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## APP earlybird reg

**EARLYBIRD** registration for the APP 2014 is closing today.

If you register by 5pm today, you can save \$100 off the registration fee.

**CLICK HERE** to register.

## CHC on multivitamins

**FOLLOWING** *The International Journal of Epidemiology's* article associating multivitamin use during gestation with early foetal death, the Consumer Health Council (CHC) has returned some further balance into the discussion.

The key issue is that while there was an association, there was no evidence of causality and as reported yesterday (**PD** 30 Jan), the authors did not suggest that multivitamins are unsafe during pregnancy, reinforcing that supplementation during gestation should still be maintained, especially iodine and folate.

The study also failed to evaluate which specific supplements and doses were involved or address biases within the study groups with respect to miscarriage history, the CHC spokesperson said.

The Blackmores Institute also has a detailed analysis on their website.

## Guild seeks recompense

**THE** Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services 2014* showed the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) was sustainable, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (PGA) has said.

PGA executive director David Quilty said spending on the PBS had been effectively constrained by price disclosure, with expenditure on pharmaceuticals as a percentage of GDP expected to decline every year between 2012-2013 and 2016-2017.

The changes to price disclosure failed to take into account the flow-on impact on community pharmacies, he said.

"The Pharmacy Guild will continue to strongly put the case for the \$149 million in amelioration of the impact of this change in 2014-15, which is less than two per cent of the \$8 billion plus in forward estimates downgrades that the Government has booked from price disclosure since 2012.

"Clearly, any further cuts to the PBS would be both unnecessary and potentially destructive."

Other findings from the report, including that the hospitalisation rate for selected vaccine preventable, acute and chronic

conditions was 24 per 1000 people in 2011-2012, pointed to the potential for community pharmacies to play a larger role in the provision of primary healthcare, for the benefit of patients and the cost-effectiveness of the health system, Quilty said.

NPS MedicineWise ceo Dr Lynn Weekes said the report demonstrated that government policies were making medicines more affordable, which ensured that most Australians had access to the medicines they needed.

"It was pleasing to see a decline in the use of antibiotics in 2012/13 and fewer presentations to GPs for URTI.

"There is still a group of people who find access to medicines difficult for reasons including cost and access to services (remoteness) and future policies should safeguard these groups while ensuring a sustainable PBS for the country as a whole."

## Abraxane on AusPARS

**ABRAXIS** Bioscience's Abraxane (nanoparticle albumin-bound [nab] paclitaxel) has had an extension of its indication to include metastatic breast cancer under specific conditions posted on the Australian Public Assessment Report (AusPARS) website.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

## Pharmacogenomics

**THE** European Medicines Agency has released draft guidance on the use of pharmacogenomics to improve safety monitoring of medicines.

The guidance also describes relevant genomic biomarkers with examples - **CLICK HERE** to read.

## PBS spend clocks \$7b

**THE** Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services 2014* found that the Australian Government spend on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for 2012-2013 was lower than the previous four years at \$7.1b (**PD** Breaking News yesterday).

This amounted to \$309 per person for the period, compared with spend in the previous four years which fluctuated between \$336 and \$342 per person, the Commission said.

Other findings showed that nationally, 24.6% of people of all ages with asthma reported they had a written asthma action plan, with 40.9% for children aged 0 to 14 years in the 2011-2012 period.

The report also said studies had shown that hospitalisation rates for selected preventable conditions were "significantly affected" by the availability of care in the primary and community healthcare sector.

"While not all hospitalisations for the selected conditions can be prevented, strengthening the effectiveness of primary and community healthcare has considerable potential to reduce the need for hospitalisation for these conditions."

It found the hospitalisation rate for selected vaccine preventable, acute and chronic conditions was 24 per 1000 people in 2011-2012.

For Type 2 diabetes, the rate was 93.8 per 100,000 in 2011-2012.

Additionally, 25% of people with diabetes received the annual cycle of care (based on the RACGP's clinical guidelines for management of Type 2 diabetes) in the period nationally, with the report stating that appropriate management in the primary and community health sector could prevent or minimise the severity of diabetes complications.

**CLICK HERE** to read the overview.



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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - Riverland, SA (Job# 2010356)  
Work alongside an experienced PIC, great opportunity for a recent reg.
- **Pharmacist** - Coral Coast, QLD (Job# 2010319)  
Career opportunity within busy diverse community pharmacy environment.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Mid North Coast, NSW (Job# 2010353)  
No weekends or evenings - lifestyle and salary on offer here for exp PM

Our dynamic support can move your business or career forward!



## for kids immunity

Inner Health Immune Booster for Kids may help reduce the frequency and severity of cold symptoms, such as runny noses and coughs, and reduce the days away from childcare and school.

[www.innerhealth.com.au](http://www.innerhealth.com.au)





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## New CHF leaders

**THE** Consumers Health Forum has announced new leadership.

Tony Lawson will replace Karen Carey as chairman, and Adam Stankevicius will replace Carol Bennett as ceo.

