

## Manning backs probe

NT pharmacist and consultant Rollo Manning has congratulated the Australian National Audit Office for initiating an assessment of the effectiveness of the development and administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (PD Wed), saying "it's about time".

He urged the ANAO to examine the signing of the agreement with the Pharmacy Guild, saying that "in any other setting the Guild would be ruled ineligible to participate due to a conflict of interest."

"The Pharmacy Guild is an employer's organisation under the Fair Work Act and it seeks to serve the interests of its members - the receivers of benefits from the agreement," he said.

Manning also said the Auditor-General should be assured that the payment of the \$6.52 dispensing fee "is acknowledgement for more than just putting a label on a box".

"There is a strong need for a more efficient mechanism that would reduce the number of Approved Pharmacies and limit the powers of the Location Rules under the Agreement," he said.

## NSAIDs OK - ASMI

THE Australian Self-Medication Industry has reassured consumers taking low-dose NSAIDs for short term pain relief that the medicines are safe when used as directed.

ASMI has issued a statement after new research published in *The Lancet* which found some NSAIDs increased the risk of adverse events - but those were taken at high doses for extended periods.

## NPS offers warfarin tool

NPS MedicineWise will this week distribute new 'Warfarin Dose Tracker' cards to all community and hospital pharmacies across the country, as part of its 'Achieving Good Anticoagulant Practice' national program.

The Warfarin Dose Tracker is a passport-sized card which helps people taking the medication keep track of their INR results, record any changes to their daily warfarin

does and be reminded when their next INR test is due.

NPS clinical adviser Philippa Binns said the initiative will support pharmacists in their professional conversations with people taking warfarin or their carers.

"Our research with people taking warfarin found that while most of them received comprehensive information about the medicine when they were first prescribed, most of them felt overwhelmed at that time and couldn't take it all in," Binns said.

The feedback also indicated that patients preferred to receive information and resources about their medicines from a trusted health professional, "so we hope that pharmacists will take advantage of the opportunity to order the free NPS MedicineWise resources and have them on hand to share with patients," she added.

There's also a new *Living with warfarin* fact sheet, with additional free copies of the dose tracker able to be ordered by calling 02 8217 8700 or by **CLICKING HERE**.

## CHC alive partnership

THE Complementary Healthcare Council Australia has announced a new partnership with Alive Australia Publishing, which will include collaboration on the *alive* Australia and *alive* Pharmacy healthy living magazines.

CHC executive director Wendy Morrow said the pact includes co-branding arrangements as well as collaboration with content and consumer-driven social media communications.

The first edition under the partnership is planned for early Sep and will be available for delegates at the CHC National Conference which takes place in Sydney.

The quarterly magazines have a combined distribution run of almost one million copies a year, via Australian retail health food stores and pharmacies.

"The *alive* magazines fit well with what CHC stands for - a holistic healthcare approach, based on the prevention of illness, long-term community wellness and consumer choice," Morrow said.

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## Rural GP grants

A NUMBER of organisations have been granted a total of \$179m in government funding to increase access by rural and remote patients to a range of services under the Rural Health Outreach Fund and the Medical Outreach - Indigenous Chronic Disease Program.

Some of the money will fund the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine to help integrate telehealth services into outreach areas, so GPs can link up with specialists to discuss patient health.

## PSA welcomes vax

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has applauded moves by the NSW government to ensure that children are vaccinated, with an initiative which will see non-immunised kids excluded from the state's childcare facilities.

PSA president Grant Kardachi said the move was in line with the society's *Practice guidelines for the provision of immunisation services within pharmacy*, which can help pharmacists handle questions arising from the current debate.

## GET YOUR SKIN READY FOR WINTER

Winter is upon us and it's time to treat your skin with Nutri-Synergy.

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving two lucky readers the chance to win a **Nutri-Synergy** prize pack.

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[www.nutrisynergy.com.au](http://www.nutrisynergy.com.au)

To win this great prize pack, simply be one of the first two people to send in the correct answer to the question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**In which country are Nutri-Synergy products made?**

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners, **Noelene Morris** from **Marlin Coast Amcal Pharmacy** and **Dianne Sampson** of **Kapunda Chemplus**.



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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - Canberra, ACT (Job# 2009869)  
F/t time negotiable roster including some w/end work. Customer focus.
- **Pharmacist** - High Country, VIC (Job# 2009860)  
Pharmacist to join a great team in a location to suit many incl family.
- **Pharmacist** - Fraser Coast, QLD (Job# 2009864)  
Opportunity for mentoring with exp Manager. Professional Service focus.

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## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**31 May-02 Jun:** PSA CPEXpo, Hordern Pavilion Sydney - see [www.psa.org.au/cpexpo](http://www.psa.org.au/cpexpo).

**7-9 June:** AACP ConPharm'13, Hilton Hotel Adelaide - [www.conpharm13.com.au](http://www.conpharm13.com.au).

**8 June:** Multidisciplinary Diabetes seminar, University Club of WA - more information at [medpharm.uwa.edu.au/cpd](http://medpharm.uwa.edu.au/cpd).

