

I was very grateful to receive a Roche educational grant to attend the ISOPP symposium in Melbourne on 20th and 21st April 2024.

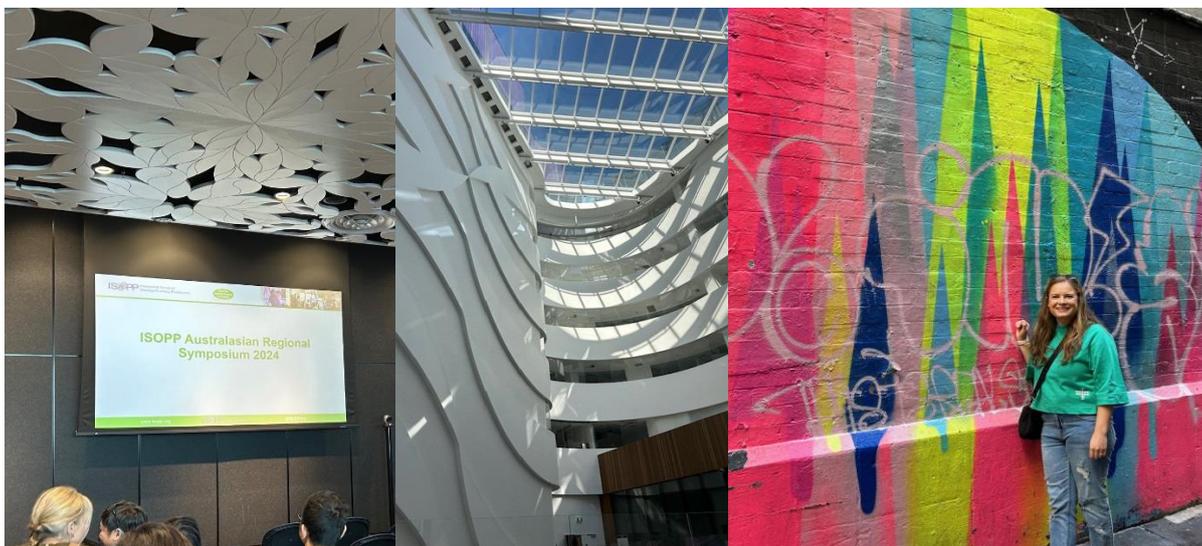
Day One covered tumour stream updates for Breast cancer, Myeloma and Melanoma. A highlight among these was the discussion in the breast session was focusing on recent emergent therapies including trastuzumab deruxtecan and sacituzumab. It felt rewarding that we have been offering these therapies at my place of work, St George's Cancer Care, aligning with recent evidence-based cancer treatments, however, a large gap exists with Australia regarding funding. It will be interesting to watch the prioritisation of these treatments with PHARMAC. Other talks on Saturday included an eviQ speaker discussing the recent ADDIKD update and a research session which has inspired myself to make the time to conduct an audit/project – a take home message was start small and share your work. ISOPP has a journal dedicated to research which can be a great resource.

Sunday morning kicked off with pharmacogenomics. I am familiar with testing for dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD) enzyme deficiency as we are routinely completing prior to fluoropyrimidine treatment. It also covered screening for uridine glucuronosyltransferase (UGT) 1A1 which is used prior to irinotecan treatment. This is something I will be looking into whether there is scope to involve this testing at St. George's Cancer Care in Christchurch. It was interesting to learn about the Pharmacist Led Pharmacogenomics clinic at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, how the process works and the corresponding documentation. What a great opportunity for cancer care pharmacists.

Other talks on Sunday including CAR-T cell therapy, eviQ Anti-cancer drug administration course for pharmacy, BOPA digital SACT verification passport, Voluntary assisted dying and finally a panel discussion.

Overall, it was a very relevant conference for my current role. The conference also had representatives from sponsors and compounding which offered interesting conversations at break times. My only feedback is it would have been beneficial to have a workshop-based sessions for pharmacists in particular roles to assist networking.

ISOPP membership is now free as of January 2024 so I would encourage pharmacists to join. The next ISOPP conference is in Canada 2025. Thanks again for the support from this grant.



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