

Top of their game

Outstanding contribution to pharmacy rewarded

SIMONE ROBERTS

Professor Gregory Peterson and Aaron D'Souza are the 2007 Pharmacist and Young Pharmacist of the Year.

THE winners were announced at the opening ceremony of PAC in Melbourne on Friday.

Pharmacist of the Year, Professor Gregory Peterson, has been a professor at the University of Tasmania since 2000 and leads the Unit for Medication Outcomes Research and Education. His research team has attracted competitive external funding of more than \$4.5million to evaluate a number of innovative processes to expand the professional role of pharmacists.

On accepting the award,



From left: Pharmacist of the Year Gregory Peterson, lifetime achiever Lloyd Sansom and Young Pharmacist of the Year Aaron D'Souza.

Prof Peterson thanked his family for their patience and understanding over the years and said his children would no longer see him as "the nerd and the nutty professor, but the nerd and the nutty professor with a gold medal."

Young Pharmacist of the Year, Aaron D'Souza, is an energetic community pharmacist, willing and able to take every opportunity available to take part in

and advance the pharmacy profession, according to PSA president Brian Grogan.

Mr D'Souza is the pharmacist up-front at Terry White Chemists Myer Centre in Queensland. As chairman of the Young Pharmacist's Group, he has represented young pharmacists and the profession to political leaders including Prime Minister John Howard and Federal Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd.

Sansom honoured

PROFESSOR Lloyd Sansom has been awarded the inaugural PSA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr Sansom received the award at the opening ceremony of PAC in Melbourne on Friday.

The new award recognises the recipient's dedication to promoting professional excellence in the pharmacy profession over a substantial period of time.

Prof Sansom was selected by his peers for his "visionary leadership of the pharmacy profession" over the past 40 years.

"Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom has been a leading light for over four decades, and a guiding hand for many significant advances that have taken the profession forward," said PSA president Brian Grogan.

Prof Sansom is chair of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) and the Australian Pharmacy Examining Council, as well as serving on numerous other industry committees.

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Too many cooks: Sansom

Number of organisations damaging profession

SIMONE ROBERTS

A plethora of pharmacy organisations is hurting the profession, according to Lloyd Sansom.

The PBAC chair told delegates at PAC last week in Melbourne that Australian pharmacy has an overabundance of professional structures and organisations, none of which is compatible with the future health care system.

"I don't know of any other profession, certainly any other health profession, which

has as many organisations as pharmacy does. I am concerned that the plethora of organisations that we have doesn't sit us as a single identity of experts that can provide services at various levels," he said.

Prof Sansom said that as long as the profession retained this plethora of organisations, their concentration would remain on protecting patches rather than on creating an environment in which more effective team structures can evolve, a concern raised by the Australian Health Association in their submission to the Productivity Commission Health Workforce Study.

He added that pharmacists risked exclusion from future health care delivery

models because of this silo-approach.

"The knowledge and the ability of pharmacists to contribute to health care is unequalled in its history and yet we seem to be isolated from a changing health care system. In every discussion I've been involved in about changing health care models, the position of pharmacy has never been mentioned. For this profession to have a greater presence in the future, we need to restructure," he said.

The need for greater collaboration has also been broached by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA), who has urged the profession to develop a shared vision for future pharmacy practice.

Two out of three people use CAMs

COMPLEMENTARY medicine is now as widely used as conventional medicine, according to an Australian survey.

The WHO Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine in Melbourne surveyed 1067 adults and found that use of alternative medicine is now on a par with conventional medicine.

The survey found that two out of three people were using some form of alternative or complementary medicine and almost half those surveyed had visited an alternative practitioner in the last year.

However, less than half of those surveyed informed their doctor about their use of alternative medicine.

The survey also found that the estimated number of visits to alternative practitioners (69 million) equaled the number of visits to medical practitioners and the alternative medicine industry is now worth \$4.13 billion a year in Australia.

Pharmacy student of the year

SIMONE ROBERTS

CANBERRA student Rosemary Pascoe has been named the 2007 Pharmacy Student of the Year.

Ms Pascoe, a final year student at the University of Canberra, was awarded the title at the PAC gala dinner at the National Gallery of Victoria on Saturday night.

The finals were held earlier in the day where Ms Pascoe and six interstate colleagues

battled it out at the scenario-based National Counselling Event. Using real life pharmacy scenarios, finalists assessed patients' health care needs before a judging panel and audience. Ms Pascoe was judged the best.

PSA president Brian Grogan congratulated each of the finalists.

"Again this year we have outstanding final-year students...it's a real credit to them and a considerable

honour to have been selected as finalists for such a prominent event, and I congratulate each of them," he said.

Ms Pascoe has won the Alphapharm National Travel Prize valued at \$6,500 which includes travel, accommodation and registration to the International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF) conference in Romania in 2008.

Is a member of your team outstanding?

Nominate a staff member and we'll profile them in *Contact*, our pharmacy assistant publication. Contact Tegan by email: tegan.fleming@reedbusiness.com.au and we'll get in touch.