

Reflecting on Technician Roles and Education

The National Association of Hospital Pharmacy Technicians held their Annual Conference for 2019 last month, once again offering an opportunity for Hospital Pharmacy Technicians across Ireland to share in new ideas and engage in education and innovation.

The conference format was slightly altered this year, to allow for more open discussion and the sharing of ideas amongst members. The day began with two educational talks followed by the pharmaceutical exhibition and poster viewing.

Speakers included Danielle Neale, St James's Hospital who looked at 'Monoclonal Antibodies' and Grainne Sheehan, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital who spoke about 'Systematic Wound Assessment and Dressing Selection.'

The Focus Group held highlighted Pharmacy Technician roles as they exist today, and educational opportunities.

Exhibiting on the day was Fresenius Kabi who commented to *Hospital Professional News*, "The NAHPT meeting is always considered an important event in the Fresenius Kabi calendar and this year's meeting was no different. Our Fresenius Kabi representatives on the day were Conor Sadlier, Sales Manager of IV Drugs & Biosimilars and Olive Nolan, Homecare Specialist and Hospital Representative.

"As always it is a time to catch up with old friends and colleagues and discuss the important issues facing suppliers and Hospital Pharmacy Technicians. It is also an opportunity to greet new faces and welcome the next cohort of Hospital Pharmacy Technicians into the fold and discuss the products available and trends we see happening around us. Our mission at Fresenius Kabi is to provide products and services which add value to our customers working environment and our patients' quality of life.

"We would like to extend our congratulations to Carmel Bogue, Cork University Hospital on winning the Hospital Pharmacy Technician Poster Competition and also to Aisling Sorohan, AIT on winning 1st Prize in the Pharmacy Technician Student Category with her poster 'A study of the health promotion role of pharmacy technicians in raising the level of awareness of NSAIDs use in physically active third level students.'

"It was educational to hear from the speakers on such relevant topics, and also from Sheenagh McCarthy presenting on her project as last year's poster winner. Many thanks to Laura Lyons and the NAHPT team co-ordinators for the opportunity to be a part of such a key event. We are looking forward to 2020 already."

Olive Nolan noted that "the Fresenius Kabi table was a hive of activity, with a warm welcome from all, guests and colleagues alike."



Image caption (From left: Conor Sadler & Olive Nolan)