

ISPF student exchange

By Stacey Gough

NAPSA is a member of the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF), which allows us to participate in the Student Exchange Program (SEP). The SEP organises exchanges for hundreds of students from 70 countries into community, clinical and industry placements every year. The 2011 SEP year is aiming to place 800 students.

Australia is an extremely popular location and requested by dozens of students each year, but we struggle to find pharmacists who will have students in their pharmacies. Students undergo a selection process in their country of origin, and are then screened by NAPSA's IPSF Chair before we are happy to attempt to place them in an Australian pharmacy. We ensure they have excellent English and have great communication skills.

In August 2010, NAPSA placed Laurent Favie from the Netherlands into the Medina Pharmacy in Perth WA.



Stacey Gough and Laurent Favie.



Laurent Favie (SEP Netherlands), Andrew Milani (Owner, Medina Pharmacy) and Stacey Gough (NAPSA IPSF Chair).

Stacey Gough is the NAPSA IPSF Chair 2010/11

Laurent was the winner of the National Patient Counselling Event (the equivalent to Pharmacy Student of the Year) in the Netherlands in 2010. He spent six weeks with Andrew Milani and his staff.

Andrew had the following to say about Laurent and the IPSF SEP: 'Academically, Laurent was well prepared and as a person, he was a great team player. He managed to befriend everyone in the pharmacy. If he were to register as a pharmacist in Australia, I would have no problem employing him. I absolutely enjoyed having an international student in my pharmacy. Both he and I learned a lot from the experience.'

'Australia, and Perth especially, is so isolated and it's important to get an external perspective. I would definitely

host another IPSF student. It was a very positive experience.'

We are seeking pharmacists to host dedicated and conscientious students in locations all around Australia – rural, remote and urban, and in any discipline – clinical, industry and community.

Placements usually last for four to six weeks. This is a chance to spice up quieter months of the year and perhaps learn something from someone who works in a different model of pharmacy.

You can visit www.ipsf.org to read up on the SEP. If you would like to enjoy the experience of having an IPSF student or have any questions, please email me at ipsf@napsa.org.au