

14 May 2007

International Connections for Pharmacy Students at CSU

Charles Sturt University's (CSU) pharmacy program is gaining an international reputation through student exchange programs and academic presentations at international conferences.

In 2006, Swedish student Jenny Granmyr marked the beginning of an association between inland Australia and Swedish Universities by coming to CSU to complete her studies working on a local research project on the use of heart medications. Her work produced a journal publication and has been accepted for presentation at the Rural Health Research Colloquium Conference in Tamworth. A second student is coming in August.

"Sweden has some very similar problems regarding rural and remote populations as Australia, but very different models of pharmacy service," said Professor of Rural Pharmacy Patrick Ball, who recently used an invitation to lecture in Europe to visit Sweden and tour some of the remote areas.

In February, Professor Ball addressed the 17th Symposium of Intensive Medicine and Intensive Care in Germany where he presented on the investigation into clinical incidents arising from intravenous infusion systems and the lessons learned for safer therapy in the future.

Head of the School of Biomedical Sciences Professor Lyn Angel believes these international connections will enhance the student experience and the quality of teaching.

"Students are now able to learn about other cultures and their practises through interaction with international students and the experiences and knowledge of their teachers," she said. "It is important that students have the opportunity to learn about other models of pharmacy practice so they can make informed decisions and comparisons when they are in the workplace."

The CSU pharmacy program 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.

ends

For further information and photographs please contact: Aimee Owens Phone: (02) 6338 4680

Email: aowens@csu.edu.au