



Tasmanian PATY

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia said a record number of entries had been received for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Guild Super National Pharmacy Assistant of the Year (PATY) Award, with 10 Tasmanian finalists selected to go through to the judging day on 15 Aug.

The state winner will represent Tasmania at the National Judging Day at the National Pharmacy Assistant Conference from 16 to 18 Oct in QT Gold Coast.

CSL posts \$1.3b profit

BIOTECHNOLOGY company CSL has posted net profit after tax for the year to June of US\$1.31b (A\$1.41b), up 7.8% from the previous year.

CSL said about 10% of its revenues were generated in Australia.

The company reported sales revenue of US\$5.3b, up 7.7% from the previous year's US\$4.95b.

bioCSL sales declined 4% to \$433m with strong demand in the US more than offset by a reduction in European sales due to a market exit by the company's business partner, it said.

However sales of vaccines for measles, mumps and rubella grew strongly after successfully tendering for the Australian National Immunisation Program, CSL said.

Two executive key management personnel were based in Australia with the remaining six now based outside the country, CSL said.

ePSI Guild video

THE Pharmacy Guild has released a new video with information about the second review period for the Electronic Prescription Scanning Incentive (ePSI).

CLICK HERE to view it.

Antibiotic over-prescribing

THE Australian Research Council will fund research into the implications of over-prescribing of antibiotics to the tune of \$172,117.

This follows a study by the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) and the University of Queensland which found that doctors over-prescribed antibiotics because they wanted the best and fastest outcome for patients, SCHHS infectious diseases physician Dr Jennifer Broom said.

The Queensland Department of Health said the funded project would address the issue of overuse of antibiotics on multiple levels within the hospital system, including examining the role of pharmacists, doctors, nurses and executive management.

NPS MedicineWise Medicines Line manager Sarah Spagnardi said antibiotic resistance was an issue on an international scale.

Pharmacists played a key role in helping people understand why they had not been prescribed an antibiotic for a virus like a cold or flu as well as how to manage symptoms, she said.

"Importantly, pharmacists are also at the forefront when it comes to helping people who have been prescribed antibiotics to take them correctly."

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia president Professor Michael Dooley said many hospitals had pharmacists who had antimicrobial stewardship roles, and hospital pharmacists were expected to take leadership roles in antimicrobial stewardship programs.

It was the responsibility of pharmacists to ensure appropriate use of antimicrobials, he said.

Undertaking research in this space was good news, he said.

New SA Guild pres

THE Pharmacy Guild SA branch has a new president in Nick Panayiaris, who replaces Ian Todd after 12 years as branch president.

Todd would remain on the Branch Committee as national councillor, the Guild said.

Todd said the SA branch would be better served by a new president so it could refresh its direction, the Guild said.

The branch also has a new committee including alternate national councillor Suzanne Schultz.

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Events Calendar

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If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

16-17 Aug: 8th AustralAsian Academy of Anti-Ageing Medicine Conference 2014; Melbourne; see: www.a5m.net

16-20 Aug: Pharmacy Snow Business Conference; Mount Buller; more at: www.medicicom.au/event/pharmacy-snow-business

19 Aug: APC Accreditation Colloquium; Brisbane; more at: www.pharmacycouncil.org.au

23 Aug: PSA Medicines Update; Torquay; see: www.psa.org.au

29-31 Aug: ACP 25th Annual Conference & Exhibition; Hobart; for more details see: www.acp.edu.au

11-14 Sep: SHPA National Medicines Management Conference; Darwin; for more see: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

12-14 Sep: Pharmacy Business Network Conference; Surfers Paradise; more at: www.pharmacybusinessnetwork.com/

14 Sep: PSA Medicines Update; Gippsland; for more details see: www.psa.org.au

9 Oct: Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy Forum at PAC 2014 National Convention; Canberra; more at: www.psa.org.au/pac/aacp-forum

10-12 Oct: Pharmacy Australia Congress 2014; Canberra; more at: www.psa.org.au/pac

15 Oct: Keeping It Going QCPP Maintenance; Sydney; for more details see: www.guild.org.au

16-18 Oct: Pharmacy Assistant Conference 2014; Gold Coast; more at: www.pharmacyassistants.com/

PBS Authority review

SUBMISSIONS are now open for the review of Authority Required Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Listings, with a list of medicines to be considered available.

The review was announced by Minister for Health Peter Dutton in May (*PD* 26 May).

The review will be conducted in three tranches of medicines, which

have been published in full on the Department of Health's website.

The first tranche includes drugs for the treatment of many types of cancer such as Herceptin, Avastin and Velcade.

The Department of Health said the submission process would focus on the 831 Authority Required PBS items with 230 medicines, the Authority Required items on all PBS sections except Repatriation PBS.

The submission process aimed to gather stakeholder input as to which medicines should move to Streamlined listings or be unrestricted, and reasons for this.

The submissions would be given to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee when the relevant medicine was considered and as such should clearly reference this medicine, the Department of Health said.

Submissions close 08 Oct.

CLICK HERE for more.

Ebola hits pharmacists

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has said the Ebola outbreak has hit pharmacists, but that reports vary.

One report said one pharmacist and four technicians had died from the community pharmacy sector.

However, another report from the Pharmaceutical Society of Sierra Leone said one pharmacy technician practising in a community pharmacy in Kenema had died, FIP said.

The organisation said pharmacies in Liberia had been "inundated" with people wanting to buy medicines and the Liberia Medicine and Health Regulatory Authority was directing an awareness campaign at pharmacies around the country.

CLICK HERE to read more.

FDA nods sleep drug

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Belsomra (suvorexant) tablets for insomnia.

The FDA said it was the first orexin receptor antagonist to be approved in the US.

DISPENSARY CORNER



WELL, that was easy.

There's no medicine you can take for narcissism but it turns out there is an easy way to tell if someone is one.

Published in *PLOS One*, the research found that a carefully worded question, "To what extent do you agree with this statement: I am a narcissist. (Note: The word 'narcissist' means egotistical, self-focused, and vain)" significantly correlated with longer methods of determination, such as the more common Narcissistic Personality Inventory which used 40 questions.

Basically, narcissists will tell you if they're narcissistic because they don't think it's that bad, lead author Sara Konrath told *USA Today*.

CLICK HERE for the research.

PLAY 'Stand by your can!'

If the rubbish bin outside your pharmacy starts emitting music, someone's either dropped their cell phone in or your neighbourhood is receiving a visit from Charlie Cavey, a busker who plays in bins from the city of Cambridge.

Orange News reports that Cavey is one of the 70 acts taking part in the Sixth Cambridge Busking Festival, which starts today.

If he's any good, he'll play the Sesame Street hit, 'Stand By Your Can', featuring the immortal line 'Sometimes it's hard to be a trash can', which you can watch by **CLICKING HERE**.

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