

Medicines Management 2025. In Motion

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre 28-29 November

I was very fortunate to be invited to the AdPha Medicines Management conference. This year it was held at the very impressive and airport sized convention centre in Melbourne. There were around 1200 attendees which marked the second highest attendance at an AdPha Medicines Management conference. Attendees travel from all Australian states but it nice this year not to be the only Kiwi!

Below I have shared a selection of what I found to be highlights of the event. If you are curious about the programme check out [Program - Medicines Management 2025](#)

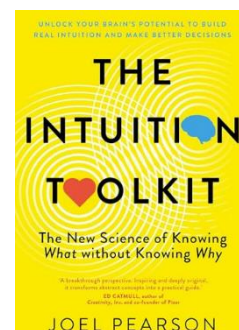


L-R Tom Simpson AdPha President, Nenad Miljkovic EAHP President, me, Brenda Shum AdPha Vice President

Keynotes

The first keynote speaker was Jana Pittman. Jana was a world champion 400m hurdler and an Olympic bobsleigh rider. Jana's achievements would make pretty much anyone feel inadequate, as not only was she a top level athlete she is now a Obs & Gynae registrar and mother to six children. Jana took us through her journey which was often tough and turbulent. She faced challenges that would floor the best of us. Her talk reminded us that to succeed you have to try, and that one failure doesn't mean you've failed. She had people that were her cheerleaders and a straight talking Dutch mother who is a huge influence in her life. It was fascinating to hear how her personal challenges steered her to a career in womens health, a job which she clearly loves and approaches with the same apparent determination she brings to navigating life.

Professor Joel Pearson. Joel was an interesting and clever man, a neuroscientist, psychologist and author. His speech was focussed around AI, the disruption we can expect and how to be resilient in the face of rapid change. He encouraged us to get involved and understand AI. There are many tasks it can replace but many that it will never replace. It is up to us to adapt and embrace to ensure it supports the work we do in the healthcare arena.



Contributed papers

This event ran seven concurrent streams of contributed papers which sometimes made it very hard to choose which to attend. A couple of my highlights were:

Utilising rural community pharmacists to screen for chronic diseases. Kym Ramsey

Kym ran a programme across a network of rural pharmacies to train the pharmacists to screen for CHF and COPD in at risk patients. Pharmacists were trained including in using micro spirometry and the service was widely promoted within the pharmacies. Of the 457 at risk patients screened in the project 49% were referred to their GP for further investigation. I enjoyed this presentation as it highlighted the impact that pharmacists can have on chronic disease. The health inequities faced by rural Australians mirrors many of the issues seen in NZ.

Early eyes for better outcomes: role of a clinical pharmacy technician in transitions of care. Sonja Gjorgievski

Sonja works within the pharmacy Hospital in the Home (HITH) team. Knowing that this is an expanding area of practice it was great to see how their team had thought about what tasks could be undertaken by a technician. Some of her tasks include attending daily meetings to allow early flagging of patients to the pharmacists, helping identify medication related barriers to discharge and chasing blood results for TDM. A great reminder of the positive impact of right person right job.

Invited speakers

No fixed address: Medicines, homelessness and the system gap. Dr Marianne Jauncey

Marianne is the Medical Director of a supervised injecting centre in Sydney. IVDU can attend, get clean needles and then stay to inject in a safe environment. This session wasn't quite what I was expecting but I definitely had some strong takeaway messages.

- Our system is set up well for the able and the willing but there are so many unseen barriers for our most vulnerable people to get the right care.
- Sometimes simple things can have a huge impact
- Understand what is needed and wanted, don't just assume

Beyond the bench: expanding horizons for pharmacy technicians. Carol Robinson

Maybe I'm biased but I think Carol did a fabulous job of representing NZ, techs and NZHPA! Carol used case studies of a selection of our techs working in specialist roles to illustrate where we are heading in NZ. Her talk generated a lot of interest and questions which is always a good indicator that you have hit the mark.

Workshops and conversations

Culturally responsive care: working across cultures

Some of the formal teaching in this session mirrored previous learning from the wonderful eCALD sessions that are run in NZ but always good to talk about bias and communication. The real benefit of this workshop were the conversations that we had in our groups. My table was culturally diverse which made for some enlightening conversations and allowed us to ask each other questions that we may not have felt comfortable to ask in a more casual setting.

Pharmacy led models of care: what's working and what's next?

This was a panel conversation involving a VTE stewardship pharmacist, a heart failure optimisation pharmacist and a leader who oversees antimicrobial, opioid and a newly formed transitions of care stewardship roles.

If you are looking to see where we can innovate and develop roles, particularly in the stewardship areas then there were plenty of pointers to take from this session

- If there are standards do an audit and identify the gap
- Start small
- Be visible
- Pick supportive areas
- Engage medical champions
- Know you won't get things perfect right away
- Be prepared to adapt
- Have clear escalation pathways
- Learn from your data
- Sell the role
- Make it fun!

Personal characteristics that support success: Perseverance, diplomacy, positivity, realism, adaptability

SEVEN SPREADLY SINS



Medicines Management is definitely an event I can recommend for anyone wanting to connect, benchmark their practice or get inspired. It is a friendly and lively event and next year will be held in Brisbane in October

Clare Greasley

NZHPA President