

## **2023 ADNA Dermatology Post Graduate Part Scholarship**

I have to say, it has been an extraordinary experience for me since I joined the Australian Dermatology Nurses Association (ADNA) in 2023. With the massive help and support from Karen and Vivienne, I was incredibly grateful and fortunate to win the 2023 ADNA Dermatology Post Graduate Part Scholarship which was financially supported by Janssen. I would not be able to do this without them.

I began my Postgraduate of Dermatology Nursing course with the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) in July 2023, and hopefully I will complete the course successfully in the coming June. As a junior dermatology nurse, this course has been a transformative experience for me, as it equips me with specialized and structured knowledge and skills that are essential for me in the dermatological field.

So far, I have enjoyed progressing through this course very much, and I highly recommend it to all nurses who are going to pursue a career in the dermatology area. It is a one-year course with flexible self-directed study, so although it keeps me a bit busy, it also allows me to continue a normal routine most of the time. I have been able to balance my study, work and life quite well for the past six months.

The course is specifically designed for dermatology nurses in Australia. It starts from introducing the leadership and professional practice for nurses, followed by the anatomy and physiology of the skin, common skin disorders in Australia, as well as holistic assessment procedures.

After completing those foundational topics, it moves onto the foundation of dermatology nursing, which is where I currently am in the course. This will then be followed by advanced concepts of dermatology nursing. The learning aims to foster a deep understanding of dermatological conditions, their diagnoses, and evidence-based treatment modalities.

Through unit learning materials, online tutorials, and case studies, I have gained a nuanced perspective on various dermatological issues, from common conditions to rare disorders.

This in-depth knowledge has not only improved my clinical acumen but also my diagnostic proficiency, enabling me to provide more accurate assessments and personalised care for patients. Moreover, online discussion has allowed me to communicate and network with other students enrolled into this course, and I am sure that we will be able to continue to learn and support each other in the future career.

So far, the self-learning and practical skills I have gained during the course have been invaluable. From getting to know literature critique and concept mapping, to

mastering holistic assessment and dermatologic procedures as well as wound care, I now feel well-equipped to address a wide range of dermatological issues.

Moreover, the emphasis on evidence-based practice has instilled in me a commitment to staying up to date on the latest research and advancements in dermatology.

The post-graduate course has empowered me with specialized knowledge, advanced clinical skills, and a heightened commitment to patient safety. As I continue to apply these learnings in my practice, I am more confident that I am contributing to the elevation of dermatologic nursing standards, leading to better outcomes for my patients.

Catherine Liu