



## MEDIA RELEASE

21<sup>st</sup> January 2004

### NAPSA Congress 2004

The 2004 Annual Congress of the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association wrapped up on Monday January 19<sup>th</sup> in Perth, Western Australia. The pharmacy student attendees, numbering over 170 from across the country, with delegates in attendance from ten different campuses, were privileged to hear from leaders at the forefront of the pharmacy profession. All attendees were accommodated at Currie Hall, a college of the University of Western Australia (UWA) and seminars were held on the main campus of UWA.

The educational programme of Congress 2004 was entitled *Your future in pharmacy* – a theme aimed at giving pharmacy students a taste of the many areas of pharmacy in which they can practice upon qualification, or for that matter at any time during their careers.

Seminar sessions included American Express Rural and International Pharmacy, Chemmart Community Pharmacy Ownership and Management, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Community Pharmacy Practice and Medication Review and Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia Hospital Pharmacy.

Speakers from the profession included National President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Jay Hooper, National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia John Bronger, Executive Director of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia Yvonne Allinson, CEO of the Australian Institute of Pharmacy Management John Chapman, CEO of the Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy Bill Kelly, WA and ACT Branch Presidents of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Harry Zafer and Patrick Reid and Head of School of Pharmacy, Curtin University, Prof. Michael Garlepp.

Other speakers included Prof. Barry Marshall from UWA, the researcher credited with the discovery of *Helicobacter pylori* and its now well-proven link to gastritis, gastric cancer and other gastrointestinal diseases. Mark Williams, National Business and Professional Development Manager with Australian Pharmaceutical Industries gained the attention of a very interested crowd by explaining the process of pharmacy purchase.

The highlight of the educational programme for Congress 2004 was the "Super(market) Session" consisting of a brief debate between John Bronger, National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, and Christine Badcock, a representative of Pharmacists' Division APESMA, followed by a discussion between the audience and a panel comprising Yvonne Allinson (Executive Director, Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia) John Bronger, Christine Badcock, John Chapman (CEO, Australian Institute of Pharmacy Management), Jay Hooper (National President, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia) and Keith MacAulay (community pharmacist).

Students were privileged to participate in the only frank discussion to be held on this issue with a panel of such high-calibre pharmacy leaders.

A hectic social programme kept Congressites entertained between seminars, and included the Pharmacists' Division APESMA Welcome Party, the PDL-sponsored trip to Rottnest Island (a holiday destination off the coast of Perth), the cross-cultural extravaganza of the API Olympic Games Toga Party, a pub crawl giving students a minimum 3.3km walk between the pubs of the university district, and of course the NAPSA Ball. The Ball was held at the Oyster Bar on the Beach restaurant, where Congressites enjoyed champagne set to sunset over the Indian Ocean before settling in for the night's festivities. After a midnight finish, celebration continued until 4.00am in the seedy, sweaty 'Party Room' of Currie Hall.

President of NAPSA, Joseph Whitehouse, said that "unlike Western Australian beer, NAPSA Congress went down smoothly and left a foul taste in the mouths of none." He added, "I am continually impressed by the calibre of guests and speakers that NAPSA Congress attracts year to year. The array of distinguished pharmacists attending these events really signifies the level of enthusiasm that they have for NAPSA and the fact that they truly understand that NAPSA is the future of pharmacy."

The National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association thanks Gold Sponsors American Express, Chemmart (Mayne), Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia; Silver Sponsors Australian Pharmaceutical Industries, Guild Insurance and Financial Services, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited and Pharmacists' Division APESMA; Bronze Sponsors Australian Institute of Pharmacy Management and Australian Defence Force Recruiting; and supporters Ego Pharmaceuticals and Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd. NAPSA also gives thanks to the Congress Organising Committee of the Western Australian Pharmacy Students' Association for their tireless work in putting Congress 2004 together, and looks forward to the efforts of the Queensland Pharmacy Students' Association for Congress 2005.

The National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association mourns, along with the rest of Australian pharmacy, the loss of Mr Kevin McAnuff, President of the Pharmaceutical Council of Western Australia and National Councillor for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, which occurred tragically and suddenly on the final day of NAPSA Congress 2004. Kevin showed his support for NAPSA in many ways including by agreeing to speak during Congress 2004, a commitment that he was unfortunately unable to make.

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