**11 June:** CHC Effective Advertising Seminar, Rydges Hotel North Sydney NSW - details at [www.chc.org.au](http://www.chc.org.au).

**21-23 June:** NSW Pharmacy-National Convention & Exhibition. For details see: [www.nswpharmacy-nce.com.au](http://www.nswpharmacy-nce.com.au)

**5-8 July:** Australian College of Pharmacy's Conference and Exhibition, Brisbane - see [www.acp.edu.au](http://www.acp.edu.au).

**10-14 Aug:** Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business 2013, Mt Buller Vic - more info at [www.medic.com.au](http://www.medic.com.au).

**04-07 Sep:** Navigating the Future - Pharmacy 2013: The Pharmacy Management Conference; Sheraton Mirage, Port Douglas; More details at: [pharmacyconference.com.au](http://pharmacyconference.com.au).

**19-22 Sep:** Medicines Management 2013, the 39th SHPA National Conference, Cairns Convention Centre - [www.mm2013shpa.com](http://www.mm2013shpa.com).

**11-13 Oct:** Pharmacy Australia Congress in Brisbane - details [www.psa.org.au/pac](http://www.psa.org.au/pac).

**14-16 Oct:** Global Drug Safety Conference and Exposition, Brisbane - for more details email [qldadmin@psa.org.au](mailto:qldadmin@psa.org.au).

**14 Nov:** 2013 ASMI AGM, Conference & Awards - see [www.asmi.com.au](http://www.asmi.com.au)

## Advanced Practice update

**THE** Advanced Pharmacy Practice Framework Steering Committee (APPFSC) has announced a scheduled review of the customised tool of entry-level competency standards, which was launched in December 2011.

The tool incorporates guidance on the contributions of pharmacy schools and intern training providers to the learning and professional development of students and candidates for initial registration, and will be reviewed now that it's been in use by various groups and individuals.

The APPFSC has also provided an update on other activities, including consideration of the establishment of a dedicated website which could be used as a repository for documents related to advanced pharmacy practice and provide communication around relevant

activities across the country.

The Committee is also in the process of analysing responses to the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Survey, which are being used to guide a way forward for the recognition of advanced level pharmacy practitioners.

There's also a new working group which is exploring details around a future recognition model, with the steering committee scheduled to next meet in late June.

## EMA consults on pain

**THE** European Medicines Agency has released a draft guideline on the clinical development of medicines intended for the treatment of pain.

The document merges and updates two current guidelines on nociceptive and neuropathic pain - **CLICK HERE** to view.

## QV campaign launch



**QV** Skincare hosted a VIP event earlier this week to launch its new *QV everyday: Where beautiful skin begins* promotional campaign.

The function was held at QV Women's Centre - QV Skincare's original birthplace, the former Melbourne Queen Victoria Hospital site, and was hosted by TV personality Rebecca Judd.

The intimate high tea celebrated QV Skincare's evolution from humble beginnings to its current status as a proudly Australian

made and owned brand, providing beautiful skin for more than 35 years.

Guests were educated by parenting expert Jodie Benveniste about the benefits of Skin on SKin from birth and beyond, while midwife Clare Thorp demonstrated the art of baby massage.

**Pictured** above at the event are Alan Oppenheim, md of Ego Pharmaceuticals; Rebecca Judd; and Parent Wellbeing director Jodie Benveniste.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**A BRITISH** celebrity popstar and TV presenter has caused a sensation this week by revealing that she sometimes serves cups of tea along with a dash of her own breast milk.

35-year-old Myleene Klass said it's part of a family tradition, with her father regularly having tea made with his wife's lactation.

"Come on, it's normal," she said.

"I make everyone try mine... it tastes just like those probiotic yoghurt drinks, sweet, but not as sweet as condensed milk".

**BRANDING** can be very important - even when it comes to semi-illicit drugs.

Former Microsoft executive, Jamen Shively, has announced plans to create America's first national marijuana brand, after acquiring medical cannabis dispensaries in three states.

\$10m in investment is being sought, with plans to create the "Starbucks" of marijuana for both recreational and medical purposes in the US.

Cannabis remains illegal under American federal law, but has been legalised for medical use in 18 states and in two states for recreational purposes.

"It's a giant market in search of a brand," Shively said.

**A SCIENTIST** in the UK has come up with the formula for the perfect cream tea, which involves the traditional delights of scones, jam and cream.

Dr Eugenia Cheng says she's analysed the components of the treat, and recommends that once filled, scones should be exactly 2.8cm thick to fit in your mouth.

The scone, jam and cream ratio should be 2:1:1 by weight, so the average 70g scone would require 35g of jam and 35g of cream.

Due to its higher density the jam should be spread first (otherwise it might fall off), and clotted cream is required rather than whipped cream to maintain the correct volumetric ratio.