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## **Oncology Pharmacy Grants awarded by SHPA**

**John Coutsouvelis** is a recipient of the SHPA EBEWE Pharma Oncology Pharmacy Grant 2010. John works at The Alfred Hospital and the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Monash University. He has previously been a Senior Oncology and Haematology Pharmacist at Box Hill Hospital and has been involved in the Eastern Health Oncology and Haematology Council and SHPA Hospital Pharmacy Student Placement Working Party.

This grant will enable John to undertake a research project which aims to evaluate the physicochemical compatibility of parenteral cyclosporine (CsA) and total parenteral nutrition (TPN) when intravenously administered via the same central line lumen. John's research results will provide advice on the risks, if any, associated with co-administered CsA and TPN via the same lumen and allow patients to receive these two medicines in the most efficient and safe manner.

**Geeta Sandhu** also received an SHPA EBEWE Pharma Oncology Pharmacy Grant 2010 which enabled her to attend the 12<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners (ISOPP) in Prague. She presented her research on complementary medications with anticancer therapy which gave her further experience at an international level and also assisted in developing her knowledge to further her anticancer-medication-related projects with Queensland Health and her PhD research.

Geeta currently works as a Specialist Cancer Pharmacist – Ambulatory Care at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Queensland.

“The SHPA EBEWE Pharma Oncology Pharmacy Grant has been especially designed to offer support for a wide range of research and professional development activities in oncology pharmacy, or oncology pharmacy management. Congratulations to both John and Geeta on their success,” said Anna McClure, Chair of the SHPA Grants Program.

### **Background**

**EBEWE Pharma 2010 Oncology Pharmacy Grants** kindly sponsored by Interpharma Pty Ltd, makes available a sum of \$10,000 to a pharmacist member of SHPA for professional development or research activities relevant to oncology pharmacy practice. It is part of SHPA's Research and Development Grants Program - [www.shpa.org.au/scripts/cgiip.exe/WService=SHPA/ccms.r?PageId=29](http://www.shpa.org.au/scripts/cgiip.exe/WService=SHPA/ccms.r?PageId=29)

An SHPA member benefit, the Research and Development Grants Program provides funding to encourage pharmacy practice and research in hospitals and all parts of the health system and to foster professional development amongst SHPA members. The Program is administered by an Advisory Committee based in South Australia that is chaired by Anna McClure. In 2009, 28 members were successful in receiving grants to assist them undertake a range of research and professional development activities. There were 7 research grants and 21 professional development grants awarded. In addition, 90 pharmacists were awarded financial support to attend SHPA's annual Medicines Management Conference in Perth.

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**The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia**

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