

Pharmacy DAILY

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PCEHR assurance

RICHARD Royle, who's the head of the new enquiry into the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (**PD 04 Nov**) says the probe has no intention of "killing off" the e-health system, but instead aims to ensure that the PCEHR forms the basis of a "useful and workable clinical tool".

Speaking on Fri in Perth at the HITWA 2013 conference hosted by the Health Informatics Society of Australia and the Health Information Management Association of Australia, Royle said the PCEHR is a "genuine opportunity to set up a system that can help all Australians with their healthcare," but that usability and implementation issues need to be addressed to ensure health professionals have confidence in the system.

He also confirmed that no public submissions will be accepted as part of the review due to the short timeframe for reporting, but instead written submissions will be taken from the 210 organisations already part of PCEHR consultation.

Monash-GSK R&D award

THE research and development partnership operating as the Monash-GSK Australian Centre for Industrialisation has received two prestigious awards from the National Business Higher Education Round Table.

The B-HERT awards, which recognise outstanding achievement in collaboration between business and higher education, were for Best Research and Development Collaboration, as well as the major award for Outstanding Excellence in Collaboration.

The partnership between the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS) and GlaxoSmithKline aims to "translate cutting-edge science and technology into both current and next-generation pharmaceutical products for the national and international market".

It was established in 2009 with \$3.3 million in funding from GSK and the Victorian Science Agenda Investment Fund.

Led by Associate Professor David

Morton, it works to leverage the unique skills in pharmaceutical science and nanotechnology at MIPS with GSK Australia's world-class medicine development and hi-tech manufacturing capabilities.

Morton said receiving the awards was a wonderful recognition.

"This is a meaningful and effective true partnership, which we want to expand with other partners to create more jobs, exports and a broader sustainable industry base".

GSK Australia Boronia Site Director said the collaboration provided fertile ground for further Australian innovation.

"It's an exciting project operating at multiple levels of knowledge, science, technology - with operational communication and translational skills," he said.

Since the partnership was established GSK has invested more than \$60 million into expanding manufacturing in Victoria.

TGA pings 'Wise Feet'

THE Complaints Resolution Panel of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has ruled that an internet advertisement by Wisdom for Living (Int'l) Pty Ltd for their Wise Feet Foot Patches is in breach of some sections of the Therapeutic Goods Regulation.

The company has 10 working days in which to withdraw the advertisement found at www.wisdomforlivingcentre.com and other related representations that breach the code, as well as to notify the TGA in writing of the compliance and intention not to use the offending statements in future advertising.

New FDA updates

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved the first generic versions of Aciphex (rabeprazole sodium) delayed-release tablets for reflux therapy.

Dr. Reddy's, Kremers Urban Pharmaceuticals, Lupin, Mylan, Teva and Torrent Pharmaceuticals have all received FDA approval to market generic rabeprazole.

Also newly FDA approved is Aptiom (eslicarbazepine acetate) marketed by Sunovion Pharmaceuticals as an add-on medication to treat seizures associated with epilepsy.

MEANWHILE a firm called USPlabs is recalling certain *OxyElite Pro* dietary supplement products after the FDA alerted the company that the products have been linked to liver illnesses.

The UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has issued a similar *OxyElite Pro* alert.

ASMI urges survey

THE Australian Self Medication Industry is urging members of the consumer healthcare industry to participate in a Sydney University study on behalf of the Export Council of Australia (**CLICK HERE**).

The survey will be the most in-depth research of its kind for decades, and will feed into the consumer healthcare Industry Footprint Study currently being conducted by Macquarie University.

MEANWHILE ASMI has also extended the final deadline for registrations for its Thu 14 Nov conference to today - **CLICK HERE**.



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Guild Update

eHealth review

WE have entered a key period for the future of eHealth in Australia following Health Minister Dutton's commissioning of a review of Australia's Personally Controlled Electronic Health Records program.

The PCEHR program has suffered a range of problems, including a failure to attract enough doctors to participate in the project.

The Guild is aware that some pharmacies are being approached by Medicare Locals to participate in the PCEHR.

While this review is being undertaken, pharmacies should not feel in any way obligated to participate in the PCEHR.

