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Pharmacy winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Melessa Bone from APHS Packaging who was the lucky winner of last Friday's Sukin competition in *Pharmacy Daily*.

For more chances to win prizes, see **page two** of today's issue.

NPS appointments

NPS Better choices, Better health, has reappointed Dr Graeme Killer and current Chair Dr Janette Randall to its board, as the Government Class Director and Additional Director respectively.

The appointments are for terms of three years.

Pharmacy News for sale

THE parent company of trade publication *Pharmacy News* has been placed on the market, with Reed Business Information (RBI) Australia once again up for sale.

Owner Reed Elsevier said the move to offload the division, which also produces other titles including *Australian Doctor*, reflected an "increasing focus on paid content model and data services".

Reed initially put the global RBI operation up for sale in 2008 but the process was later abandoned due to the global financial crisis.

Get pharmacy off the list?

THE majority of Australian pharmacists would like to see 'pharmacists' removed from the migration Skilled Occupations List (SOL) for 2012/13, according to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

SOL is a list of occupations which are acceptable for immigration to Australia, and although the job of pharmacist was removed from the list in 2010, it was controversially added again in July last year.

Oponents to the listing say that with the number of pharmacy students graduating each year from pharmacy schools across the nation there is no shortfall of pharmacists to serve the population.

Following the re-listing last year, organisations including the Pharmacy Guild and the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) made submissions to Skills Australia arguing that there was no shortage of pharmacists in the current labour market.

"With 19 accredited pharmacy schools in Australia, and a sharp growth in graduate numbers over the past 10 years, we have to focus on ensuring appropriate job opportunities for our burgeoning workforce," said National President of the Guild Kos Sclavos.

Sclavos backed up his position

saying that in the last decade the number of pharmacy schools in Australia has more than tripled from six to 19.

According to NAPSA, "With the number of pharmacy graduates across 19 Australian institutions set to increase, the utilisation of these numbers and allocation of pharmacy graduates as health care professionals accordingly will demonstrate more fully the requirement that in medium-to-long-term circumstance, pharmacy as a profession needs to be removed from the Skilled Occupations List,".

MEANWHILE pharmacy organisations are pinning their hopes for pharmacists' removal from the SOL on data, set for release this year from the Pharmacy Board of Australia, which will provide more detailed workforce information for pharmacists on a national basis.

Whilst it will not be available for consideration in this year's SOL, the Guild has said it hopes that the Pharmacy Board data will enable itself and other organisations such as SHPA to provide a definitive view on the adequacy of the pharmacy workforce to meet the future needs of the Australian community.

Speaking about the data, SHPA said that more accurate info on where pharmacists work when initially registered and later in their career is required to understand where there are shortages and inform decisions such as SOL listing.

"Although there are many newly qualified pharmacists, we do have problems in filling positions that require highly skilled clinical pharmacists and positions in rural areas," said SHPA President Sue Kirsas.

"SHPA believes that there is a need for a period of stability of decision making so that evidence for or against the inclusion of pharmacists in the SOL can be gathered and assessed," she added.

Rosehip support

IN the lead-up to national Arthritis Week this week, Marc Cohen, Professor of Complementary Medicine at RMIT University, has come out in support of rosehip, saying it may be an effective first-line therapy for osteoarthritis sufferers.

"While there are many unsubstantiated claims in the marketplace, rosehip is backed by more than 30 scientific studies including four double blind placebo controlled trials, over the last decade," he said.

"In particular, the studies have found the anti-inflammatory power of rosehip is reported to have similar effects to indomethacin – a prescribed non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug.

"The anti-inflammatory properties of standardised rosehip may make it a viable replacement or supplement for conventional drug therapies in inflammatory diseases such as arthritis," he added.

Heart disease in Sydney

OVER 1,200 heart disease experts are converging on Sydney this week for a five-day International Symposium on Atherosclerosis.

The Symposium kicked-off yesterday at the Sydney Exhibition Centre, and its key aim is to provide a comprehensive, state-of-the-art overview of the current understanding of the origins, progression and prevention of atherosclerosis.

Key topics under the spotlight at the event include atherosclerosis and the immune system; diabetes, insulin resistance and heart disease; and genetic and genomic approaches for identifying new therapeutic targets and risk factors.

For more information visit www.isa2012.com.

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to *Pharmacy Daily's* weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Paul Rowe, CEO of the Razor Group of Companies** - razorbs.com.au



The Credit Squeeze

For the past two years Australian business has been experiencing global economic unrest.

