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Thursday 05 Jun 2014

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Tas PSA leadership

THE Tasmanian Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has elected its office bearers following Branch elections held recently.

Dr Shane Jackson has been reelected as the Tasmanian branch president and the re-elected vice presidents are Anne Todd and Dr Ella Van Tienen.

The body of the new Branch Committee is comprised of Luke Bereznicki, Rachel Dienaarl, Mark Kirschbaum, Lorraine Smith and Catherine Spiller and Katie Hayes.

Jackson said that the Tasmanian Branch was very vibrant and active and that it was a privilege for him to lead this group of committed and dedicated pharmacists.

"The make-up of the committee ensures we have new ideas coming on board and are able to progress these initiatives into the future.

"The profession faces challenging times but the Tasmanian Branch is ready to accept these challenges and develop opportunities for our members during these times."

New ASMI CM appt

THE Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) has appointed Annaliese Scholz as its new Regulatory and Technical Manager for Complementary Medicines.

ASMI director Steve Scarff said it was an exciting time for Scholz to be joining ASMI as there was substantial regulatory reform underway in the complementary medicines arena.

FDA ED drugs warning

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued warnings about six illegally sold products for sexual enhancement on various websites and in some retail stores.

They are sold as 3 Hard Knights, Eyeful, Liu Bian Li, Full Throttle On Demand, GoldReallas and Dick's Hard Up and have been found to contain sildenafil or tadalafil and/or analogues which have potentially serious drug-drug interactions with nitrates, a frequently prescribed therapy for the target age group said the FDA.

Pharm must integrate

PHARMACY Guild of Australia executive director David Quilty has said pharmacy must have greater integration with health and community services systems.

Pharmacists needed to have a thorough understanding of local health care needs and build mutually beneficial relationships with other local health professionals, Quilty wrote in forefront, citing Pharmacy of the Year Capital Chemist in Charnwood.

"Existing and potential funding sources and programs need to be explored and relevant local models of care developed that clearly identify the roles of each health provider and the necessary referral pathways."

Organisations such as the Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) needed to be advocates for broadening the role of pharmacists in integrated health care, build partnerships to change the thinking of policy makers and funders and work with state and federal governments, as well as the broader community care sector.

"We need to be developing mutually-beneficial partnerships with the national and state bodies that represent other health professionals, particularly doctors."

Australian Medical Association (AMA) Council of General Practice chair Dr Brian Morton said in principle this was something the AMA wanted to see but it was important to recognise the difference in scope of practice of each field and not "chip away" at things not in the appropriate scope.

Doctors and pharmacists should work as a team with the GP as leader due to their holistic training, he said.

GPs almost always had good relationships with local pharmacists, with it being important not to undermine the therapeutic relationship between pharmacist and patient, he said.

PSA national president Grant Kardachi said it had long called for the skills of pharmacists to be more fully integrated and had developed programs to facilitate this.

"PSA has made a number of comments in the past about working collaboratively to improve the healthcare system and reduce costs and we are in talks with the AMA on a structure that would enable pharmacists to work out of GP clinics."

Multivitamins efficacy

THE Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC) has highlighted a statement by nutrition researchers published in the Annals of Internal Medicine recently that said that multivitamins are a safe and effective way to achieve the recommended intake of nutrients.

In contrast to a recent vitaminnegative editorial in Annals, the researchers pointed out that the editorial focused on chronic disease and failed to take into account the beneficial effect of multivitamins, the primary benefit being to meet recommended dietary intakes of essential vitamins and minerals. CHC ceo Carl Gibson said.

Ferinject now on PBS

ASPEN Australia has announced that its iron deficiency anaemia therapy Ferinject (ferric carboxymaltose) 10ml (500mg) is available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

The indication is for the treatment of iron deficiency when oral iron preparations are ineffective or cannot be used.

The diagnosis must be based on laboratory tests.

Tapentadol summary

NPS MedicineWise has posted on their website a summary on Palexia SR, a sustained release formulation of the centrally acting opioid analgesic tapentadol.

The PBS listing for tapentadol SR is the same as for other schedule 8 opioid analgesics.

CLICK HERE to read.

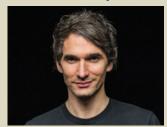


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Stolen med update

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) said the investigation into the supply of stolen medicines has found two more products that had been distributed illegally from their territory.

Avastin (bevacizumab) and Mabthera (rituximab) have been identified.

The EMA alerted healthcare professionals across the European Union that vials of Herceptin, thought to be stolen from Italy, had been tampered with and reintroduced into supply chains in some companies (*PD* 22 Apr)

A list of the affected batches is available by **CLICKING HERE**.

