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Guardian back on top

GUARDIAN Pharmacies has once again taken out the Roy Morgan Research (RMR) Pharmacy of the Month patient satisfaction award, stealing the title back from Chemist Warehouse, which picked up the award last month (PD 03 Nov).

The top five ranking was Guardian, Chemist Warehouse, Chemmart, MyChemist and Soul Pattinson, with Guardian, Chemist Warehouse and Soul Pattinson all increasing their satisfaction scores.

CLICK HERE for more detail.

MEANWHILE in other RMR research, supermarkets have been the leading channel for purchasing cosmetics for more than a decade.

Value for money was identified as the key driver in decision making, with supermarkets coming out on top at 25.6% of women in the year to June buying their make up there in any given six month period.

One in every five (20%) purchased cosmetics from a chemist, followed by 'other' at 16% and Priceline at 13.6%; the percentages for purchasing at a chemist and supermarket were up on 2010, with supermarkets up from 20.9%.

The survey had an average yearly sample of 5,562 Australian women aged 14 and older, RMR said.

CLICK HERE for more.

New cancer drug inquiry

AN INQUIRY into the availability of new, innovative and specialist cancer drugs will be undertaken by the Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee.

Independent Senator Nick Xenophon called for the inquiry to be referred to the Committee on Wednesday.

The inquiry will look into the timing and affordability for

patients, the operation of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee and the PBS in relation to such drugs, "including the impact of delays in the approvals process for Australian patients", and the impact of quality of care available to cancer patients.

Cancer Council Australia ceo Professor Ian Olver said the number of expensive cancer treatment drugs was increasing and Australia needed to make sure the best of these got onto the market in a timely manner for patients who needed them.

There were a number of mechanisms that could be used such as accelerated programs in use in other countries that the government could look at, he said.

CLICK HERE for more.

Pharmacists rush CAPP

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) said it had 130 pharmacists wanting to participate in the Credentialing of Advanced Practice Pharmacists (CAPP) pilot program.

APC Advanced Practice Credentialing Committee chair Dr Ian Coombes said that pharmacy as a profession was "clearly maturing" in its role of delivering healthcare across many areas including clinical care and medicines management.

Pharmacists who were selected for the pilot program would be notified early this month and then provided guidance on how to prepare a practice portfolio for submission and evaluation by end of April 2015, APC said.

For more information **CLICK HERE**.

Sale or return deal

GNP Products is offering a sale or return deal for pharmacists purchasing Endor, which the company promotes for psoriasis, eczema, rosacea, prickly heat and generally dry skin.

See **page three** for details.

Prostate guidelines

AUSTRALIAN cancer organisations, including Cancer Council Australia, have released draft clinical practice guidelines aimed at maximising benefits and minimising harms of the Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test for prostate cancer.

Draft recommendations include that informed men without a diagnosis be offered PSA testing every two years from age 50 to 69.

CLICK HERE for the guidelines.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacy Manager** - Snowy Region, NSW (Job# 2010952)
Calling all Ski Enthusiasts with business building skills.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Whyalla & Eyre Region, SA (Job# 2010877)
Take a holistic approach with full PPI's in a popular coastal location.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Far Nth Brisbane, QLD (Job# 2010984)
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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.

5-7 Dec: Australasian Pharmaceutical Sciences Association (APSA) 2014 Conference; Brisbane; see: www.wired.ivy.com/event/APSA14

6 Dec: Mental Health First Aid; Taree; visit: www.guild.org.au

8 Dec: D-Day for Ebola; to make a donation go to: www.twicethedoctor.org.au

19-20 Jan: Tools for the Medicinal Chemist Symposium 2015; Parkville; see: www.monash.edu/pharm/about/events/tmc2015

1 Feb: Provide First Aid; Bankstown; see: www.psa.org.au

6-8 Feb: Foundation Seminar in Clinical Pharmacy Practice; Melbourne; for more details visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

14-16 Feb: Pharmacy Re-Entry Course: Refresher Training for Australian Community Pharmacy; St Leonards; more details available at: www.psa.org.au

21 Feb: Pharmacy in Focus: Bridging the Gap Workshop; Wagga Wagga; more details at: www.psa.org.au

21 Feb: Better Pharmacy Futures Forum; Wagga Wagga; more details at: www.psa.org.au

21-22 Feb: Pharmacy in Focus: Cardiovascular Weekend; Wagga Wagga; for more details please visit: www.psa.org.au

7-8 Mar: Oncology - Foundation Seminar; Melbourne; for more details visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

Interim authorisation for Code

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has given interim authorisation to Medicines Australia's (MA) 17th Code of Conduct until its final determination is made (**PD** Breaking News 04 Dec).

