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MEDIA RELEASE

NAPSA Congress 2011: Reflection, Celebration, Progression

The South Australian Pharmacy Students' Association hosted the annual NAPSA Congress held January 24th - 30th 2011. Two hundred and forty delegates from pharmacy schools around Australia gathered in Adelaide to reflect on the past and to celebrate NAPSA's achievements since reformation in 2001.

The theme for the week, *Reflection, Celebration, Progression* was demonstrated through the high calibre of speakers and the enthusiasm of delegates. NAPSA was honoured to have Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom as our keynote speaker for the educational program. Emeritus Professor Sansom spoke on the importance of ownership of our profession and the need to embrace our changing industry. Congress speakers also included Associate Professor Geoff Sussman, Associate Professor Chris Alderman, rural pharmacist Andrew "Robbo" Roberts, Dr Allison Roberts and Emeritus Professor Colin Chapman to name but a few.

The education program concluded with a *Future of Pharmacy Forum*, mediated by NAPSA alumni Adam Phillips. The forum focused on student training, internships, graduate numbers and professional identity. Delegates were encouraged to put forward new ideas and ask questions of each other in the hopes of gaining a better understanding of some of the professional challenges we face as students and graduates.

One of the highlights of congress is the Pharmacy Student of the Year Wildcard Competition. This year saw over 30 students compete in the heats, with the top six making through to the final. NAPSA congratulates Ezekiel Steindl from Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, who counselled his way to a place in the final at the 2011 Pharmacy Australia Congress in Melbourne.

The week was concluded with a spectacular gala ball at the Adelaide Hilton, with many key sponsors and supporters of NAPSA present.

The NAPSA Executive would like to thank Jen Gordon (Congress Chair) & the Adelaide Congress Organising Committee for their outstanding efforts. NAPSA also recognizes all supporters, without whom the congress would not have been such a success. Thanks to Platinum Sponsor, the University of South Australia, Gold Plus Sponsor, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Gold Sponsor, Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd., Silver Sponsors, Australian Medicines Handbook and Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Bronze Sponsors, MIMS and National Pharmacies, and Friends of NAPSA Congress, The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia and Guild Insurance.

NAPSA look forward to the 2012 Congress, hosted by Pharmers' Society in Wagga Wagga.

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PSOTY Finalists with Grant Kardachi & John Bell (Pharmaceutical Society of Australia) and Ashleigh Coome (NAPSA)



NAPSA Congress 2011 delegates, University of South Australia, Adelaide