

UK pharmacy job satisfaction

PHARMACISTS in the UK who have become part of the government's Healthy Living Pharmacy initiative have said they derived job satisfaction from helping people to improve their health, according to a paper published in the *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy*.

Those pharmacists involved at 20 sites across England are called Healthy Living Champions who provide health promotion and prevention services through a structured framework to meet local population needs.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the abstract.

\$112b R&D investment

RESEARCH and development spend by the top 30 pharmaceutical companies in the world increased by US\$723m to a combined total of US\$112b in 2013, according to a report from research and consulting firm GlobalData.

Roche led the field investing almost US\$10b followed by Novartis at US\$9.8b, up 5.6% and Johnson & Johnson at US\$8.2b, up 6.8%, the report said.

The patent cliff had its impact as Pfizer reduced its spend by US\$1.2b after losing exclusivity for Lipitor (atorvastatin) and Caduet (atorvastatin and amlodipine combination) while Merck cut R&D by US\$600m subsequent to its loss of patent on Singulair (montelukast), it said.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the report.

FIP Pharmacists Day

NEXT year's World Pharmacists Day is to be themed 'Pharmacists: your partners in health', the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has announced.

The celebration, set for 25 Sep, is the fifth World Pharmacists Day and creates an opportunity for pharmacists to highlight the impact and added value of the pharmacy profession and its role in improving health to authorities, other professions, the media and the general public.

[CLICK HERE](#) in Jan for resources.

WA pharmacist vax ticked

THE Western Australia (WA) government has changed regulations to allow pharmacists to provide influenza vaccinations without a prescription (**PD** Breaking News yesterday).

The Pharmacy Guild WA branch said it would hold a joint industry briefing with the WA Health Department on 21 Jan covering the announcement and was inviting pharmacies to contact the branch to register interest in attending.

It had worked with the Department for more than two years to achieve the change, it said.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) said pharmacists would need to be registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, have completed an accredited training program for pharmacist administration of vaccines, hold appropriate

indemnity insurance for vaccination and hold a current qualification in first aid including CPR and anaphylaxis management.

The Guild said there was currently no training available in WA until the Department of Health had approved it.

Both the PSA and the Guild said they were submitting training courses for approval.

Guild national president George Tambassis said the fact the WA government had moved to state-wide implementation was testimony to the safety and efficacy of pharmacist-delivered vaccinations.

Previously, prescriptions were needed for a pharmacy to supply vaccines, and pharmacists were "generally not qualified" to administer vaccines, the WA Department of Health said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Guild on 6CPA

THE Pharmacy Guild would be working through the break to get the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement negotiated as quickly as possible, national president George Tambassis wrote in *forefront*.

No formal negotiations had begun but the Guild was involved in regular discussions with government, a spokesperson said.

MEANWHILE the Guild has released the latest edition of the Guild Digest, its financial benchmarking tool for community pharmacy owners and financial advisers.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

CSL Behring Oz to seek TGA approval

CSL Behring Australia has said it will be making a submission to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) next year to seek registration in Australia for its long-acting fusion protein linking recombinant coagulation factor IX with recombinant albumin, for the treatment of people with haemophilia B.

This follows the company's confirmation it sought marketing authorisation from the US Food and Drug Administration.

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April SPD cuts

THE summary for the second cycle of potential Simplified Price Disclosure (SPD) cuts has been published, with reductions ranging from 10% to 75% of the October prices for more than 100 medicines.

Among the biggest drops will be the price for fludarabine, which would see a 74.5% drop.

Atorvastatin (tablet 20 mg as calcium) would see a 25% drop to \$5.55, while pravastatin would see a drop of about 17% and rosuvastatin would also see a drop of about 17%.

Docetaxel would see a drop of about 37% from the October prices, with the injection (solution concentrate for IV infusion 140 mg in 7 mL) costing \$30.37.

Indicative prices will be published in January.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view.

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Adaptive pathways

MEMBERS of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and its scientific committees have studied “adaptive pathways” as a means of bringing new drugs to patients, according to a study published in *Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics*.

The authors recommended early approval of medicines for a restricted population based on small studies, with later progressive adaptations of the marketing authorisation as broader based data accrues.

The paper follows the EMA’s pilot project launched earlier this year (PD 11 Jun).