Travel Specials

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

Trilogy Surfers Paradise

Stay for three nights and pay for two - book now with a \$5 deposit and pay the rest 28 days before arrival.

Discount travel site Low Cost Holidays is offering a free night's accommodation worth \$255 for three night bookings at the four star Trilogy Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast.

This offer valid for bookings made before 19 Oct, for stays in selected periods until the same date (blackout periods apply) - lowcostholidays.com.au.

The Henry Jones Art Hotel

Spoil yourself and your lover in our 'Indulge' package at the special rate of \$820 for two nights

With a Molton Brown gift pack on arrival, an hour long in-room massage and a divine three course dinner it's hard to imagine ever leaving.

Accommodation for two and breakfast are all included in the ultimate romantic getaway

Stay between 28 May 2014 and 29 Sep 2014.

Go to www.thehenryjones.com.

GuildCare reporting first

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has said GuildLink is the first company to provide an integrated link to its adverse event reporting web service, through GuildCare.

The TGA announced the pilot project in February, inviting medical software vendors to participate, with the web service available free of charge to vendors following the pilot's end in April.

"Community pharmacists are valued contributors of adverse event reports and GuildLink's use of the web service will make it easier for them to make reports and contribute to the ongoing safety of medicines and vaccines in Australia."

The TGA said feedback indicated that time required to report an adverse event was a significant barrier to reporting by health professionals and providing the web service had been suggested as a way to reduce the time required to report.

The service was designed to complement but not replace existing avenues for adverse events reporting, the organisation said.

GuildLink said adverse drug reactions could now be reported

electronically to the TGA through GuildCare's Adverse Events Recording Services and two other reporting options were due to become available soon: Medical Devices and Medicine Deficiencies or Defects.

The technology ensured pharmacists were assisting with pharmacovigilance efficiently and effectively, GuildLink said.

"This new technology provides pharmacists with the information and ability to report adverse events at their fingertips, enabling them to focus on providing valuable and meaningful information to the TGA without delay."

New research centre

THE University of Sydney today launches what it described as one of the most ambitious projects of its 164 year history, the Charles Perkins Centre Hub.

The \$385m Hub is a major research, education and clinical facility aimed at easing the burden of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and related conditions.

Researchers, clinicians and students from all 16 of the University of Sydney's faculties will access the centre.

DISPENSARY CORNER

IVORY heard about this.

If a grand piano mysteriously turns up outside your pharmacy, you may have been struck by the same piano abandoner who deposited a Mason & Hamlin grand, albeit in New York City's East River.

The piano was left on the shores of the river with water washing around its legs and the theory is that it was deliberately placed there, rather than having floated, WNYW Fox 5 reported.

Various city departments have either played transfer tag or declaimed responsibility, so the piano remains to add a little class to the water way and, of course, become a social media sensation, the station reported.

LET'S go with 'nuclear green'. Had to repaint your pharmacy exterior or interior lately?

You may be able to pass on the details of the paint crew you used to (or if you did it yourself, apply for) the tender currently on the government tender website for a company to paint the exterior of the High Flux Australian Reactor at Lucas Heights.

Constructed in the mid 1950s and shut down in January 2007, this was the country's first nuclear reactor and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisaton said it intends on retaining the Reactor Containment Building "for an indefinite period of time", so the exterior needs to be maintained.

ADORABLY destructive.

Nawwww - if you've ever owned a puppy, you know the exquisite frustration of the rage of a destroyed personal item next to the cuteness of the puppy perpretator beside it.

But one three month old German shepherd in Massachusetts has taken it to a whole new level, falling on the gear shift of the family car and then onto the accelerator, driving the car into a pond and totalling it, owner John Costello told WFXT-TI

WIN A DESIGNER BRANDS PACK

This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a **Designer Brands** prize pack.

Each pack includes a Mineral Eye Shadow Palette and a Paw Paw Plus Kit.

DB's Paw Paw products contain 8% paw paw extract – the highest of any paw paw product on the market. This pack includes an ointment, hand cream and lip balm.

With 48 colours, created for staying power, the Mineral Eye Shadow Palette is perfect for highlighting and accentuating the eyes! The mineral formulation includes natural ingredients, ensuring a finish that doesn't cake or feel heavy.

To win, be first to correctly answer the question below to: **comp@pharmacydaily.com.au**.



What type of honey is in the paw paw products?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Cara Murphy from Sigma Pharmaceuticals.