

Tuesday 12 September 2006

Depression in rural communities – Pharmacists can make a difference

The third and final Pharmacy Continuing Education Session to be hosted by Charles Sturt University (CSU) this year will focus on how rural pharmacists can make a difference to the health of their community.

During the session, Dr. Judith Crockett, Senior Lecturer in the School of Rural Management at the University's newly launched Orange Campus, will present the findings of research which examined depression in rural communities and how pharmacists can contribute to improved outcomes.

"The purpose of the research was to document the existing role for rural pharmacists in managing depression in their communities and record their knowledge and training in the subject", said Dr Crockett.

Dr Crockett's presentation will also cover issues including the barriers to increased pharmacist involvement in illnesses such as depression and recommended ways in which these barriers can be overcome.

Other presentations on the day include 'An update on Asthma and COPD' by Dr Debbie Burton, 'Pushing the boundaries of innovation – Pharmacy in the future' by Rollo Manning of RWM Consultancy, and 'An update on Parkinson's Disease' by Professor Peter Carroll which will highlight recent research into the condition.

The Pharmacy Guild of NSW will be supporting the presentations made by Peter Carroll, Adjunct Professor in the School of Biomedical Sciences at CSU. Peter is well known within the profession for his work in hospital, community and academic pharmacy and currently also works in home medication reviews.

The Continuing Education Session, which will be available at the University's Orange and Wagga Wagga Campuses through video conferencing facilities, will be held on Saturday 8th October and is supported by an educational grant from Pfizer Australia, Consumer Healthcare.

CSU is planning to expand the Continuing Education initiative further in 2007 by joining with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) to co-ordinate activities hosted in the area. This includes increasing the points value of the sessions under the PSA Continuing Professional Development Programme by providing additional material and enhanced interactivity between Campuses.

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.

The Bachelor of Pharmacy at the Orange Campus was one of the University's most competitive to enter in 2006.

For further information on the sessions, please contact pharmacyfoundation@csu.edu.au

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