CLICK HERE for the study.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily’s* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry.

Brisbane Riverview Suite Art Package

To mark the partnership with TW Fine Art, **Brisbane Riverview Hotel** has launched a bespoke Suite Art package.

The package includes overnight accommodation in a River Executive or River Spa suite, a two course dinner for two in Plates Restaurant, full buffet breakfast for two served in Plates Restaurant or the intimacy of your room, a hosted Gallery experience at TW Fine Art, a Libertine Perfume Indulgence Master Class and late checkout of 2pm.

Valued at over \$950, the package rate is being offered for \$349 per couple per night, saving over \$600.

The package is valid from now until 22 Feb 2015.

CLICK HERE to book and mention ‘SUITEARTPACKAGE’ or phone 07 3862 1800.

Cancer cases double

THE number of new cases of cancer diagnosed in Australia has more than doubled since 1982 but survival has improved over time, a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has said.

The number of new cancer cases had risen from 47,417 to 123,920 in 2014, with “significant increases” for prostate, bowel, breast and lung cancer, due to the increased size and age of the population, improved diagnosis through health screening programs and improvements in technologies used for identifying and diagnosing cancer, AIHW spokesperson Justin Harvey said.

Fifty five per cent of cancer cases diagnosed this year were expected to be in men, but survival from cancer had improved, with five year survival from all cancers rising from 46% in 1982-1986 to 67% in 2007-2011, the report said.

Cancers with the largest survival gains were prostate, kidney

and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, while cancer of digestive organs, pancreatic and lung cancer had shown only small improvements, it said.

Cancer would account for about three in 10 deaths this year, with a drop in the overall mortality rate by 20% to 168 deaths per 100,000.

Cancer Council Australia said the report showed the need to address disparities in treatment outcomes and to prepare for an increasing number of cancer patients.

Ceo Professor Ian Olver said while the improvements in prevention, early detection and treatment were good news, the report highlighted the “relatively slow progress” in improving outcomes for specific population groups, with Indigenous Australians more likely to be diagnosed with cancers of the cervix, liver and lung.

“To close that gap in the cancer burden, we need to reduce the impact of hepatitis infection on liver cancer in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations, help to ensure Indigenous women benefit more from the prevention and early detection of cervical cancer and do a lot more to cut smoking rates in Indigenous communities.”

CLICK HERE to read the report.

WA measles warning

THE WA Department of Health has issued a warning to residents of the risk of measles infection.

CLICK HERE for the warning.

Win with Milky Foot

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

Milky Foot Intense Exfoliation Foot Pads are the essential beauty treatment for gorgeous summer-ready soft feet. The warm weather kicks off the party season and if you want to kick up your heels, you’ll no doubt want to step out in confidence in those gorgeous cute sandals or strappy heels. Milky Foot’s treatment only takes 45-60 mins and its peeling effect takes place from about three to five days after first application and is usually complete in seven to 10 days. For more info and to see TVC: www.milkyfoot.com.au or www.facebook.com/milkyfoot.

To win, be the first person from SA or NT to send the correct answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Does Milky Foot have a Facebook page?

Congratulations to yesterday’s winner, **Eva Goodlich** from **Yokine Pharmacy**.



DISPENSARY CORNER

DO YOU vaccinate against the Ice Bucket Challenge?

Maybe Australia should consider allowing pharmacists to administer an Ice Bucket Challenge vaccine, given a recent ‘study’ result showing the Challenge’s transmissibility was in the range of the H1N1 2009 influenza pandemic.

Part of the *BMJ’s* Christmas issue, the gift that just keeps on giving, the study looked at how transmissible the Challenge was among globally influential celebrities, including Benedict Cumberbatch, who was in illustrious company with Kermit the Frog.



The study concluded the charity movement, involving dumping iced water over participants’ heads, was “moderately transmissible”, and was more likely to be accepted by richer celebrities.

CLICK HERE to read more and **HERE** for Kermit’s infection.

I FEEL pine.

As a healthcare hub, you may want to invest in a real Christmas tree for your pharmacy, given the news that University of Surrey environmental psychologist Dr Girgitta Gatersleben has said there is “plenty of evidence” to suggest exposure to natural environments has beneficial effects on people, with plants in offices having been shown to have a positive effect on workers’ wellbeing and creativity - so, chop chop!

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