Are you ready to own the fishpond?

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“Give man a fish, you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime; give man fishing rights to the pond, you feed future generations.”

(A paraphrase)

June was Youth Month – we honour the energetic spirit of young pharmacists and their ability to advance the future of the profession. We celebrate their power as they influence the future of our increasingly changing profession. Young pharmacists are instrumental voices in the frontline of advocating for the advancement of the profession.

As SAAHIP, we pledge to provide them with opportunities of upscaling their skills and enhancing their knowledge to create a shared spirit of camaraderie and strengthen their leadership within the Society. We also serve as a medium for the nurturing, representation, and actualization of the professional ideals and aspirations as hospital pharmacists. This is their opportunity to recognise their role in moving the profession forward in our midst to reflect on the mark they will leave in the profession and how they want to be remembered or commended.

It is with this in mind that young pharmacists should consider the opportunities, prospects and resources that are indeed made available for them. Today’s young pharmacists have a fire that burns within them and a willingness to go out there, jostle, explore, and stay inquisitive. All these qualities can be seen in the way they are taking ownership of their education, professional development and questioning what has, for generations, been known as the status quo.

Young pharmacists should be the ones trying to create social impact through actively participating in our SOCIETY at large to promote social change. All they need is to be given tools to learn, to foster life enhancing experiences and be guaranteed an insured future to reposition the pharmacy profession. They also need to have access to good mentors with a wealth of experience, who are available, enjoy teaching and imparting knowledge and experience to others.

A challenge to all young pharmacists is to continue to be inquisitive and responsible in the actions they take when addressing issues of extreme importance. Now is the time for them to leave a mark by taking a stand and appreciate the wisdom given to them. They must now pave a way for the coming generation. Are they ready to take ownership of the fishpond?