

Friday 21st July 2006

Continuing Education reaches Rural NSW Pharmacists

The benefit of advanced technology, wholesalers and medication changes in the elderly attracted pharmacists in rural and regional NSW to the third Charles Sturt University (CSU) Continuing Education Programme held earlier this month.

Hosted in conjunction with the annual Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation Dinner, guests of the third of four planned continuing education sessions for 2006 attended workshops and clinical lectures at the University's Wagga Wagga Campus which focused around visions for where pharmacy should be heading in the next five to ten years.

Guest presenter Jeff Sher, Group Leader of Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API), joined CSU's Professor of Rural Pharmacy Patrick Ball and Adjunct Professor in the School of Biomedical Sciences Peter Carroll to discuss issues facing Australian Pharmacists while focusing on overcoming the difficulties associated with practicing in regional areas.

Mr Sher, who also spoke at the Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation Dinner, discussed the ways in which pharmacists can embrace advanced technology and wholesalers to support and further develop their pharmacy.

Australia's first Professor of Rural Pharmacy, Patrick Ball, believes CSU's Continuing Education Programme is crucial to the future of pharmacy in non-metropolitan Australia.

"The Continuing Education Programme was designed to inform pharmacists and industry representatives in rural and regional Australia who rarely have the opportunity to attend continuing education sessions," said Professor Patrick Ball. "With the help of the Programmes sponsor, Pfizer Australia Consumer Division, CSU is able to enhance not only the education available to pharmacists, but also the standard of service provided to regional communities."

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch sponsored the presentation of Professor Peter Carroll, who spoke on issues concerning the metabolic syndrome and Type 2 Diabetes.

"The Pharmacy Guild are once again demonstrating their commitment to pharmacy education in regional Australia through the support of the University's Continuing Education Programme", Chair of the Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation Peter Gissing said, "The support of donors such as the Pharmacy Guild and Pfizer allow us to work towards the continued advancement of the profession and improve the supply and retention of rural pharmacists."

The final Continuing Education Programme for 2006 will be held in both Wagga Wagga and Orange on Sunday 8th of October. For more information on the final programme, please contact the Foundation on (02) 6338 4680.

The CSU Pharmacy Programme was established in 1997 with the primary aim of addressing the shortage of pharmacists in rural areas. Currently, approximately 40 CSU pharmacy graduates are choosing to work in rural Australia each year.

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