

project. My project was focussed on mapping the processes of submitting applications to the provincial pharmacy and therapeutics committee (PPTC) in order to add medicines to the provincial code list. It was a challenging project for me as I was not familiar with most of the requirements of sending an application to PPTC but through continuous support and guidance from my mentor I was able to complete my research. I am grateful for their suggestions because my project won the second runner-up award at the Intern Research Day. I then completed the CPDs and was able to pass my internship exams. This day held a significant position in my life as I was really delighted because of the fact that I left my home to do an internship in a province that I had never been to and was rewarded for it.

After completing my internship, I had to return to my home province. I returned to Eastern Cape in 2018 to do my community service with greater strength to carve a difference in my career. The research experience that I accorded from my internship motivated me to enrol for a master's degree and also to work in a research pharmacy. I am thriving to learn each day and am thankful for all the experiences that I encountered in my life. My internship working environment also gave me an opportunity to learn Afrikaans. I have not gained proficiency in the language

but at least I left Western Cape having a basic knowledge and vocabulary of the Afrikaans language.

In contemporary times, we are all living a life that was never expected. The acquaintance of the world with the novel Coronavirus has taken a great number of lives and has petrified nations worldwide. I can imagine the apprehension that is faced by the pharmacy students who are in their final year in such unprecedented times. I believe that this too shall pass and they will soon begin to live a life of normality. I wish the 2020 BPharm 4<sup>th</sup> year students all the best in their studies and the upcoming internship journey in the year 2021.



*My Internship year, 2017*

## News



## Andy Gray awarded 2020 Helen Clark-JoPPP Award

The Helen Clark-Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice (JoPPP) Award recognises the talents of exceptional individuals who are making a significant contribution to the field of pharmaceutical policy and practice. It is a yearly award that started in 2018.

The PSSA is proud to announce that one of our own – Andy Gray, a well-known member in both the PSSA and SAAHIP – is one of the winners of the 2020 Helen Clark-JoPPP Award.

Andy is a graduate of Rhodes University and a senior lecturer at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He is the chairman of the PSSA Fellows Committee, and is an Honorary Life Member of both the PSSA and SAAHIP.

Congratulations Andy, the PSSA, SAAHIP and South Africa are proud of you!

