

Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand Fellowship Award Citation Penelope Ann Clark FPS MNZCP November 2022



Words frequently used to describe Penny are passion, dedicated, tireless, and supportive. In her career in pharmacy Penny has been a trail blazer and a shining light to others – a leader that many aspire to emulate.

Penny has moved across the branches of pharmacy - starting in hospital pharmacy, moving to community pharmacy, working in residential care, and then working in primary care as the first pharmacist to work in the new model of general practice – the health care home.

The standard of Penny's work is well recognised by others, including general practitioners and nurses, who recognise the quality of her work and the great added value she brings to patient care. Through her work, and particularly at her practices with high unmet need, Penny strives to improve access to person-centric care, optimise medicines therapy, and reduce inequity.

During her career Penny has continued her own education through the former New Zealand College of Pharmacists, becoming one of the first Comprehensive Pharmaceutical Care providers, excelled in her Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy, and then became one of the earlier pharmacist prescribers in 2015, a role in which she is an exemplary example of what can be achieved.

This training and education, plus enthusiasm for the role of the pharmacist helped Penny to be a trail blazer, and her leadership meant that she has encouraged, supported, mentored, and taken many people along this pioneering route. This is well recognised in the feedback they provide.

Through her work and study Penny established and demonstrated the worth of pharmacists in these new, expanded roles, but she did so much more to help others in her own time. She works closely with the Midland Community Pharmacy Group providing clinical advice and organises peer review groups locally and regionally, working tirelessly to support other pharmacists and pharmacist prescribers, providing inspiration and a role model for pharmacists wishing to follow a career in this fledgling but dynamic and vibrant branch of clinical pharmacists in primary care, in which Penny is, herself, a pioneer and very well respected leader.

Penny has been active on the Board of the Clinical Advisory Pharmacists Association (CAPA) since 2009 and Chair of CAPA since 2018, an unpaid but valuable role. She has advocated for the role of clinical pharmacists and pharmacist prescribers in general practice, providing one-on-one support and also organised peer groups so that these pharmacists are not isolated in what are innovative and ground-breaking roles in this new branch of clinical pharmacist services.

Penny is also well recognised by external stakeholders for her work and is well respected by general practitioner and nursing colleagues. She promotes the role of the pharmacist through links with the Regional Diabetes Service, teaching and having shared appointments with clinical nurse specialists. Penny also writes clinical case studies for the New Zealand Doctor magazine which highlights and promotes the role of pharmacists to general practitioners, raising the awareness of the unique contribution pharmacists can make to improving health outcomes.

Penny's hard work and time devoted to promoting extended roles for pharmacists, supporting and mentoring others and her valuable contribution in raising the awareness, respect and status of pharmacists in the eyes of other health care providers makes her a very deserving recipient of a Fellowship of the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand.