

## **SIGs and SInS with NZHPA**

During this time of Covid-19, it's never been more important, or more challenging, to connect professionally with your peers, however our SIGs and SInS aim to promote connections between individuals with an expertise or interest in a specific practice area.

### **SIGs (Special Interest Groups)**

*Our SIGs (Special Interest Groups) are well established groups, run by committees, delivering high quality educational events every year, as well as supporting their members in many other ways.*

#### **Technician SIG**

Provides a network for technicians across New Zealand to share ideas and have a voice on issues relating specifically to the technician profession such as technician training, and professional registration. As a member, technicians receive discounts to the NZHPA Annual Conference and SIG symposiums, and have access to a nationwide chat group, building a stronger technician community. The group advocates for and supports extended roles for technicians to better utilise their skillset within hospital pharmacy service provision.

#### **Compounding, Nutrition and Oncology (CNO)**

Provides support and educational opportunities for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, working in areas of compounding, nutrition and oncology/haematology. Each of these groups has quite specialised needs and interests. The annual CNO SIG symposium provides an important opportunity for members to network with others in similar roles and share ideas and expertise. Another important function of the CNO SIG is to ensure representation on compounding, nutrition and oncology/haematology issues within the New Zealand healthcare sector

#### **Mental Health**

Aim: to improve medication related outcomes for people experiencing mental illness by building a strong mental health pharmacy workforce

Purpose: to promote interest and awareness of Mental Health Pharmacy, to act as a support network for MH pharmacists across NZ, to create opportunities/forums for up-skilling and continuing professional development.

Benefits: membership of the PsychSIG chat group and the network of mental health pharmacists in NZ, reduced fees for the MH SIG Meeting and Foundation Level Seminar in Mental Health, access to the educational grant for future study.

#### **Medicines Information and Clinical Pharmacy (MICP)**

The purpose of the MICP SIG is to ensure that NZHPA members are supported and represented on issues relating to Medicines Information and Clinical Pharmacy within the NZ healthcare sector. Our popular annual educational event, delivered by expert clinical practitioners is highly regarded, and MICP SIG members receive discounted registration. We also run a mentorship program and provide various educational resources for our members.

## **SINs (Special Interest Networks)**

*The SINs (Special Interest Networks) are less formal groups, but no less committed to supporting members and sharing resources. Each group usually connects via email and is led by two or three named co-ordinators.*

### **Education and Training**

Support and connect members with a responsibility for staff and / or student training and development.

- Share ideas, initiatives, and training resources
- Provide advice, mentorship, and guidance
- Promote best practice and share developments in pharmacy education and training
- Contribute to consultations regarding professional qualifications and training frameworks

### **ID/AMS (part of MICP)**

Support and connect members working in the ID/AMS area

- Allow members to share successful AMS projects and initiatives between DHBs.
- Provide advice and guidance to pharmacy departments who do not have an allocated ID/AMS team e.g. antimicrobial TDM, antimicrobial dosing in complex cases
- Collaborate on national projects and audits to monitor antimicrobial usage around the country
- Advocate for AMS at a national level

### **Cardiology**

Support and connect members working in cardiology, or who have an interest in this field

- Sharing of knowledge and updates in evidence-based practice
- Opportunities for mentorship or guidance
- Sharing of research which may lead to changes / improvements in practice
- Discussion of complex cases

### **Research**

Support and connect members interested in practice-related research

- Open to anyone with any level of research experience
- Key goal is to support research and stimulate discussions around this
- Facilitate questions around how to get started in research, how to turn a research question into a project and research methodology.

### **Health Informatics**

Support and connect members who work in or are interested in health informatics

- Share ideas and network
- Provide links to specific professional associations
- Provide peer review for projects / research and informatics related activities.