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Healthy FTA future

SIGNING the free trade agreement (FTA) between Australia and the world's second largest economy, pegged by the International Monetary Fund to become the biggest in 2015, China, is exciting for many health and aged-care businesses across the country. National Australia Bank Health general manager Nehemiah Richardson said.

"With the FTA permitting wholly Australian-owned hospitals and aged care institutions to be established in China, there are suddenly many new prospects on the horizon for Australian health and aged care businesses.

"The FTA provides Australian hospitals, aged-care and pharmacy businesses the opportunity to leverage their Australian know-how and capability across Asia.
"This an exciting time."

ANZ is asthma central

AUSTRALIA and New Zealand have among the highest prevalence of symptoms of asthma in the 18 to 45 year age group out of 70 countries surveyed, according to The Global Asthma Report 2014, followed by Europe, North America and South Africa.

Most of the burden of asthma disease among people under 45 years is disability with the associated impacts on earning capacity and years of life prematurely lost.

This is expressed as disability adjusted life years (DALYs).

Standardised measurements of parameters have contributed to a better understanding of the global burden of disease due to asthma.

CLICK HERE for the report.

SHPA hails Leversha

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has acknowledged the contribution of Anne Leversha, its inaugural National Rural Advisor, as she leaves after 18 years.

Leversha's work has been as a clinical pharmacist and manager in a rural hospital, an academic at a rural campus and various SHPA roles.

CVD, CKD, diabetes in 29%

MORE than one in four Australians suffered from cardiovascular disease (CVD), chronic kidney disease (CKD) or diabetes in 2011-12, a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has said.

The report showed that of the 4.9m Australian adults (29%) with at least one of these three diseases, 1.2m (7%) and 182,000 (1%) had two and three of the diseases respectively.

This follows a previous AIHW report which said the three diseases were the underlying causes of 36% of all deaths in 2011, or 52,899 deaths (**PD** 27 Oct).

RB, GSK and BI pick up ASMI QUM awards

RECKITT Benckiser (RB) won the Judges Choice for Quality Use of Medicines (QUM) award at the Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) Diamond Awards on Tuesday.

ASMI marketing and business development director Filomena Maiese said the initiative promoted health literacy and included innovative creative work.

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Consumer Healthcare and Boehringer Ingelheim (BI) also picked up QUM sales awards for promoting QUM in pharmacy through sales rep knowledge and focus on pharmacy staff product training, Maiese said.

Tassie collaboration

THE Tasmanian pharmacy awards by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), the Pharmacy Guild, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) and University of Tasmania's Pharmacy Department (**PD** 18 Nov) are the first of many collaborative activities for the organisations, PSA Tasmania branch president Dr Shane Jackson said.

Next year, the development of a vision for pharmacy practice in the state was planned, as well as joint projects that would help develop the pharmacy profession in Tasmania, Jackson said.

Further details are to come.

AIHW spokesperson Sushma Mathur said these diseases often had similar underlying causes and features, and often shared common risk factors, as well as prevention, management and treatment strategies.

More than two thirds of diabetes patients were also diagnosed with CVD and CKD.

Kidney disease remained most highly under reported with 10% of adults showing signs but only 1% self reporting.

"This reflects the fact that chronic kidney disease remains a highly under-diagnosed condition, largely because by the time any symptoms appear, around 90% of kidney function can be lost."

Of the 5% of Australians estimated to have diabetes, one in five showed biomedical signs of diabetes but did not self-report that they had the condition, the report said.

About 69,900 people aged 25 and over had an acute coronary event in 2011, with almost two thirds of these occurring in men.

More than 53,500 people began using insulin to treat their diabetes in 2011, and of these, 68% had type 2 diabetes.

CLICK HERE for the full AIHW report.

Guild releases tools

THE Pharmacy Guild has released its Pharmacy Business Resilience kit, flagged last month by Pharmacy Transformation Group executive Andrew Matthews (**PD** 30 Oct).

The kit was designed to provide Guild members with support, advice and simply defined actions to take now to help determine the best response to the impacts of Simplified Price Disclosure, the Guild said.

CLICK HERE for more.

MEANWHILE the Guild has given its online search engine, 'Find A Pharmacy', a makeover.

The site, which helps Australians locate member pharmacies nearby, now lets users manage trading hours over holiday periods.

CLICK HERE for more.

Sigma backs phmcy

IN ITS submission on the Competition Policy Review draft report, Sigma has said change for the sake of change should not occur.

Sigma said the current community pharmacy model met the increasing demands of the community and did not need remedial or structural change.

The company said it had concerns that the removal of ownership and location rules would have a negative impact on the quality of advice and care available to patients, as it would lead to aggregation of pharmacies within centralised corporate structures and congregation of pharmacies.

It would also lead to a scaling back of the community and voluntary services currently provided by community pharmacies, the company said.

Medical pot debate

PROS and cons of medical marijuana are being debated today in the fifth annual Queensland Epilepsy Symposium, 'Epilepsy – On the Horizon', jointly hosted by Epilepsy Queensland Inc, Griffith University and St Vincent's Private Hospital Brisbane.

