

## Media Release

### National Alliance for Pharmacy Education: a milestone in pharmacy education

Four leading Australian schools of pharmacy have formed the National Alliance for Pharmacy Education (NAPE) to actively support the ongoing advancement of the pharmacy profession as a key contributor to the healthcare team.

The founding members of NAPE – Monash University, the University of Queensland, University of South Australia and the University of Sydney – are at the forefront of undergraduate and postgraduate pharmacy education and research in Australia.

Pharmacy in Australia is facing challenges in terms of models of practice, new providers of education, national registration, compulsory continuing professional development, and a potential oversupply of graduates in some metropolitan areas.

NAPE has been formed to provide leadership in both undergraduate and postgraduate pharmacy education. The alliance views high quality, research-informed education as essential to supporting the advancement and future positioning of the profession in healthcare. NAPE anticipates a future landscape for pharmacists which includes such areas as demonstration of competencies, credentialing, prescribing, and new advanced models of practice. NAPE believes that ready access to cutting edge university postgraduate award courses, including intern training programs, is crucial for pharmacists if they are to contribute effectively to health care delivery in Australia.

NAPE will seek to work closely with The Pharmacy Board of Australia and other key stakeholders in the pharmacy profession including The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia.

The sharing of expertise and knowledge between NAPE's members will enable delivery of high quality, dynamic award courses taught by experienced educators and practitioners - all in support of the on-going advancement of the pharmacy profession.

The Dean of Monash University's Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor Bill Charman, said the alliance will provide a collaborative national voice in pharmacy education and members will work closely together to advance both undergraduate and postgraduate education for pharmacists in Australia.

"We are delighted to be a founding partner in this initiative. NAPE's first priority will be to take a leadership role in the development of a common vision for the future of postgraduate pharmacy education in Australia," said Professor Nick Shaw, Head of School of Pharmacy, The University of Queensland. "Working in partnership with key stakeholders in the profession, the alliance will provide the best possible further education opportunities for existing and future pharmacists," said Professor Iqbal Ramzan, Head of Faculty of Pharmacy, The University of Sydney. Furthermore, Professor Jason White, University of South Australia, believes the alliance will advance excellence in professional standards and practice as informed through evidence-based practice. .

The formation of NAPE will leverage the expertise, experience and resources of this alliance of leading pharmacy schools to offer high quality, accessible and relevant opportunities for postgraduate development, achievement of professional excellence and career advancement.

#### For more information contact

<b>Prof Bill Charman</b>	<b>03 9903 9519</b>
<b>Prof Nick Shaw</b>	<b>07 3346 1701</b>
<b>Prof Iqbal Ramzan</b>	<b>02 9351 6950</b>
<b>Prof Jason White</b>	<b>08 8302 1203</b>

