

Early Career Pharmacists Making a Global Impact

As a member organisation of the FIP Early Career Pharmaceutical Group (ECPG), the PSSA YPG is proud to report on the inspiring global actions of young pharmacists highlighted in the 2024 FIP ECPG Annual Report. This year, the ECPG has continued to demonstrate its commitment to advancing the professional growth of early-career pharmacists, fostering innovation, leadership, and collaboration across 101 countries. The ECPG saw a 25% increase in membership this year, underscoring the importance of its mission in shaping the future of pharmacy through the engagement of young professionals, educators, and scientists worldwide.

Leadership Development and Professional Growth

A standout achievement in 2024 was the Early Career Leadership Development (ECLD) Scholarship programme, which empowered six early-career pharmacists to attend the FIP World Congress and participate in the Leadership Development Workshop (LDW). Supported by the FIP Foundation, this initiative covered travel, accommodation, and congress registration, ensuring the scholars could fully engage in leadership training and networking opportunities. These young leaders, hailing from diverse regions, including Africa, the Americas, and Southeast Asia, had the skills and mentorship necessary to drive change in their respective countries, creating a ripple effect in pharmacy practice globally.

The Ton Hoek Scholarship: Celebrating Excellence in Leadership

One of the most prestigious recognitions within the ECPG is the Ton Hoek Scholarship, named in honour of the late General



Secretary of FIP, Mr Ton Hoek. Each year, this scholarship is awarded to one of the ECLD Scholars who has demonstrated exceptional leadership in advancing pharmacy practice, education, or pharmaceutical sciences. The 2024 recipient, Mr Praveen Devanandan from India, stood out for his remarkable contributions to the profession through his leadership project.

The scholarship provides financial support for the scholar to attend the FIP Congress for a second consecutive year, where they mentor new LDW participants and present the outcomes of their project. This prestigious award not only recognises the recipient's accomplishments but also positions them as potential global leaders in pharmacy. By engaging with international mentors and peers, the Ton Hoek Scholar builds a lasting network and gains deeper insights into the global challenges and opportunities shaping the future of healthcare.

Mentorship and Volunteering: Building Global Pharmacy Leaders

The Mentorship Programme, another key initiative of the ECPG, continues to be a cornerstone of professional development. In 2024, the programme was enhanced through collaboration with FIP Women in Science and Education (FIPWiSE) and launched during the FIP Congress in Cape Town. This year, 21 mentors and 19 mentees participated in the programme, creating valuable



mentorship bonds that will influence the next generation of global pharmacy leaders.

In addition to mentorship, the ECPG also saw success with its Remote Volunteering Program, which offers early-career pharmacists the chance to contribute to critical projects from anywhere in the world. One notable initiative was the Pharmacy Technician and Support Workforce Surveillance Project, where participants worked remotely to contribute to research and data collection. This programme illustrates how geographical barriers are broken down, allowing young pharmacists to engage in meaningful professional growth and collaboration, regardless of location.

As PSSA YPG continues to contribute to the global landscape

of early-career pharmacy, the achievements of the FIP ECPG inspire and motivate young pharmacists in South Africa to engage, lead, and collaborate globally. Let's continue to build on these global successes and drive positive change in our profession.

Imagine travelling to Denmark, meeting inspiring pharmacists from around the world, and making memories that will shape your career. Whether you're into leadership, volunteering, or just building your network, this is your chance.

So, what are you waiting for? Join PSSA YPG, get involved in our events, and let's make the 2025 Congress the biggest one yet! For more info and to stay updated, follow us on social media or check out our newsletters. Let's do this!

PSSA Southern Gauteng Symposium 2024: Advancing Pharmacy Practice

The PSSA Southern Gauteng Annual September Symposium held on 28 September 2024 at Wits Medical School, showcased the continued dedication of South African pharmacists to advancing the profession. Under the theme "Empowering Pharmacists through Advancement of the Pharmacy Profession," the symposium featured diverse presentations highlighting pharmacists' critical role in healthcare.

Keynote addresses from PSSA President Mr Tshifhiwa Rabali and Executive Director Ms Refiloe Mogale emphasised the pivotal role of the PSSA in driving professional development and advocacy for pharmacists across all sectors. Throughout the event, pharmacists from community, hospital, and industry sectors shared their unique insights and contributions to advancing patient care.

During the Community Pharmacy session, Mr Frans Landman spoke passionately about his work as a PCDT pharmacist, detailing how primary healthcare can be delivered effectively to populations unable to afford medical aid. Similarly, Mr Bandela Mgoqi showcased his innovative web platform that reduces patient wait times at Kalafong Hospital, illustrating how technology can streamline healthcare services and enhance patient experiences.

The Hospital Pharmacy session, chaired by Ms Rashmi Gosai, focused on the role of clinical pharmacists and the potential of pharmacogenomics in

delivering personalised treatment. The session also highlighted the critical role of pharmacists in improving patient health outcomes through collaborations with healthcare stakeholders, as presented by Ms Shoni Mulibana of Right2Care.

The final Industry session, chaired by YPG's Provincial Liaison, Esther Shuping, showcased the diverse career paths available in pharmacy. From cannabis cultivation to vaccine development, speakers such as Ms Melani Botes and Ms Phyllis Njiru provided a glimpse into the cutting-edge work being done by pharmacists in South Africa.

The symposium was a resounding success. It celebrated pharmacists' contributions and reaffirmed the importance of continued professional development in advancing patient care. Congratulations to the organisers and all involved for delivering such an impactful event.



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Young pharmacists – connected, engaged, empowered and inspired!