

MEDIA RELEASE

New Clinical Editor of *Pharma* announced

Optometry Australia has announced that Kerry Hart has been appointed Clinical Editor of *Pharma*, Australia's leading magazine in therapeutic optometry research and application.

Ms Hart is the magazine's second Clinical Editor in its 10-year history, replacing the inaugural Clinical Editor, Associate Professor Mark Roth OAM who resigned the position this year.

The departure of Assoc Prof Roth prompted an extensive review of *Pharma* leading to the decision to bring the role of Clinical Editor in-house to streamline publication management between this role and the Editor, Jeff Megahan. This means that issue planning, content development, author liaison, editing and design are now all under the one roof.

Ms Hart, a qualified optometrist and clinical skills teacher, joined Optometry Australia in the role of Policy & Standards Advisor in March this year.

"*Pharma* is highly valued by our members and I am excited to be involved in its ongoing success.

"We will be working to evolve the magazine in line with ocular therapeutic advancements and in particular, looking at developing a strong digital presence within the organisation's new website. We also want to make it easier for members to complete the *Pharma* CPD assessment online.

"This year the September issue of *Pharma* aligned with an Optometry Australia webcast on diabetic retinopathy providing the opportunity for members to obtain a combined nine CPD points.

"We definitely have plans for similar issue/webcast alignment in the future.

"Each issue of *Pharma* delivers 6 CPD points and it is our objective to deliver the majority of these as therapeutic points" Ms Hart said. Reflecting this, the forthcoming December issue on anterior eye conditions with a focus on dry eye, will carry 4T.

Ms Hart holds a Master of Public Health from the University of New South Wales and is a 2003 University of Melbourne Bachelor of Optometry graduate. She has since completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Ocular Therapeutics, a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Clinical Optometry, also from University of Melbourne, and is currently completing a Graduate Certificate of Higher Education Teaching and Learning at Deakin University.

In addition to her dual roles at Optometry Australia, Ms Hart is a Clinical Skills Teacher in Optometry at Deakin University and works within the Australian College of Optometry's specialist clinics.

She has worked and volunteered extensively overseas, particularly in Cambodia and Vietnam.

PHARMA



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Optometry Australia is the peak professional body for optometrists. Representing eight out of every 10 Australian-based optometrists, Optometry Australia's focus is to lead and advance the profession of optometry by putting eye-health front and centre of Australian health care.

Pharma is wholly-owned by Optometry Australia and is published quarterly (March, June, September and December). It was first published in 2008 when Optometry Australia recognised the need for a publication, that delivered practical insights and research on therapeutic application in optometry. The Clinical Editor and Editor are responsible for the publication's direction, production and timely delivery.