

APC credentialing EOI

EXPRESSIONS of interest are being sought for five new members to join the Advanced Practice Credentialing Committee, a new standing committee of the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC). The committee is an independent assessment entity being responsible and accountable for the credentialing of advanced practitioners, advising and providing oversight to the advanced practice credentialing functions of the APC.

The committee will be comprised of three pharmacist members, one community member and one member from another health profession.

An additional pharmacist with international experience in advanced practice credentialing will also be appointed.

For details, **CLICK HERE**.

Pharmacists working for Pharmacists



Click here to see what our members have to say

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AMA: Not so happy

AUSTRALIAN Medical Association (AMA) president Dr Steve Hambleton has said the health system works best when providers stick to the jobs they are trained for.

Speaking at the International Primary Health Care Reform Conference, Hambleton said Health Minister Dutton was reviewing many proposals, including some the AMA was "not so happy about", such as the policy proposal from the Pharmacy Guild suggesting pharmacists provide health checks for \$50.

"Some governments are trialling vaccination by pharmacists.

"Some governments allow vaccination by nurse practitioners in pharmacies."

Later, Hambleton said the health system worked best and was most efficient when all health providers stuck to doing what they did best, "the jobs they trained for, coordinated by GPs to avoid fragmentation of health care, which would ultimately cost the health system more."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) national president Grant Kardachi said the comments added to some of the negative

rhetoric about pharmacists vaccinating.

The PSA-Guild immunisation pilot (PD 14 Jan) had sparked interest and the reaction to the pilot had been very positive in a number of quarters including the government and consumers, with the trial seen as a good way to lift the immunisation rate, he said.

"The criticisms of pharmacies not being appropriate venues to deliver vaccinations show a lack of understanding of the protocols and training in place for pharmacist-delivered vaccinations."

96% on time renewals

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has released its March newsletter which showed that 96% of pharmacists renewed their registration on time.

Of 25,724 pharmacists due to renew their registration, 24,771, or 96%, renewed on time, Pharmacy Board Chair Stephen Marty said.

94.6% of practitioner renewals were completed online.

Other topics in the newsletter include the revised guidelines, code and policy and the process involved to appoint panel members.

SureSlim available

SURESLIM Doctor's Diet is now available in pharmacies, in packs of 10 for a RRP of \$247.50.

Previously, the Doctor's Diet was only available online - the diet provides each client with an assessment of medical history, food allergies and exercise levels along with a blood test, with SureSlim managing the client and their program - see **page 4** for more.

Mg for menopause

NEW research found that 36% of post-menopausal women had insufficient magnesium intake.

Published in *Nutricion Hospitalaria*, the study looked at 78 healthy postmenopausal women and found 23% had significantly low plasma levels of magnesium and 72% had low erythrocyte magnesium levels.

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Ten new PBS listings

THE Department of Health has announced the addition of ten new drugs onto the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

The therapeutic areas covered include diabetes (gliptins), paediatric arthritis (Actemra), lung infections such as those in cystic fibrosis patients (Tobi Podhaler - tobramycin) and a range of cancer, HIV, colitis and skin therapies.

To access the full list of changes, **CLICK HERE**.

PwC reviews 5CPA progs

COMMISSIONED by the Federal Department of Health, Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) is reviewing the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement medication management programs, including HMR and MedsCheck services.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia said the review aimed to better inform how the programs contributed to improved consumer health outcomes and future

investment in these services.

PwC will run up to seven provider focus groups, including pharmacists, of which one had been conducted via teleconference and up to another six were scheduled over March to April.

These groups sought to understand provider experiences in delivering or referring the services, including challenges and barriers and perceived outcomes, a spokeswoman for the Department of Health said.

Up to 10 consumer focus groups were planned as well, two of which had been conducted already, in QLD and SA, with a further eight scheduled in various locations.

As focus groups had only recently commenced, it was premature to provide feedback at this point, the Department said.

The review is due for completion in December.

Interest can be registered **HERE**.

Guardian wins again

GUARDIAN Pharmacy has picked up the Roy Morgan customer satisfaction award for January, following its win of Roy Morgan Research Pharmacy of the Year 2013 in February.

The award is based on data from the single source surveys of more than 50,000 consumers and 20,000 business decision makers annually.

