What is a professional?

To those who do not know me, my name is Michael (Spike) Rubin. I am an honorary life member of CPS and PSSA branches, a past president of CPS and a past chairman of the Cape Midlands branch of the PSSA. I spent between 1974 and 2007 serving pharmacy in many fields, besides running a few retail pharmacies. I am now retired and as a farewell wish for my profession, I submit the following idea. Hopefully it will be adopted by my colleagues.

What makes a professional? How do you regard and respect a professional individual? One looks up to and respects most professionals, such as doctors, professors, ministers of religion and judges. The reason for this is because they are all people with a higher education. What distinguishes them from ordinary people is their titles and the help and advice that they give to others.

If as pharmacists, we want to enhance our professional image, we must have a title before our name. We must refer to ourselves as Pharmacist and not Mr. All correspondence should be addressed to Pharmacist Smith, Jones, van der Merwe or Zondele. We must stop referring to ourselves as Mr, Mrs or Miss. We should use the shortened form of “Pharm”.

Added respect and belief in the pharmacist will be enhanced and we will be given the same respect as the Dr, Dominee or Prof. The pharmacy degree at the pharmacy schools of our universities is of a very high standard, and so you have earned the right to have a title before your name.

I invite comments from readers and leaders.

Yours in pharmacy,
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