

Comp meds for AMD

THE Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) said that Macular Degeneration Week spotlights the prevention of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), but that complementary medicines may have a role to play.

Steve Scarff, ASMI director of regulatory and scientific affairs said that while there is no known cure for AMD, some fruits and vegetables with high vitamin C, E, lutein, zeaxanthin, zinc and copper may help with vision improvement.

Adverse reports top 10k

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has released via its website its first half yearly performance report for Jul to Dec 2013, previously prepared for the Therapeutic Goods Industry Consultative Committee only, which showed adverse medicine reaction reports reached 10,098 during the period.

This compared with 9,958 from the January to June 2013 period, and 8,264 from the July to

December 2012 period.

The TGA said this could reflect action taken by the organisation to encourage reporting from sponsors, pharmacists, GPs and state/territory health authorities, indicating a greater awareness of the importance of reporting these events.

The report also found that there were no new applications received for registered complementary medicines during the period, consistent with past reporting periods.

Category three submissions had been increasing over the last 12 months, the TGA said, with submissions other than category one, two or three having almost doubled in that time.

305 medical device recalls during the period, compared with an average for a six month period over the last three years of 256.

To read more, [CLICK HERE](#).

CPEXpo opens today

CPEXPO 2014 opens at the Hordern Pavilion in Sydney today, with hundreds of pharmacists from across Australia attending.

With interactive workshops across diverse topics in mental health, oncology and professional practice, the conference promised to provide practical resources and tools to learn, the NSW Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) said.

CPEXpo further offers delegates the chance to vote on ideas submitted by colleagues using *The Script*; interactive sessions using the CPEXpo app and presentations from patient support partners in the Patient Support Theatre.

Up to 25 Group 2 CPD credits are achievable over the weekend, with a flexible program.

Saturday features the opening address by Professor Cliff Hughes AM, and the Pharmacy Student of the Year competition, followed by a casual evening function to announce the NSW winner.

Registration is available online or at the door - day rates start at \$165.

AMCAL wins Canstar award

AMCAL has won the Canstar Blue Most Satisfied Customers Award - Pharmacy for 2014 (**PD** breaking news yesterday).

Amcal achieved the highest five star rating in five categories including provision of advice and availability of health management programs, Sigma Pharmaceuticals said.

Sigma ceo Mark Hooper said to achieve consistently high ratings across all categories but in particular, the health management program category, validated the company's strategy of introducing structured professional services in Amcal pharmacies to help Australians better manage their health.

The win follows Sigma's other brand, Guardian Pharmacy, picking up the 2013 Roy Morgan Research Customer Satisfaction Award for Pharmacy, for the second year in a row (**PD** 24 Feb).

More than 2,000 Australians were surveyed for the award, Amcal said.

Guardian received five star reviews for service and advice, while Chemist Warehouse received five stars for value for money and range of health related products.

Terry White Chemist got five stars for availability of health management programs and Priceline for range of beauty related products.

Pictured are Hooper, national retail formats and implementation manager Kate Foley and Canstar national relationship manager Craig Gava.



Trial transparency

THE European Medicines Agency has welcomed the publication of the Clinical Trials Regulation in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, bringing more simplicity and transparency to the conduct and reporting of clinical trials.

The Agency believes this will foster European competitiveness and innovative capacity, and facilitate swifter development of new medicines for patients.

The new Regulation provides for the first time a direct legal basis for the release of clinical trial results.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

New pain relief spray

THE Australian pharmaceutical company, Phebra, has announced the launch of a new pain relief spray for the Australian market.

Kriogese is a fast acting topical anaesthetic skin coolant for pain relief.

"Kriogese cools the skin and minimises pain," Phebra's ceo, Dr Mal Eutick, said explaining that it is an ethyl chloride fine spray which leaves the skin cold and numb, with no residue.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - Riverina Region, NSW (Job# 2009912)
Varied pharmacy work space where efficiency and accuracy are valued.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Eyre Peninsula, SA (Job# 2010557)
Get work/life balance with 5.5 days per week in a laid-back country town.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - North Coast, QLD (Job# 2010598)
Career progression opportunity with high profile pharmacy group \$100K +

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Conditions: You must sign-up 50 patients, per pharmacy, before the offer applies. The \$30 rebate will be paid as a credit on the July invoice. Offer only valid for new APHS Packaging customers.

Contact the APHS Packaging Customer Service Team for more details and to sign-up on... **1300 306 748**

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Get heartily Red-dy

THE Heart Foundation is reminding patients to take the pressure down - blood pressure that is.

The Heart Foundation's Go Red for Women campaign raised awareness of heart disease as the single biggest killer of Australian women, it said.