Pfizer US sues Mayne

MAYNE Pharma Group Ltd has confirmed that Pfizer has launched a law suit against one of its US-based subsidiaries in relation to its filing of an Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for dofetilide capsules, a generic version of Pfizer's Tikosyn.

The molecule is an antiarrhythmic agent used to prevent irregular heartbeats and was worth around \$150m to Pfizer per year, Mayne said.

As the first applicant for this product, should the ANDA be granted, it might allow for 180 days of generic market exclusivity, the company said.

Mayne Pharma had 17 products pending FDA approval and worth about US\$1.8b, according to IMS Health - **CLICK HERE** for more.

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AMS videos

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has highlighted a series of videos the present historical and current data pointing to the value of antimicrobial stewardship (AMS).

Comprehensive infection prevention and control programs as well as AMS are identified as essential for tackling antimicrobial resistance in hospitals.

CLICK HERE to access the videos.

Churchill Fellowships

APPLICATIONS for the 2015 50th Anniversary Churchill Fellowships are now open.

More than 100 Fellowships are awarded each year valued at more than \$20,000 each.

For more information, **CLICK HERE**.

Travel Specials

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

Sanctuary Cove Resort

Great Value Package

Sanctuary Cove Resort's Great Value package is so great you won't want to miss it.

The luxurious resort is located on the northern end of the Gold Coast and is only a 45 minute drive from both Brisbane and Gold Coast airports.

The Great Value Package starts from \$239 per room per night and includes overnight accommodation, full buffet breakfast for two in Cove Café, sparkling wine and chocolates on arrival and a late checkout of 1.00 pm.

It's the perfect place for a warm weekend escape for locals and interstate visitors.

CLICK HERE for details.

AHHA to perform competency research

THE Pharmacy Practitioner Development Committee (PPDC) has appointed the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) to undertake background research and literature review looking into the competency standards for pharmacists in Australia and how these have changed recently.

This work would inform the review of the 'National competency standards framework for pharmacists in Australia', and a consultation would be undertaken through an online survey later in the year, the PPDC said.

The research was expected to be reported by April, when the PPDC would start revising the standards, it said.

Yasmin patent secure

AFTER two years of intellectual property court proceedings, Bayer's Yasmin and Yaz oral contraceptive patents have been upheld against Generic Health, Lupin Australia and Apotex challenges, Bayer has said.

Self-care inhibited

ALTHOUGH consumers are embracing their own healthcare as a personal responsibility, they are finding their efforts stymied by regulatory obstacles, according to a number of presenters at the Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) conference, ASMI said.

ASMI executive director Dr Deon Schoombie said the conference highlighted the next steps the industry needed to take for self-care to gain momentum here.

He identified the down-scheduling of medications from S4 to S3 or lower and the need to develop a 'switch' agenda.

US EPCS adoption up

ELECTRONIC Prescribing for Controlled Substances (EPCS) in the United States has seen positive growth in pharmacy preparedness to accept the system, in the volume of scripts sent each month and the number of providers with the ability to send EPCS.

EPCS was legalised in the United States by the Drug Enforcement Administration in June 2010.

CLICK HERE for more.



DISPENSARY CORNER

PARIS in full autumn colours.

Thinking of a Paris holiday away from the pharmacy?

Remember to pack a whip and wooden chair, if you can get them through customs.

While autumn displays those magnificent boulevards in glorious rich reds, yellows and oranges, there's one orange and black sight that might surprise you.

A fully grown tiger has been spotted wandering in the town of Montevrain, near Disneyland Paris, and is the subject of a massive hunt and rescue effort, reports *Orange News*.

Parents have been warned to keep children inside, to pick them up from school by car and generally stay in vehicles or houses until the beast is caught.

Helicopters equipped with thermal cameras, dogs trained in bear hunting and local police with tranquilliser dart guns have been conscripted for the chase.

THE ultimate supplement.

Forget about vitamin supplements, how about a juice that could cure asthma, bronchitis and a low sex drive?

According to *Sapa-AP*, peeled frogs taken from Lake Titicaca in Peru are the main ingredient in the juice which also contains carrots, maca root and honey (to get rid of that frog taste, we assume).

Proprietor Maria Elena said the frog juice was good for all kinds of ailments, including anaemia (sure), "bones" (always troublesome) and respiratory issues, the publication reported.

We'd say sticking with your inhaler, eating some red meat and talking to your healthcare professional might be a more sure fire cure - you don't want to add a frog to your throat.

WIN with Airssential

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and *Airssential* are giving five readers the chance to win a Vitalic Perio-TENS Pain Management device (RRP \$34.95).

Transcutaneous (through the skin) Electrical Nerve Stimulation, known as TENS, is a non-invasive therapy used to relieve pain. The Perio-TENS device can relieve a variety of painful complaints including sciatica, period pain, migraine, nocturnal leg cramps, muscular pain and stiffness due to sport or daily activities, Airssential says. The Perio-TENS is a powerful but miniature device which discreetly affixes to the skin at the site of pain, ensuring it can be used under clothing without attracting unwanted attention.

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

How big is the Vitalic Perio-TENS?

Hint: www.airssential.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Jacqueline Mattock** from **Beenleigh Discount Drug Store**.



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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia
Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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