presentations taking place across regional NSW.

The program has been developed in close consultation with the industry and based on feedback from past sessions to ensure the content offered is in-line with the profession’s needs.

Highlights of the 2007 program include: Osteoporosis: evidence based management; weight loss with and without medication; and information on new drugs and listings licensed in Australia.

The first session will take place on Sunday, 25th March, followed by Sunday, 6th May and Sunday, 9th September at the CSU Wagga Wagga, Orange and Dubbo Campuses at a cost of \$150 for PSA members and \$200 for non-members.

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