This June, the Foundation is encouraging women to get a heart health check with their pharmacist or GP, using a 'dress-red' campaign to make the point.

To support this campaign go to www.goredforwomen.org.au.

Pharmore hits target

THE Pharmore Community Fund has reached its target of raising \$55,000 in support of the Kids Under Cover Studio Program.

With the support of Pharmore Pharmacies' customers and staff, the Melbourne based pharmacy group set out in June last year to raise \$55,000 over a 12 month period through the donation of 50 cents from every Pharmore branded product purchased.

Kids Under Cover is a not-for-profit that supports vulnerable young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The proceeds would fund construction of a two bedroom studio for a needy family in Victoria next month.

Pharmore Pharmacies ceo Pauline Rawling said support of Kids Under Cover had been "keenly embraced" by staff who had expressed personal satisfaction in contributing to the cause.

PPA calls for Award hike

PROFESSIONAL Pharmacists Australia (PPA) has called on the Pharmacy Guild to join it in arguing for a hike in the Pharmacy Industry Award (PIA).

The PPA said it was responding to Guild executive director David Quilty's *forefront* article, which said excessive penalty rates discouraged extended opening hours, such as on Sundays and public holidays.

He said Guild members often paid their staff above the award, which put them at a cost disadvantage to a discount chain, which paid lower pharmacist wages.

"The Guild will put a strong and well-argued case to this four-year review for changes to the award that encourage pharmacies to remain open after hours and on weekends employing pharmacists and pharmacy assistants."

The Guild also submitted that non-standard working hours were required to the Productivity Commission (*PD* 27 May).

PPA president Dr Geoff March said the best way to tackle the issue of discount chain pharmacies paying low wages was to lift the Award, not reduce it.

"Such a change would not affect the owners paying decent salaries but would impact on discount operators."

"If discount chains were forced to pay wages more commensurate with the rest of the industry, this would relieve a great deal of pressure on other operators and be of significant benefit non-owner pharmacists working in those stores."

The PPA said both the Guild's Productivity Commission and its own Remuneration Survey (*PD* 01 Apr) had shown that wages were stagnating, with the latter showing wages had risen by 23 cents per hour since 2009.

"This is a wonderful chance for pharmacy to work together on what non-owner pharmacists tell us is one of the biggest threats to community pharmacy, namely discount chains."

Obesity tops 2.1b

THE number of overweight and obese individuals has topped 2.1b in 2013, according to research published in the *Lancet*.

The study looked at studies, surveys and reports from 188 countries and found the number of overweight or obese individuals had increased from 857m in 1980, with a 27.5% rise for adults and a 47.1% rise for children.

Rates of obesity seemed to be increasing in both developed and developing countries, with the rate of increase of overweight and obesity slowing in the past decade, particularly in developed countries.

During the full period of the study, the largest increases in the rate of obesity were in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Honduras and Bahrain for women while for men, it was in New Zealand, the USA, Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabi.

CLICK HERE to read the report.

Improvements in ED

THE National Health Performance Authority (NHPA) has released a report showing 66% of patients who presented at major metropolitan hospitals' emergency departments departed within four hours from October to December 2013, compared with 53% of patients in the same period in 2011.

The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) said the Federal Government's budget proposal to introduce an ED co-payment could jeopardise these gains in hospital efficiency.

SHPA publication

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists' (SHPA) *Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook* (AIDH) sixth edition is now available.

SHPA says that AIDH is the most comprehensive handbook of its kind, providing up-to-date information on injectable medicines that will be useful in daily practice.

This edition includes 440 injectable medicines with all entries revised.

CLICK HERE to access the book.

NZ Medsafe redefines

MEDSAFE in NZ is to change its definitions of terms around medicines and medical devices as of 01 Jul.

The terms Therapeutic Purpose, Medicine and Medical Device would be modernised in order to bring the distinction between medicines and medical devices in line with international norms, Medsafe said.

The changes meant some products would no longer require consent to be sold in NZ but would need to be notified on the WAND database and sponsors would need to review their product portfolio accordingly, Medsafe said.

Products to change include saline nasal sprays, condoms with spermicide/viricide/local anaesthetic and contact lens lubricants and solutions.

For details, **CLICK HERE**.

PHARMAC seeks input

PHARMAC is seeking feedback on a proposal relating to a provisional agreement with Valeant Pharmaceuticals (NZ) for the supply of Tambocor and Tambocor CR and the Qvar brand of beclomethasone dipropionate aerosol inhalers.

CLICK HERE for details and input.

TGA consultation open

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration invites public comment on the current Poisons Standard to provide scheduling advice to relevant expert advisory committees, with a closing date of 26 Jun 2014.

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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.

