



Let me count the ways....

Refiloe Mogale, President: SAAHIP

As September, also known as Pharmacy Month, is upon us, we are reminded of the role pharmacists play in patients' lives. We are also reminded of the role they play in nurturing, training, challenging and encouraging their young colleagues. However, for this Pharmacy Month, I would like to flip the script and refocus the attention on pharmacists themselves. I celebrate all the multi-generations of pharmacists; the young pharmacists who inspire us and the older pharmacists whom we appreciate.

So, why must I celebrate thee? Let me count the ways:

I celebrate thee for your **PROFESSIONALISM**. Your attitude, decorum, respect, sense of responsibility you put into your work sets you leagues apart from other professions. Patients and other stakeholders count on you to find a way to get the job done.

I celebrate thee for your **HUMANITY**. Putting your own needs on hold and keeping patients as your total focus day in day out. Patients feel free to disclose to you because of your sense of empathy. Your ability to see them as people not as illnesses and understanding what they are going through, creates meaningful interactions.

I celebrate thee because thou art **ADAPTABLE**. In pharmacy practice no two days are the same. Every day produces different experiences. Thus your varied skill set, flexibility, cooperation, creativity, spontaneity, energy and easy-going spirit leads to successful days which go by as a breeze.

I celebrate thee because thou art **RELIABLE**. The simplest and most taken-for-granted actions you exhibit have amplified your competence as a pharmacist. The confidence and faith that patients have in you and your abilities shows that you live up to your words. The pharmacist's reputation still stands strong because you give clients a personal guarantee that you will deliver by being able to follow through on commitments.

I celebrate thee because of thy **MORALITY**. As pharmacists we are bound to adhere to a strict code of ethics, and we are known to be the most honest and ethical profession second to nurses. Your willingness to extend respectful and appropriate behaviour to everyone, patients and colleagues alike is very commendable.

I celebrate thee because thou art **ABLE**. Pharmacists are known to be detail oriented and pay strong attention to detail when optimising patients' medicines. Those million little split seconds decisions you make for the benefit of your patients are remarkable. Your ability to accurately interpret prescriptions considering how legible doctors' handwriting can be is an innate skill no other profession can boast about.



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I celebrate thee because of thy **CORDIALITY**. Patients appreciate your friendliness. As the next person a patient sees after receiving news about their illness, your smile, unthreatening air and body language reassures and communicates volumes to them.

I celebrate thee because of thy **INGENUITY**. Your resourcefulness and innovative ways are being used to advocate for our profession and pharmacy services. The great advances in our professions are befitting because pharmacists are always thinking of, studying and exploring new ways to reach and provide quality services to patients.

I celebrate thee because thou art a **SPECIALIST**. You are knowledgeable, self-learning and technologically adept. You are a medicines expert, an educator and an advisor. Your advice to patients is impactful and can make life-changing shifts in their health outcomes.

I celebrate thee because of thy level of **TOLERANCE**. Everyone knows that it is not sunshine and rainbows being a pharmacist. Remaining poised in situations where one experiences work overload, staff shortages, bureaucracy, abuse from patients, hostility from other healthcare professionals is a character to envy. Your level-headedness and calm demeanour makes you manage tight situations much better.

Dear **PHARMACIST**, you are amazing, you are a marvel to watch, you are wondrous in every single way. Take pride in your profession. You matter. Salute!