



## SHPA clinical update

A CLINICAL practice update course titled *The Foundation Seminar in Clinical Pharmacy Practice* is being run by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) in Adelaide 21-23 Feb 2014.

The program is designed for pharmacists seeking to improve or update their knowledge of current clinical practice, and will be especially valuable to those who have recently commenced as clinical pharmacists.

Pharmacists providing consultant pharmacy services and doing medication reviews will also find this course most useful.

The course structure includes introductory sessions, which focus on gathering and interpreting patient data, medication chart review and patient monitoring, and eight therapeutic sessions.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register.

## PBS spending in decline

THE Department of Health has confirmed that PBS growth has turned the corner, with the DoH annual report showing declines in overall expenditure and cost per capita during 2012-13.

The number of PBS-subsidised scripts was 197 million, slightly lower than the 199m target.

And a \$528.4m target for savings from Further PBS Reform was exceeded, with the actual figure being \$661.3 million.

The report also details key outcomes of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, with the uptake of medication management services by pharmacies across the country "higher than anticipated".

According to the report, currently over 80% of pharmacies participate in clinical interventions, with figures above target across the board.

For example, the target for medication management services (HMRs, RMMRs and MedsCheck) was 63,000 while the actual figure

was 115,894, and the target for rural pharmacies accessing targeted rural programs was 70% versus 82% which actually used the schemes.

82% of community pharmacies participated in the Pharmacy Practice Incentives Program - almost twice the 45% target for the scheme which includes Clinical Interventions, Dose Administration Aids, Staged Supply, Working with Others, Primary Health Care and Community Services Support.

## Board meets in NSW

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia held its most recent meeting in Sydney, with the get-together including a joint meeting with the Pharmacy Council of NSW, which works with the Health Care Complaints Commission to assess complaints about pharmacists' conduct, health and performance for behaviour that occurred in NSW.

The meeting allowed for discussion on practice issues that have emerged since the commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

"Both entities have agreed to cooperate on matters of shared interest and relevance and will meet on a regular basis as required," they said.

A communiqué from the meeting also urged final year students to apply for registration now, while also reminding pharmacists that 2013 on-line renewal of registration is now available.

## \$2.2b Risperdal fine

J&J subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals has agreed to pay US\$2.2 billion in fines to resolve allegations of misbranding and filing false claims for its schizophrenia drug Risperdal as well as Invega and Natrecor.

After repeated warnings from the FDA re misleading marketing messages targeting physicians, a whistle blower complaint led to further investigation.

J&J has also agreed to increased accountability and transparency.

## PBS Changes Need a solution?

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## Gazyva FDA approval

THE U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved Gazyva (obinutuzumab) for use in combination with chlorambucil to treat patients with previously untreated chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL).

## 01 Dec prices unveiled

THE Department of Health has given advance notice of the new pricing of a range of medications under Supplementary Cycle 3 of its Expanded and Accelerated Price Disclosure PBS reforms.

As flagged earlier this year (PD 22 Aug) the new pricing shows the price of atorvastatin cut in half, with cuts to a range of other medications including letrozole, velpafaxine, quetiapine, mycophenolic acid and more.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the price list.

## STOCKTAKING MADE EASY!

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### Guild Update

## Medicines matter

Last week's public debate on statins prompted by the ABC Catalyst program is an opportunity to stress the importance of taking medicines as prescribed.

Both the National Heart Foundation and NPS – the national prescribing service – issued calm, clear advice to patients about the importance of seeking medical advice in the face of potentially confusing public information.

NPS stated that high blood cholesterol is one of several well established risk factors for developing cardiovascular disease (CVD) and lowering levels of cholesterol, especially 'low density' or LDL cholesterol, plays an important role in preventing cardiovascular events.

The evidence is strong that statins remain one of most effective drug strategies for reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease.

According to NPS: "The prescribing of statins should follow national guidelines based on absolute CVD risk assessment. In people who are deemed to have moderate to high risk, statins have an important, clinically proven role to play in the prevention of cardiovascular disease."

The real danger of misleading media reports is that they may cause people to stop taking their statins, which may put them at increased risk of a cardiovascular event, particularly if they have already had one previously.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

## New MA chairman starts

**MARTIN** Cross has taken up his new role as chairman of Medicines Australia (*PD* 25 Jun), saying he's "delighted to be taking up this most important position for the medicines industry and the Australian community."

"This is a critical time for the Australian medicines industry as it is facing huge challenges while also offering so much opportunity for the future," Cross said.

Cross has had a long pharmaceutical industry career, with roles including as md of Alphapharm, Chair of the Generic

Medicines Industry Association and Chair of the Pharmaceutical Industry Council.

He was also formerly md of Novartis in Australia and a member of the Medicines Australia Board.

He has also previously worked over many years for ICI, Zeneca and AstraZeneca, another Medicines Australia member company.

He replaces AstraZeneca md Mark Fladrich, who stepped in as Chairman and led MA for nine months through a difficult period for the industry.

"His leadership has been important in setting the industry's direction for the future," said the organisation's ceo, Brendan Shaw.

## NCPA fights Texas

**THE** USA National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) has written to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy in opposition to a proposal eliminating the pharmacist-to-technician ratio requirement for retail/community pharmacies.

The NCPA has expressed "serious concerns" around the elimination of the ratios, citing the risk of reducing the standard of care provided by community pharmacists as a key issue.

## New orphan status

**PASIREOTIDE** (SIGNIFOR LAR) and Fedratinib have been added to the TGA's list of designated orphan drugs - for details [CLICK HERE](#).

## AHPRA office alert

**AHPRA'S** Melbourne office is closed for Melbourne Cup day.

No race tips were offered as compensation.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**ANOTHER** example of very healthy ageing.

A 93-year-old man in China is still in the workforce, supporting himself by posing as a nude model, according to the *Nanfang Daily* newspaper.

Li Jisheng is a former People's Liberation Army member and Korean War veteran, and was living on the streets when he was "discovered" by a teacher at the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts almost two decades ago.

The father of eight says that none of his children want to support him, but he's very satisfied with his job.

"I can make money by just sitting here," he boasted.



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## WIN A COPY OF AUSTRALIAN PHARMACY LAW AND PRACTICE

This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a copy of 'Australian Law and Practice 2nd Edition' valued at \$89.95.

'Australian Pharmacy Law and Practice 2E' by Laetitia Hattingh, John Low and Kim Forrester is the key law and ethics resource. Including a wealth of new content, all chapters are mapped to the National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists 2010. A must-have resource for every Australian pharmacist.

To win, be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

### Who are the three authors of the book?

Hint! Visit [www.elsevierhealth.com](http://www.elsevierhealth.com)

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Mary Rophael** from **Gertz Avenue Pharmacy**. The correct answer to yesterday's question was: The National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists 2010.