Based on recent events we are now entering a "Credit Squeeze".

Should we be concerned? NO!

This is merely the stage in the banking cycle when the Credit Managers rule supreme.

Banks like most public companies are guided by shareholder need for high returns and low risk.

In times of economic buoyancy Marketing Managers develop products and bring on business.

When the economy is not so bright, Credit Managers are told to protect the banks position and view with scepticism clients wishing to swap banks.

Financiers suddenly enforce credit guidelines and business people are left with serious cash flow problems.

But is the bank at fault asking the client to operate within their limits?

Or is the client at fault for not telling the bank they need a bigger facility?

To ride out the credit squeeze you need to understand the financial needs of your business.

The next is to communicate those needs to your bankers within a business plan, supported by cash flows.

If you need funds to expand tell your bank.

If you need funds because you are experiencing losses then have a plan to rectify the situation before you speak to your bankers.

Two-way communication between financiers and business is the only solution that will actually negate the need for a credit squeeze.

Owners understand your business, Financier's understand your borrower and talk, and it's that simple!

Aussie medicine mistakes

FIFTY-seven percent of Australians made a mistake with their medicines over the past 12 months, according to new research from NPS.

The study looked at responses from 1,250 Australians and coincided with the launch of NPS' Be Medicinewise Week 2012.

According to the survey results, 44% of respondents said that they had forgotten to take a dose, whilst one in four admitted they had taken a medication without food when directed to take it with food.

Other mistakes confessed by participants included taking a higher or lower dose than prescribed or accidentally taking the wrong medicine.

"It's likely we will all make a mistake with our medicines at some point," said NPS Clinical Adviser, Dr Danielle Stowasser.

"Most of the time these mistakes will cause little harm but sometimes the consequences can be serious, or even deadly.

"During Be Medicinewise Week 2012 we are urging all Australians

to stop, think and learn about their medicines to help avoid mishaps," she added.

In addition to the release of the report, NPS has also launched new resources and information for consumers, including the 'Medicinewise Challenge' - a five question quiz that looks at essential medicine information, with participants entered into a draw to win an iPad.

See www.nps.org.au/bemedicinewise for more info.

Incivo approval

INCIVO (telaprevir, 375mg tablets), in combination with peginterferon alfa and ribavirin, has been TGA approved for the treatment of genotype 1 chronic hepatitis C in adult patients with compensated liver disease, who are treatment naive and who have previously been treated with interferon alfa (pegylated or non-pegylated) alone or in combination with ribavirin.



DISPENSARY CORNER

HERBAL nutrition?

A "cannabis club" in New Zealand which calls itself The Daktory Club, has installed a marijuana dispensing machine in West Auckland, to avoid its members being charged with drug dealing.

The machine, titled Herbal Nutrition Centre, sells one-gram serves of the drug for around AU\$15.



Guild Closing the Gap

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has said that identifying practical enhancements to several key health programs will improve Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander's access to Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule medicines.

Speaking in the wake of Close the Gap day, the Guild said it was continuing to build on its relationship with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, with the pair calling for the identification of practical enhancements to the Remote Aboriginal Health Services Program, the Close The Gap Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule Co-payment Measure and the Quality Use of Medicines Maximised for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Program.

"The s100 RAHSP utilises the infrastructure of the network of remote area community pharmacies and their expertise in administering the PBS, and remote area Aboriginal Health Services in their delivery of care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples," the Guild said.

As a result of its position, members of the Guild's Community Pharmacies for Rural and Indigenous Australia Group are meeting with NACCHO next week to progress a joint position paper between the two organisations on the s100 RAHSP.

WIN AN OLIVE LEAF AUSTRALIA PRIZE PACK



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving 5 lucky readers the chance to win an **Olive Leaf Australia** prize pack.

Each pack includes 2 x Olive Leaf Oral Sprays 20mL formulated from a powerful blend of freshly-picked Australian olive leaves and other natural ingredients to freshen breath and help maintain oral hygiene.

Olive Leaf Australia's fresh-picked Olive Leaf Extract is used traditionally to support a healthy immune system but also assists in the maintenance of normal heart function and cardiovascular health.

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To win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the questions below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au:

Olive Leaf Australia's fresh-picked Olive Leaf Extract is able to support many aspects of your health. Name 3 of these aspects

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