

Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand

Gold Medal Award Citation

Bernard (Bernie) Joseph McKone FPS FNZCP

November 2022



The Gold Medal of the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand is awarded to a member of the Pharmaceutical Society who in addition to making a significant and outstanding contribution to the profession; also brings distinction to the profession.

Bernie started his career in pharmacy in 1976 at the School of Pharmacy in Heretaunga. Guided by three future Gold Medallists, Peter Colville, Dai Drumm, and John Shaw, all of whom inculcated in students that a pharmacist's role was to actively contribute to patient care. In his final year Bernie won the JS Peel Award as top South Island student as well as contributing as a member of the student executive and being the cover designer for the student magazine SPY.

Graduating in 1978, Bernie undertook his internship in Greymouth, later moving to Gore, where Bernie began a style of practice that was innovative and community focused.

Looking to further the pharmacist's role in care community Bernie researched respiratory disease and smoking cessation in Otago-Southland. In gaining a master's degree with distinction in 1996 from the University of Otago, Bernie forged a role in population health for pharmacists in New Zealand.

Elected to the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand's Council in 1993, Bernie was then elected President in 2000, stepping down after the implementation of the HPCA Act in 2004.

A member of the Society's study group to see the Hepler and Strand model in Minnesota; Bernie was involved in the Society's response; the creation of the New Zealand College of Pharmacists, and the Comprehensive Pharmaceutical Care program. Bernie became one of the first CPC accredited pharmacists in New Zealand and went on to Chair the College Executive.

Bernie's enthusiasm for the profession has never waned and he has supported many colleagues to move their own practice forward, both individually and through his involvement with the Clinical Advisory Pharmacists Association.

Bernie's work for the Eastern Southland community is one of the highlights of his professional career. When the community hospital opened in Gore, Bernie contributed to the planning and later provided CPC services to many of the patients, optimising medicines and reducing re-admissions. Bernie contributed to clinical governance in the wider Otago-Southland DHB and locally at PHO and practitioner level.

At a time of change, when rural towns were losing pharmacies, Bernie instituted depot services in Lumsden and Mataura, later securing Waikiwi Pharmacy in Invercargill to ensure access to pharmacy services.

Bernie's continued innovation led to his involvement in a rural radio show where he promoted men's health. These popular segments led to Bernie's participation in A&P shows around the country where he gave his knowledge directly to the farming community.

A member of Rotary for over 25 years, Bernie's contribution was recognised by the award of a Paul Harris Fellowship. Bernie has also been active in the theatre community, participating in many productions over the years in Southland and Otago.

A former footballer and a qualified Football New Zealand referee, Bernie is proud of his Life Membership of the Gore Wanderers Football Club. Following his days on the pitch, Bernie has become an avid golfer. His involvement in sport also changed after his son Matt started playing rugby at high school. From team manager, Bernie has continued to contribute to rugby, and he is currently the Chair of Rugby Southland.

Through this rich journey Bernie has been supported by his wife Pippa and his two children Sarah and Matt and is enjoying his new role as a grandfather. Through all this Bernie has shown with distinction a significant and outstanding contribution to the pharmacy profession, and to now be awarded the Gold Medal of the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand, is so highly deserved.