

The School of Pharmacy hosted the first ever MyDispense Asia symposium on 2-3 May 2019, in conjunction of its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The symposium was aimed at pharmacy instructors and academic managers who would like to know more about MyDispense as an innovative educational tool. MyDispense is an online pharmacy simulation tool developed by Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science, Monash University. The software allows students to practice dispensing in a safe environment to evaluate, verify, and dispense medication as if the student were in an actual community pharmacy. The program also allows students to build knowledge, improve cognitive proficiency and develop professional values and attitudes. Since its inception in 2010, MyDispense has had a significant impact on teaching at Monash Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and in many other schools of pharmacy around the world. To date over 500,000 exercises have been completed by students globally.



*(Top) MyDispense participants from 7 different countries forming a new user community within Asia.*

The event brought together participants from 7 countries – Australia, United States of America, Philippines, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, who had many opportunities to work together to create new cases that truly reflect global pharmacy.

In the opening speech by Marian Costelloe from Monash University, she highlighted the strong tradition of collaboration and openness and how the team is keen to continue sharing MyDispense with other schools. During the symposium, Vivienne Mak also demonstrated to participants how to introduce MyDispense into their curriculum and the group were the first within the region to see the new release of MyDispense version 6. Celeste Ewig (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) and Saw Pui San (Monash University Malaysia) presented how they adapted and modularised the software, creating customised versions that represents the healthcare systems and pharmacy practice in their countries.



*(Left) Keith Sewell, MyDispense project manager in Monash University, demonstrating how students can learn in a safe environment from the frequency and format of feedback provided through MyDispense.*

By the end of the symposium, we had a group of people who not only worked very effectively together, but who had also formed firm friendships. The Symposium was a mix of whole-group and small-group discussions, based on level of experience using MyDispense and regional needs. Built into the program was opportunity for discussion, practice and feedback. Outputs from the Symposium include plans to continue adapting the software to support pharmacy practice in Malaysia and those in Philippines.