Means tested billing

MEANS-TESTING patients to assess whether they should be bulk billed would erode the principle of universal access to health care, expose the chronically ill to more costs and drive up overall health care expenditure, the Consumers Health Forum (CHF) says.

While Fairfax poll results showed that a slim majority of Australians would support a Medicare means test to limit bulk billing, the CHF would caution against such a step, spokesman Mark Metherell said.

Future pharmacy leaders

THE Community Pharmacy Management Awards, hosted by Symbion, JR Pharmacy Accountants and Terry White Chemists, seeks to encourage high achieving students to further the focus and development of best practice management in community pharmacies.

A two-day management course, held in Brisbane, was part of the prize and aimed to bridge the gap between the theoretical world of university pharmacy departments and the real business of pharmacy.

The training covered the management and operational aspects of running a pharmacy – from the all-important bottom line to people management and the role of manufacturers and wholesalers.

Participants (**pictured**) were also given a behind the scenes tour of the production line

inside a Symbion warehouse facility.

Back row - Left to right:

Mark Nicholson, JR Pharmacy; Graeme Wertheimer, University of Tasmania; Georgia Isaacs, University of Queensland; Jamie Achurch, Queensland University of Technology; Hannah Percy, University of South Australia; Ortal Marhaim, Monash University; Amy Williams, University of Western Australia; Daniel Gigliotti, Symbion.

Front row - Left to right: Rebecca

Steedman, Griffith University; Megan Jackson, University of Canberra; Amy Waldron, La Trobe University.



Travel Daily is Australia's leading travel trade publisher, with a portfolio of publications also including **Business Events News**, **Cruise Weekly**, **TD Cruise Update** and **Pharmacy Daily**. Two exciting opportunities have arisen to join our fun friendly team based in Epping, NSW.

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still on Disc. Tops!

"Much more user friendly"... "is easy to get around with lots of useful tools"

eMIMSDesktop



Chemmart flu clinics

CHEMMART Pharmacy is this year doubling its flu clinics service, offering more than 300 clinics at pharmacies nationwide during the six weeks from 24 Mar following a widely supported 2013 program.

Most pharmacies have opted to provide multiple clinics at varied times, including on weekends and in the early evening, administered by an accredited nurse.

Chemmart executive director Jonathan Layton said that last year's flu clinics campaign generated so much positive feedback from customers and pharmacists alike that the service needed to be expanded in 2014.

Online drug monitor call

THE Victoria branch of the Australian Medical Association (AMA) is calling on the Victorian government to adopt the Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs (ERRCD) system.

The SA branch wrote to SA health minister Jack Snelling in September, urging him to implement the system and saying the license to use it had been provided to all jurisdictions.

The AMA said adoption of the system would arm doctors and pharmacists with information

around historic dispensing in real time, *Pulse+IT* reported.

"This system would enable doctors and pharmacists to know if a person has received prescriptions from other places," AMA Victoria president Stephen Parnis said.

"It will reduce the risk of doctor shopping, it will reduce the harms that occur from these drugs and it will save many lives.

"We call on the government to act now so that in their May 2014 budget, real funds are allocated in this important area."

Letter to the editor

The pharmacist letter published earlier this week (**PD** 18 Mar) has provoked the following response from an insider.

I completely agree with Graham's comments and discussion on the fate of community pharmacy in Australia.

I currently work with one of the discounters and I always wonder if they are any different from ordinary grocery businesses.

I feel like a 'discounted' pharmacist working in a discounted environment.

The value of professional services and ethics are always neglected here.

With minimum or no professional commitments, they are nothing but a bunch of money mongers playing in the field of community pharmacy.

Like Graham, I am too worried about the future of community pharmacies and pharmacists in Australia. - Anonymous

We welcome any comments - if you would like to weigh in on this or other subjects, email us: info@pharmacydaily.com.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

GOOD news!

Louisiana State University should win some kind of award for its research which shows bacteria in our stomach ferment chocolate, releasing beneficial polyphenolic compounds, the *BBC* reported.

These compounds are good for the heart, with scientists testing cocoa powder, which contained the same compounds as solid dark chocolate, the publication reported.

REVENGE is best served in bold.

If you've fallen prey to online scammers before, you may want to follow in the footsteps of Edd Joseph, who took a fairly high brow revenge when a Gumtree vendor failed to deliver his PS3 console, for which Joseph paid roughly \$145.

