

18 November 2016

Kate Richardson Awarded SHPA Medal of Merit at Medicines Management 2016, the 42nd SHPA National Conference

Professor Michael Dooley, President of Australia's fastest growing pharmacy organisation, announced today, at Medicines Management 2016, that Kate Richardson has been awarded the 2016 SHPA Medal of Merit.

"Kate was nominated for the award for outstanding contributions to hospital pharmacy at local and national levels," said Professor Dooley.

"She has made diverse and significant contributions to the practice of hospital pharmacy and to the professional development of pharmacy in the rapidly expanding e-Health sector."

"Kate is currently employed at St Vincent's Hospital Sydney as an electronic Medication Management (EMM) Pharmacist," he said.

"She is the first Informatics Pharmacist at St Vincent's and has been responsible for developing this role beyond the traditional pharmacist support of a single pharmacy software application."

Professor Dooley said Kate's role focuses on ensuring that EMM systems are utilised to improve medications safety for patients and clinical staff.

"Through leadership and innovation, Kate has successfully addressed the growing need for an e-Health Informatics Pharmacist who can effectively work with IT, Clinical Governance, Patient Safety and Quality units and with pharmacy, nursing and allied health professionals."

"Kate is an outstanding pharmacist who thinks strategically, and collaborates and partners with others to build a vision and deliver outstanding the results," he said.

"The acceptance of the expanded informatics role, by other health professionals, confirms Kate's achievements in managing e-Health initiatives locally and her contributions to e-Health in NSW and at a national level," said Professor Dooley.

Professor Dooley said Kate is an invaluable asset on many committees, including the SHPA Committee of Speciality Practice – Electronic Medication Management, the SVH Drug and Therapeutics Committee and the SVH Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee.

“Kate has been a member of the National e-Health Transition Authority (NeHTA) Australian Medicines Terminology Support Group and has contributed to the NeHTA Collaborative Medicines Management Forum,” said Professor Dooley.

The SHPA Medal of Merit may be awarded by Federal Council annually, to a member of SHPA, in recognition of an outstanding recent contribution and exemplary effort involving a particular activity or activities relating to hospital pharmacy practice.

The emphasis of the award is on encouragement rather than recognition of overall career achievement and SHPA Branch Committees are invited to nominate a suitable recipient.

The SHPA Medal of Merit is presented at SHPA's Medicines Management Conference and the recipient is invited to deliver an oration that is subsequently published in the Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research.

ENDS

Kristin Michaels, Chief Executive Officer, SHPA, ceo@shpa.org.au 0408 399 505

About SHPA

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is the national professional organisation for more than 4,500 pharmacists, pharmacists in training, pharmacy technicians and associates working across Australia's health system. SHPA is the only professional pharmacy organisation with a core base of members practising in public and private hospitals and other health service facilities.

SHPA is committed to facilitating the safe and effective use of medicines, which is the core responsibility of pharmacists, especially in hospitals. SHPA supports pharmacists to meet medication and related service needs, so that both optimal health outcomes and economic objectives are achieved for Australians, as individuals, for the community as a whole and for healthcare facilities within our systems of healthcare.