Session 1: Current pharmacy practice, sciences and education research

Introduction:
This session will provide the opportunity to review recent research in the different fields of pharmacy (independent community, corporate community, public institutional, private institutions, district, regional, academic, training, manufacturing, distribution, etc.). A variety of speakers will present on innovations and research in their respective practice settings not already included in any of the other sessions. A number of short oral presentations will enlighten attendees on what’s new in practice, science and education.

Speakers will have 10 minutes and a maximum of five PowerPoint presentation slides addressing (1) what is the issue/gap, (2) what are they doing/going to do about it, and (3) how will it change healthcare in South Africa.

Learning objectives:
At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

• Learn more about current pharmacy practice, pharmaceutical sciences and pharmacy education research in South Africa.
Session 2: The pharmacist in non-communicable diseases

Introduction:
The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that more than 36 million people die annually from non-communicable diseases (NCDs). This figure represents more than 60% of deaths worldwide, 15 million of which occur before the age of 70 years. For the WHO, priority NCDs fall into four areas: cardiovascular diseases (CVD), diabetes, asthma/COPD and cancer.

Prevention and control of NCDs require interventions that are therapeutic and cost effective, affordable by the patient and/or health systems and feasible, based upon local resources. Interventions need to be framed within national policies and in line with NCD and risk-factor indicators. Chosen interventions should contribute to improving equity in health care in targeted populations and individuals and improved health outcomes.

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) produced a reference document which sets a basis of global evidence to advocate, nationally and internationally, for an expanded role for pharmacists in NCD management by compiling best practices and examples. It encourages pharmacists around the world to act upon NCDs, from prevention and screening activities, to patient referral when appropriate, and to pharmacist-led, patient-centered NCD management to improve outcomes and quality of life.

Through research and practice, pharmacists have proven to be a valued asset in the global fight against NCDs, being able to perform relevant activities in the healthcare team focused on prevention, early detection and ensuring compliance and optimizing medicines therapy regimens. This session will showcase pharmacy-related services and initiatives through which pharmacists address noncommunicable diseases in their practice setting.

Learning objectives:
At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:
- Compare the impact of NCD in South Africa with Africa and the world;
- Outline latest trends in NCD services to patients; and
- Adopt a renewed approach on the role of pharmacist in preventing and monitoring of NCD in communities.