**Multidisciplinary perspectives on hospital pharmacist roles in tertiary settings: a qualitative study**

Kyung Min Kirsten Lee1, Ivanka Koeper2, Michaela E Johnson3, Amy Page4, Debra Rowett1, Jacinta Johnson1. Clinical and Health Sciences, University of South Australia1, Adelaide, SA, Australia; SA Pharmacy2, Central Adelaide Local Health Network, SA Health, Adelaide, SA, Australia; Flinders University3, Bedford Park, SA, Australia; UWA Centre for Health & Ageing4, University of Western Australia, Perth, WA, Australia

**Introduction.** Interprofessional collaboration leads to improved patient and organisational outcomes. Hospital pharmacists play a pivotal role in multidisciplinary teams, and it is imperative to understand multidisciplinary viewpoints on hospital pharmacists' roles to guide role prioritisation and organisational efficiency. However, no study has extensively investigated diverse multidisciplinary views on the value of pharmacist roles in tertiary settings.

**Aims**. This study aims to explore the perceptions of hospital pharmacist roles and services held by non-pharmacist health professionals using focus groups and semi-structured interviews.

**Methods**. Multiple focus groups and semi-structured interviews were held via a virtual conferencing platform. Study participants were non-pharmacist health professionals with experience working with pharmacists in hospital settings. Focus group/interview recordings were transcribed and underwent thematic analysis. Overarching themes were categorised and mapped against work system models to conceptualise organisational implications. Participant demographics were summarised using descriptive statistics.

**Results.** Twenty-seven health professionals participated, including doctors (n=9), nurses (n=9) and allied/other health professionals (n=9). Three major themes were identified: (i) overarching perceptions regarding hospital pharmacists; (ii) professional niches of hospital pharmacists; and (iii) future opportunities to optimise hospital pharmacy services. Hospital pharmacists were perceived as essential members of the healthcare team. Valued professional niches of hospital pharmacists included roles as patient and health professional educators, transition-of-care facilitators, and quality use of medicines analysts. Opportunities for optimisation identified included tailoring roles to specific units and promoting specialisation.

**Discussion.** This study provides important multidisciplinary insights into hospital pharmacists' roles in Australia, identifying the niche expertise pharmacists bring to healthcare. The study advocates for strategic role optimisation and further research to enhance clinical, economic and organisational outcomes.