Said revenge involved texting the entire works of Shakespeare to the vendor - that's 30,000 words, the *Telegraph* reported.

Don't go thinking this was a work of cold and obsessive fury; Joseph copied the works from the internet and pasted them into an SMS, which the vendor will receive as 29,305 separate texts, the publication reported.

The Righteous Icing on the Cake of Retribution is that, with an unlimited contract, Joseph didn't pay extra for the texts, the *Telegraph* said.

THEY need this in Australia.

Japan's bullet-train, *Toreiyu*, will cater to people wanting to shake the dust from their feet in more ways than one, with one of its carriages fitted out with two 2.4m long tubs for foot baths.

The service would be launched in July, and catered to the ritual of bathing in Japan, *Sapa-AFP* reported.

The baths were for passengers to relax, rather than clean their feet, with the train also featuring a bar with cherrywood tables, the publication reported.

Travel Specials

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



This weeks travel specials are brought to you by Travel on Sale.

Maldives on Sale

This week, the Maldives is on sale with Travel on Sale!

There are great value escapes from \$559pp including four nights, with one free night and return airport transfers.

Leave your wallet and stay at an all-inclusive resort from \$1,575pp including five nights, meals daily and open bar service.

The 5 star **Anantara Veli Resort** is perfect for surfers and is on sale from \$1,969pp staying five nights, including one free night, breakfast daily and transfers.

Most famous for its Overwater Bungalow style accommodation, experience the lagoon waters of the Maldives from \$1,249pp staying five nights at the **Sun Island Resort**.

For more information, visit www.travelonsale.com.au.

WIN A MOOGOO MINI MOO PRIZE PACK

We're looking for Pharmacy Daily's Happiest Baby!

This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a **MooGoo** Mini Moo prize pack valued at \$50.35.

MooGoo's popular baby range has natural and healthy creams



and therapeutic products that help soothe common baby skin conditions.

The range uses edible oils as babies love to eat everything within arm's reach. It includes a cream for eczema, nappy rash and cradle cap, a gentle moisturiser, breast feeding balm and bubble bath.

For your chance to win, email us a picture of the Happiest Baby you know by COB this Friday to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

SureSlim - Australia's Premium Weight Loss Clinic Introduce a Retail Offering for Pharmacies

The SureSlim Doctor's Diet is now available in packs of 10, with a starting profit of \$40.85 per sale. Further discounts are available for bulk purchases.

Since 1996 SureSlim has helped well over a million people to achieve their weight loss goals. The SureSlim program is a medically supervised and individually personalised program designed to help clients lose weight quickly, safely and permanently, while improving their health and vitality. It is thoroughly researched and scientifically formulated, based on the principles of nutrition, metabolic processes and hormone regulation.

Formerly an 80 strong brick and mortar clinic model, SureSlim has gone through major restructuring in recent years to become a central, online clinic to provide amazing service for all Australians.

The latest step in SureSlim's evolution is to partner with pharmacists with the goal to help communities fight off metabolic syndrome. Our bigger vision is the end of childhood obesity, which we believe can only be achieved through education on what exactly it is, we as a nation are consuming as food. That's our fundamental difference. SureSlim programs educate each client about the right quantities and the right types of natural wholefoods their body needs to be healthy for life. The primary outcome is rapid, sustainable weight loss, without the need for exercise.

The SureSlim Doctor's Diet (Program Only) with a current RRP of 247.50 provides each client with an assessment of medical history, food allergies, food dislikes, lifestyle considerations and exercise levels along with a comprehensive blood test. You simply sell the program, then leave the management of the client and their program entirely to us. The opportunity exists for you to supply their recommended ongoing vitamin and mineral supplements.

For complete info on the program and how it works visit: <http://bit.ly/PilotPharm>

The SureSlim Doctor's Diet retails as a beautifully packaged plastic card containing an activation code for online enrolment and access to the blood test referral form. At less than the size of a CD case, it takes up very little space. The individualised Doctor's Diet is delivered online to the client, with additional online support membership options available to help motivate and fast track results (recommended but not compulsory).

To support your pharmacy team with SureSlim, we provide:

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- Countertop POS display
- EDM artwork & copy
- FAQ information packs
- Posters
- SMS copy

