

Tue 26th Feb 08

www.pharmacydaily.com.au

PAGE 1 Editor: Bruce Piper email: info@pharmacydaily.com.au

Symbion chief quits

SYMBION Health managing director and ceo Robert Cooke has this morning resigned from his position, effective immediately.

Fellow directors James Hall, Paul McClintock, and Christine Bennet have also resigned, with the move following the board's recommendation of Primary Health Care's takeover.

Primary ceo Ed Bateman has been appointed as a Symbion director, along with Gregory Gardiner and Terence Smith.

Primary this morning advised that it now holds 85.2% of Symbion with its offer set to close 11 Mar.

Symbion said it expects to make an announcement shortly with respect to the appointment of a new chairman and ceo.



Natural Therapies & Natural Health Expo

Riverside Receptions,
New Farm,
Brisbane

13-14 March 2008

www.naturaltherapyexpo.com.au
phone 1300 789 845

REGISTER NOW

pharmacy
expo
2008

Fri 20 - Sun 22 June
Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre

ON  RECRUITMENT
Scientific Technical Medical

Manager, Medical Information

- Highly Regarded, well established organisation
- Additional 8 days annual leave per year work/life benefit
- Managing team of 8 professionals

CLICK HERE FOR MORE - www.onrecruitment.com.au

NHHRC pharmacy snub

NO pharmacy representative has been appointed to the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC), which will be chaired by Chief Medical Officer at MBF Australia, Dr Christine Bennett.

Federal cabinet today formally approved the establishment of the Commission to develop a "long-term health reform plan for a modern Australia".

The ten-member Commission has been set up to provide a blueprint for tackling future challenges in the health system including the burden of chronic disease, the ageing population and rising health costs.

NSW Act starts

THE new *Pharmacy Practice Act* came into effect in NSW yesterday, with the legislation retaining 'pharmacist only' ownership of pharmacies.

However it also now allows for the ownership of pharmacies by "pharmacist corporations" - i.e. companies where all shareholders and directors are pharmacists.

The Act also provides for the registration of pharmacy graduates as "intern pharmacists" to enable completion of practical experience requirements for full registration.

It also adds a second consumer representative to the NSW Pharmacy Board.

RGH e-Bulletin

THIS week's edition of the Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy e-Bulletin gives an overview of the use of Fentanyl lozenges (Actiq, distributed by Sigma Pharmaceuticals' new subsidiary Orphan Australia).

The lozenges will be listed on the palliative care schedule of the PBS from 01 Apr.

More info in the bulletin available at no charge from chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au.

It has been tasked to provide an interim report by the end of 2008 and a final plan in mid-2009.

The other Commissioners are:

- Rob Knowles, former Victorian Liberal Health Minister;
- Geoff Gallop, former Premier of Western Australia;
- Mukesh Haikerwal, Melbourne GP and immediate past-President of the AMA;
- Stephen Duckett, health economist and former health department secretary;
- Ron Penny, Emeritus Professor of Medicine, University of NSW;
- Sabina Knight, Senior Lecturer, Centre for Remote Health and remote area nurse;
- Sharon Willcox, of consulting firm Health Policy Solutions;
- Justin Beilby, Executive Dean of the University of Adelaide's Medical School; and
- Mary Ann O'Loughlin, Director, The Allen Consulting Group.

PNG pharmacist criticises ABC

A PAPUA NEW GUINEA pharmacy chain has criticised the ABC's *Foreign Correspondent* program for showing footage of its staff selling unsafe medicine.

Last week's episode of the show exposed incompetence and corruption within the PNG health department.

According to ABC Radio Australia, in a PNG newspaper with the front page headline, 'PNG bites back at Australian TV', City Pharmacy boss, Mahesh Patel, has defended selling Indian snake anti-venom.

He says customers requested he import the drug but medical experts say the anti-venom is only effective for Indian snakes.

PNG resident herpetologist and toxicologist, David Williams, has called on health authorities to suspend the pharmacy's licence pending a full investigation.

DISPENSARY CORNER

ONE of the doctors at the new \$100m Bathurst Base Hospital is so untrusting of the hospital's alarm system that he's bought an air horn from a sports store, so he can be called in an emergency.

"We still do not have an effective alarm system in the theatres and recovery," said the Brendan Smith, co-director of the hospital's intensive care unit.

He said the emergency alarm couldn't be heard across the theatre complex, meaning nurses had resorted to running through corridors looking for doctors during an emergency.

"Yesterday we did a couple of cases in the theatre and the only way we were able to do it was because I went to the shop and bought an air horn."

The ongoing crisis has led to all operations at the hospital being suspended.

CHOLESTEROL alert!

The world's biggest hamburger has been created in a Detroit, USA restaurant this week.

Dubbed "The Absolutely Ridiculous Burger," the 60kg US\$350 snack of beef, bacon and cheese is available at Mallie's Sports Bar and Grill.

It's not exactly a take-away, needing 12 hours of preparation, and orders require 24 hours notice.

Three men are needed to flip the burger, using two massive sheets of steel.



How about a bit of a bite?

MARK THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY NOW

The largest pharmacy profession event returns to Darling Harbour in 2008. Click here for information on exhibiting or visiting the show (www.pharmacyexpo.com.au) or contact Carlene Clarke on 02 9467 7127