

Advancing clinical practice and specialisation: Benefits of the advanced training residency (ATR) program

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Background

The **Society of Hospital Pharmacists Australia (SHPA) Advanced Training Residency (ATR)** was developed to support pharmacists in advancing their professional practice towards **consolidation level** as per the Advanced Practice Pharmacy Framework (APPF).¹

Objective

To address the need for advancing specialist pharmacist training, in 2020, Alfred Health, a large metropolitan healthcare network, implemented inaugural ATR programs for the following specialties:

- emergency medicine
- digital health
- general medicine
- infectious diseases
- peri-operative medicine
- respiratory medicine
- surgical services

Action

8 Pharmacists undertook a two-year structured workplace training program

The 2-year program, consists of FOUR 6-month rotations in the specialty area, including one elective rotation in a field that is different but still relevant to the current specialty e.g., intensive care, outpatient clinics.

Figure 1. Summary of ATR program requirements

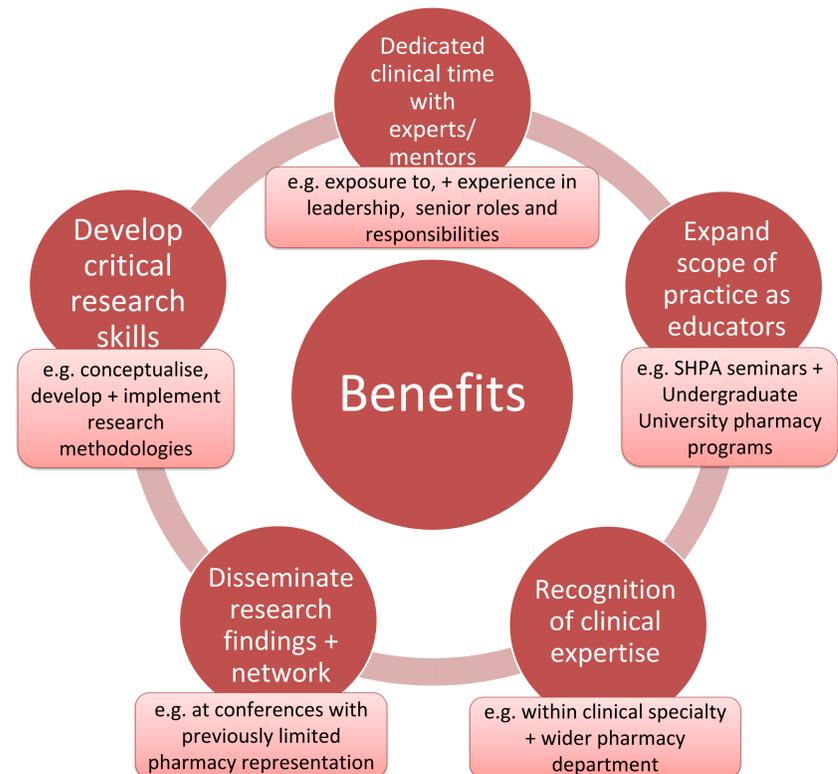


Table 1. Summary of ATR research projects

Clinical Specialty	Research Project
Digital health	An evaluation of the impact of a dose range checking clinical decision support in an Australian hospital's electronic medication management system
Emergency Medicine	Patient isolation impacts on time to analgesia in the emergency department: a cohort study
General medicine	Pharmacist participation in general medical ward rounds via telehealth during the COVID pandemic
General medicine	Evaluation of sepsis related MET calls with pharmacist involvement and time to antimicrobials administration
Infectious diseases	Echinocandin use in an Australian tertiary hospital: Implications for antifungal stewardship
Peri-operative medicine	Evaluation of current practice for the peri-operative management of sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 inhibitors and type-2-diabetes
Respiratory medicine	A review of pharmacist-led program to co-ordinate vaccinations for lung transplant candidates
Surgical services	The implementation of collaborative medical-pharmacist initiation of the fractured neck of femur (NOF) clinical care pathway at admission to hospital

Action

Figure 2. Summary of ATR program benefits



Evaluation and Discussion

- The ATRs currently await evaluation of their portfolios by SHPA for APPF alignment
- Key supporting roles of the ATR program included:
 - ATR specialty mentors
 - ATR pharmacists supporting one another
 - Pharmacy department Education team
 - Pharmacy department Research team

88% Completed ATR program by 2022

50% Promoted to senior positions

- This inaugural ATR program enabled clinical pharmacists to advance practice in the clinical speciality of interest.
- Ongoing program development and expansion include additional areas of specialty practice: Critical Care, Education, Oncology and Haematology, and Mental Health.
- This successful program will impact future clinical pharmacist specialist training, outside of formal post-graduate education.

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2. Society of Hospital Pharmacists (2021). "Advanced Training Residencies- Common Framework" from <https://shpa.org.au/workforce-research/residency/advanced-training/ATR-pathways>