

**MEDIA RELEASE****PHARMACY STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

Earlier this year the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association was fortunate enough to host the International Pharmacy Students' Federation (IPSF) Congress in Cairns. 76 Australian pharmacy students attended the international conference, the largest number of NAPSA delegates to attend an international congress in recent history. Following the enthusiasm and exposure generated at IPSF Cairns, we are now anxious to embark upon another project of IPSF, to invite all NAPSA members to apply for the Student Exchange Program.

The Student Exchange Program takes place each year in almost 50 countries ranging from Armenia and Peru to Canada and the United Kingdom and has the facilities for over 700 international exchanges to occur on a yearly basis. Due to high numbers of incoming student exchanges in 2005/06, NAPSA has earned the opportunity for 18 of our members to participate in an outgoing exchange.

The aim of the Student Exchange Program is to promote understanding and cooperation amongst pharmacy students and all health care professionals. The exchange program offers a unique educational and cultural experience in addition to the regular pharmaceutical knowledge which students are exposed to throughout placement. With exchanges available in Hospital and Community areas similar to that of an Australian Placement coordinated through Universities, an IPSF exchange also allows a student do a placement in a Research, Industrial or Academic field. An international placement not only expands students' current knowledge of pharmacy but also provides them with a unique opportunity for a once in a lifetime cultural experience.

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As well as filling all our outgoing placement positions, NAPSA also intends to again have a large intake of pharmacy students from abroad. This will not only provide our fellow IPSF members with a rewarding Australian Pharmacy experience, but will enable us to build on our 18 outgoing spots for a greater 2007-2008 year.

Viva La Pharmacie!

Simon Potts

NAPSA- IPSF Committee Chair