In his announcement, the Federal Health Minister also said that a year after the introduction of the electronic health records system only a fraction of Australians have established a record and for those who have, only a few hundred doctors have added a Shared Health Summary.

The Review panel will invite submissions from the public along with key stakeholder groups including peak clinical bodies. The Review will report back to Minister Dutton by mid-December 2013 - a very short timeline - after which the government will consider the recommendations and respond.

The Guild is currently preparing a submission to the review and once the outcomes of the review are known, the Guild will advise members accordingly.

Members who have further questions or concerns regarding the PCEHR should contact their Guild Branch or email health@guild.org.au.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Pharmacists wanted for MSF

GLOBAL aid organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is seeking pharmacists to work in around the world to support people affected by humanitarian crises.

Last year MSF Australia sent 167 field workers from Australia and NZ, and has launched a new field work human resources campaign.

A priority group for recruitment is pharmacists, as access to essential drugs in its operations is one of MSF's major concerns.

"Pharmacists are responsible for managing the order, supply, inventory and distribution of drugs and medical supplies to Médecins Sans Frontières-supported clinics

and hospitals," the group said.

Ensuring compliance with national rules and regulations is also part of the work, while MSF pharmacists may be asked to evaluate the availability and quality of drugs being considered for local purchase, work with government officials on supply chain issues and "consider how to store medicines in challenging, under-resourced locations".

Ideal candidates would have hospital experience and knowledge of TB, HIV and tropical diseases.

For more info **CLICK HERE**.

Toy gun uni hold up

LAST Thursday, two men are alleged to have held up a pharmacy at Sydney University using a replica firearm.

According to Fairfax media, the accused are Brendan Wood and Koori Fernando, both of Glebe, and are who are alleged to have stolen \$7,600 in cash, three boxes of Oxycontin and one of MS Contin.

Two people were in the pharmacy at the time but no one was harmed physically.

AMD micronutrients

THE RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin this week focuses on age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and the question of micronutrients.

The report draws the distinction between dry and wet AMD and their mechanisms for resultant visual impairment, with zinc and antioxidants identified as helpful micronutrients with the potential for risk reduction and slowing of the rate of progression.

Safety issues are also discussed along with patient types likely to benefit - **CLICK HERE** to access.

NZ pharmacy query

THE New Zealand Stock Exchange has queried listed pharmacy group PharmacyBrands about a 14% dive in the company's share price.

Last week the price dropped from \$1.28 to \$1.10 but has now rebounded to its former levels.

PharmacyBrands confirmed it's complying with continuous disclosure requirements.



DISPENSARY CORNER

THE social media revolution has even hit illicit medication sales, with Facebook-owned photo sharing site Instagram confirming that it's been forced to shut down several accounts which were being used to sell illegal drugs.

Apparently some individuals were posting pictures of their product and allowing prospective customers to contact them via the site via special creative "hashtags" such as #cannabis and #ecstasy.

Instagram says it's now blocking specific searches linked to the illegal activity, with the company saying "people can't buy things on Instagram; we are simply a place where people share photos".

AIDS activist and charity fundraiser Andre van Zijl is aiming to set yet another new world record by talking on the phone for fifty hours non-stop.

Van Zijl already holds 39 world records, with his existing achievements including spinning non-stop for 500 hours, being the first person to rollerskate between Cape Town and Johannesburg, and spending 13 days in a jacuzzi.

He's also the longest-surviving person with HIV, having been diagnosed 32 years ago.

The non-stop phone session will see him use six phones at a shopping centre in Pretoria, South Africa, with van Zijl planning to call friends and relatives as well as conduct interviews.

"I can go into the bathroom with a cellphone so there's no breaks... for two days I will not be able to shower, so I will use wet wipes," he promised.

WIN A THURSDAY PLANTATION PACK

Every day this week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a **Thursday Plantation** specialised 3 Step Skincare Program and Certified Organic Rosehip Oil.

Cleanse, tone and moisturise with Thursday Plantation specialised skincare regime utilising the natural antibacterial power of Tea Tree Oil to maintain a clear complexion, naturally.

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To win this great prize pack, be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Which product in the Thursday Plantation is most suitable for radiant, young looking skin?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Alicia Davies** from **Australian NaturalCare Products**.

