‘Unethical to accept the status quo’
Dr Michael Barras awarded 2017 SHPA Medal of Merit

Dr Michael Barras, a Fellow of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA), has been announced as the recipient of the prestigious SHPA Medal of Merit, challenging all hospital pharmacists to sharpen their research skills to drive the profession forward.

In bestowing the award at Medicines Management 2017, the 43rd SHPA National Conference, SHPA President Professor Michael Dooley paid tribute to Dr Barras’ leadership and research focus over 25 years in the profession.

‘Michael has been recognised today for his wonderful contribution to mentoring and developing younger hospital pharmacists, and he has had an exceptional influence in research surrounding hospital pharmacy.

‘This has been exemplified by a number of contributions including being the Convenor of the Research Grants Committee, as part of SHPA’s National Translational Research Committee, which aims to develop and foster a stronger culture of research collaboration and capability across Australia.’

Dr Barras is currently the Deputy Director of Clinical Pharmacy at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane and a research conjoint at the University of Queensland School of Pharmacy.

In accepting the medal, Dr Barras celebrated the scope and influence of hospital pharmacy practice and called for its evolution to continue.

‘I’ve always found it extremely attractive that we are able to influence patient outcomes and to do so in an interdisciplinary environment. We should all aspire to be the best possible clinicians, and I firmly believe to do this means having the skills to research.

‘It’s in our genes to seek, discover, evaluate and advance patient care, and this can only be achieved by testing new ideas. I believe it’s quite unethical to accept the status quo.’

Dr Barras described the experience as precious, and humbling.

‘When your peers acknowledge your contribution to the profession it is humbling, particularly considering the outstanding calibre and contributions of previous recipients, and I’m extremely proud to be a member of this esteemed group.'
SHPA Medal of Merit

- The SHPA Medal of Merit may be awarded by SHPA Board of Directors annually to a member of the organisation, 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.

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For more information contact:
Nick Sharp-Paul, Communications Manager, nsharp-paul@shpa.org.au, 0411 098 838

About SHPA
The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is the national, professional, for-purpose organisation for leading pharmacists and pharmacy technicians working across Australia’s health system, advocating for their pivotal role improving the safety and quality of medicines use. Embedded in multidisciplinary medical teams and equipped with exceptional medicines management expertise, SHPA members are progressive advocates for clinical excellence, committed to evidence-based practice and passionate about patient care.