The ACCC said MA had requested an extension to respond to the draft determination, which had included a condition requiring that relevant transfers made by pharmaceutical member companies

to healthcare professionals were reported (**PD** 18 Oct), as well as requesting that the pre-decision conference be delayed.

As a result, ACCC would not be able to make a final determination regarding authorisation of the Code's 18th edition before the 17th edition expired in January, it said.

Interim authorisation, starting on 10 Jan, would maintain the status quo and let the organisation finalise its decision, ACCC commissioner Dr Jill Walker said.

The organisation expected to make a final determination by the first quarter of next year.

MA has said the transparency process in edition 18 should be implemented for a 12 month period from October, after which the regime with the ACCC's proposed condition would begin, giving member companies and industry time to adapt to the new requirements (**PD** 25 Nov).

MA ceo Tim James said the organisation welcomed the decision and would continue to work with the ACCC to achieve authorisation early in the New Year for the 18th edition of the Code.

CLICK HERE for more.

Amneal signs 163

AMNEAL Pharmaceuticals has said it has signed 163 pharmacies for its Amneal 500 program that will share 10% of the profits from its Australian business.

These profits would be distributed annually from year two until the end of year four, the generics company said.

It launched in the Australian market about nine weeks ago and said it was taking an "aggressive approach" to meet the challenges the pharmacy industry was facing.

Final registration events for the program are to be held in February.

CLICK HERE for more information.

WIN with Hydralyte

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Hydralyte are giving readers the chance to win a Hydralyte prize pack.

Hydrate with Hydralyte this festive season. Did you know that alcohol acts as a diuretic? For each standard drink you consume, you are likely to urinate 100mL more than you drink, which can lead to dehydration. Remember to drink Hydralyte before bed and feel the difference in the morning.

To win, be one the first 10 people to send the correct answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

True or false: Symptoms of dehydration include headache, fatigue and irritability.

Hint: www.hydralyte.com.au/excessive-alcohol

Congratulations to yesterday's winners, Jackie Carter, Kyle Fairley, Celeste Barnes, Adrian McCaffrey, Kane Mangan, Michael Byrne, Marija Stajic, Peta Rowntree, Michelle Hyatt and Amie Lloyd-Jones.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

MIND bottling.

Pharmacy robberies are no joke, so to take your mind off it (no pun intended), we bring you the news that a collection of 100 brains in jars have been swiped from the University of Texas.

Kept in the basement of the Animal Resources Centre at the University (although probably not attended by someone called Igor), the brains arrived 28 years ago and have all gone missing, with one professor saying it was possible undergraduate students had been stealing the organs for their living rooms or Halloween pranks, *Orange News* reported.

The University still has 100 other brains to be used as a "teaching tool", the publication reported, but we're just gonna put it out there that now we all know where the zombies'll head first...



NOW that's school spirit.

We're sure you remember your pharmacy undergraduate days with fond (and perhaps misty, depending on the amount of 'studying' you did) memories, so would you commit \$100m to it?

Fred Eshelman, founder of Pharmaceutical Product Development, committed that amount to UNC-Chapel Hill, his alma mater, which *NCNN* reported would be used to build a centre of innovation - laws!

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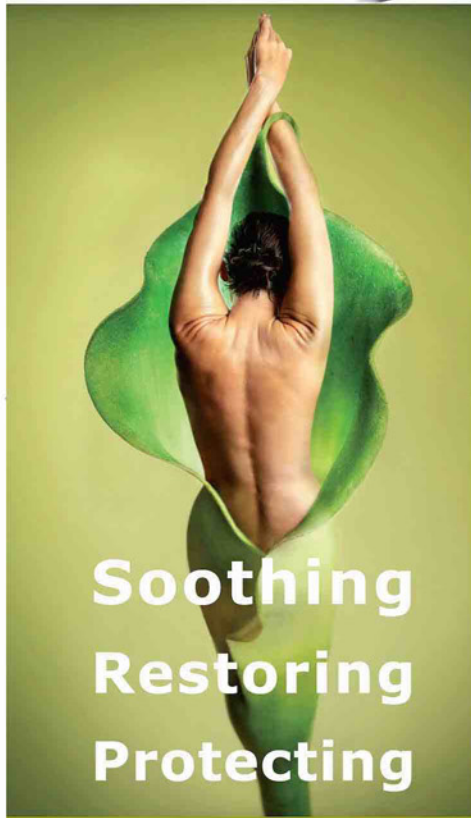
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