## 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](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

- 4 Feb:** Cardiovascular Disease & Type 2 Diabetes Risk Assessment; Brisbane; call: (07) 3831 9246
- 8 Feb:** Pharmacy on the Move; Sydney; more info at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 21-23 Feb:** CPD by the SEA - NSW Convention; Novotel Sydney Manly Pacific [www.cpdbythesea.com.au](http://www.cpdbythesea.com.au)
- 21-23 Feb:** Foundation Clinical Pharmacy Practice Seminar; InterContinental Adelaide - see more at: [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au)
- 28 Feb - 1 Mar:** Blackmores Institute Symposium; Australian Technology Park, Sydney, more info at: <http://wired.ivvy.com/event/BIS13/>
- 1-2 Mar:** Cardiology Seminar; Sofitel Gold Coast Broadbeach - visit: [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au)
- 7-9 March:** PSA Annual Therapeutic Update; Crown Plaza Terrigal; see [www.psa.org.au/conferences](http://www.psa.org.au/conferences)
- 13-16 Mar:** Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual National Conference APP 2014, Gold Coast - see [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com)
- 11-12 Apr:** 2nd BioCeuticals Research Symposium; Sofitel Sydney Wentworth; see: [www.bioceuticals.com.au](http://www.bioceuticals.com.au)
- 12-14 Apr:** FIP Fifth Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress, Melbourne - for details **CLICK HERE**.

## Terry White in vax trial

**TERRY** White Chemists' southeast Queensland pharmacies will participate in the Queensland Pharmacist Immunisation Pilot (QPIP).

The Expression of Interest (EOI) was sent out to Pharmacy Guild of Australia (PGA) and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) members on Wednesday night for the pharmacists immunisation pilot, which will start around April in community pharmacies (**PD** 14 Jan).

PSA Queensland branch president Professor Lisa Nissen said there had been more than a dozen responses from people or groups overnight.

The trial would involve about 100 pharmacies and Professor Nissen stressed that this was a pilot, which needed to be a small, controlled trial to see if it could work and gather robust evidence for pharmacists administering vaccines.

There had been "overwhelming support" from the profession, and any disappointment from not being able to participate should become momentum for the future, she said.

Terry White Chemists said the trial was a "great opportunity",

with ceo Anthony White saying a successful pilot would boost influenza immunisation availability and address supply and demand issues.

The group already provided flu immunisation throughout its pharmacies in an annual program relying on the support of nurse practitioners and immunisation program nurses, White said.

Previously, the Australian Medical Association president Dr Steven Hambleton had labelled the trial "irresponsible", saying vaccinations should be performed by appropriately trained and accredited health professionals - doctors - or under direct supervision of doctors in a safe and private clinical environment, with issues including privacy, training and possible side effects.

## TGA seeks comment

**THE** TGA has proposed amendments to the current Poisons Standard to refer to expert panels and seeks public submissions relating to the scheduling proposals.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

## NMS 2014 reg open

**REGISTRATION** for the National Medicines Symposium (NMS) is now open.

The symposium will be held in Brisbane from 21 to 23 May, and pharmacists are encouraged to submit an abstract so their work has the opportunity to be represented at the forum, with more than 200 abstracts submitted at NMS 2012.

Speaking at the symposium will be Professor Dr Hubert Leufkens who serves as a co-opted member for pharmacoepidemiology of the European Medicines Agency's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use and Director of the Utrecht WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmaceutical Policy and Regulation.

He will address the topic of knowledge translation and implementation.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**HOW** not to do it.

Governor of Rio Negro, Argentina, Alberto Weretilneck used YouTube to lay off 170 of his provincial officials.

The governor posted a video to the popular sharing site, explaining that austerity measures had made the layoffs necessary, the *Journal* reported.

Not to be outdone by firing his staff via video, the governor also said the remaining officials would have their salaries reduced by 15%, the publication said.

**EARLY** bird.

One British man's commute may make your wake up time pale in comparison; he drives the equivalent of four times around the Earth every year, or 160,000km, to get to work, and sets his alarm for 3.30am every day.

The six hour round trips cost Gary Egan £15,000 (A\$28,400) a year, including a monthly diesel bill of £900 (A\$1700), the *Telegraph* reported.

"My garage must love me."

It's all about...

# MeMeMe

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** and **MeMeMe Cosmetics** are giving away Arch Angel brow kit and Lash Attack Mascara.

**Beauty has a new obsession...**

British boutique brand MeMeMe cosmetics' award winning Arch Angel is your ultimate secret weapon for bang on trend brows. Use this clever brow gel/highlighter combo to lift, brighten, tame and shape the brows.

Teamed with MeMeMe Lash Attack Mascara, formulated with fibre-lash technology for high impact lashes, this duo gives you all you need to set yourself apart from the crowd.

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).



## Whereabouts is MeMeMe from?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Barbara Wager** of **The Pharmacy Guild Australia**.