30 May - 1 Jun: Clinical and Practice Expo 2014, Sydney; see: www.psa.org.au/cpexpo or email cpexpo@psa.org.au

1-3 Jun: ConPharm 2014, Port Douglas; for more info go to: www.conpharm14.com.au

1-3 Jun: 20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014); Melbourne; see more at: www.aids2014.org

3-4 Jun: Pharmacy "Essential Financial Skills"; Melbourne; see: www.fmrbusdev.com.au

20-22 Jun: National Convention & Exhibition; Sydney; details: www.nswpharmacy-nce.com.au

22-23 Jul: Pharmacy "Essential Financial Skills"; Sydney; see: www.fmrbusdev.com.au

25-26 Jul: Blackmores Institute Symposium: Integrating Natural Medicine Into Community Pharmacy - An Evidence-Based Approach; Sydney; more at: www.blackmoresinstitute.com.au

26-27 Jul: Medication Review Skills in Primary Care; Sydney; more at: www.shpa.org.au

30 Jul: Advanced Clinical Education Cardiovascular Seminar; Sydney; more at: www.psa.org.au

30 Jul - 1 Aug: The Pharmacy Management Conference; Surfers Paradise; more at: www.pharmacyconference.com.au/

16-20 Aug: Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2014; Mount Buller; more at: www.medici.com.au/event/pharmacy-snow-business

NZ Guild hails stability

THE Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand (PGNZ) has said its members welcome the promise of certainty and stability going forward into the Pharmacy Services Agreement (PSA 2015).

The PSA is a three year transitional contract between the 20 District Health Boards (DHBs) and pharmacies, introduced on 01 Jul 2012, and consultation for stage four is currently underway, with DHB road shows around the country.

The Central Region's Technical Advisory Services (TAS) has posted resource material for the stage four proposal, including a comparison of funding for the long term condition (LTC) service from the previous stage and the proposed fee structure for stage four.

PGNZ ceo Lee Hohaia said that PSA was continuing to move pharmacists from transactional to patient based funding and the change had been challenging for many pharmacy owners as they had had to adapt to both funding and service model changes.

She said Guild member feedback had suggested a "good level" of support for the stage four funding

regime proposed, and that there was strong support for long term condition, with a service fee for medicine management support, and core base funding to remain the same.

"The promise from funders of certainty and stability going forward into PSA 2015 is welcomed by our members.

"This will provide an opportunity for the service model to be firmly embedded."

While members supported the focus on sustainable margin funding, there was a need to understand how this deficit would be addressed in the short term.

"Community pharmacy has been signalling for the past year that funding for getting medicines onto pharmacy shelves is insufficient to meet the direct costs of the service."

To read more, **CLICK HERE**.

Manufacturing license

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has published updated information on revoking a licence to manufacture therapeutic goods - **CLICK HERE** for more.



DISPENSARY CORNER

@GETONTWITTERNOW.

We've talked about the power of social media in Dispensary Corner before and how, if your pharmacy has an account, you have to be careful you don't get a parody account (**PD 07 Feb**) or how people are more likely to report adverse events to Twitter than to the Food and Drug Administration (**PD 06 May**).

But if there's ever been a time to get onboard, it might just be now - a mysterious man on Twitter, going only by the handle @HiddenCash, has reportedly been dropping envelopes of money around San Francisco and leaving clues on Twitter, *Sapa-AP* reported.

One such clue was that followers should find Mr Franklin along the crookedest street; a US\$100 bill was found at the bottom of Lombard Street, a tourist attraction known as the 'Crookedest Street in the World', the publication reported.

What's even nicer is the paper reported several of the people who found the cash are paying it forward, buying clothes for family members or pizza for co-workers.

CELEBRITIES read mean tweets.

Speaking of the joys of Twitter, if you haven't yet seen Celebrities Read Mean Tweets, do yourself a favour and check it out during your lunch break.

US chat show host Jimmy Kimmel gets his celebrity guests to read out mean tweets sent to their accounts, with hilarious results.

While the distance of communication via the internet results in some nasty comments, some display a surprising amount of creativity, such as James Van Der Beek's, "There's a new show where James Van Der Beek plays James Van Der Beek, guys get your backpacks and boots, this is the apocalypse, I'm sure of it."

It might not work the same for your pharmacy account, but maybe it's worth a try?

WIN A PLUNKETTS PACK

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily & Plunketts** is giving one reader the chance to win a Nutri-Synergy moisturiser pack.

Nutri-Synergy effectively moisturises dry, winter skin without petrochemicals, parabens, colours or fragrances - natural goodness and no nasties. This prize pack includes moisturisers for dry skin & rough skin as well as lip balm and hand products. Nutri-Synergy - Natural Dermatology - better for you!

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Congratulations to yesterday's winner **Helen Strachan** from **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia**