

Mayne portfolio up

MAYNE Pharma ceo Scott Richards said at the company's annual general meeting that its product portfolio in Australia had more than doubled over the last year from eight to 17 approved products.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

GP co-pay scrapped

THE Federal Government is reportedly scrapping its proposal to introduce a \$7 GP co-payment.

The ABC said the government had not introduced legislation to enact the co-payment, with five sitting days left.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Generic's New Generation Wants You... and we only have 300 places left!

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Vic Labor to fund Super Phmcy

VICTORIAN Labor has said if elected, its state government would fund 20 'Super Pharmacies' across the state to stay open 24 hours a day with night nurses providing medical advice.

The proposal was part of a \$28.7m plan and would see 14 Super Pharmacies in Melbourne and five across regional Victoria.

Nurses would be present for medical advice from 6pm to 10pm, giving an alternative to hospitals and thus reducing emergency department pressure, Labor said.

Pharmacy Guild Victoria branch president Anthony Tassone said it was encouraging to hear the party leader Daniel Andrews recognise the important role that community pharmacies played in the health system and explore further opportunities for community pharmacy to deliver quality health outcomes for Victorians.

The branch recognised the importance of consumers having access to and obtaining prescribed medicines and other over-the-counter medicines after-hours from community pharmacies, and the Guild recognised that limited after-hours access to medicines could be a problem experienced by some consumers in both metropolitan and rural/regional areas, he said.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) said the service would be a welcome addition to Victoria's healthcare

service provision, with state president Michelle Lynch saying the organisation already had experience in implementing an after-hours pharmacy service.

The Australian Medical Association Victoria said the policy was unsubstantiated, directing funding away from general practice towards "ill-equipped and insufficient alternatives: pharmacists and nurses".

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the proposal.

TGA business plan

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has said its priorities for the next 12 months are continuing therapeutic goods regulation, international regulatory convergence and continuing a program of quality improvement in regulatory processes and reform in key areas.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Pfizer for 12 month MA Code delay

IN ITS draft determination submission, Pfizer has endorsed the Australian Medical Association's (AMA) call for enhanced transparency around transfers of value to a healthcare professional.

The company said it "respects and supports" the Medicines Australia (MA) and AMA call for a 12 month delay in implementing the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission mandating disclosure (**PD** 25 Nov) to allow professionals "to think about and plan for their ongoing relationships with pharmaceutical companies".

Both Novo Nordisk and Celgene also broadly supported the proposed measures in after draft submissions, also focusing on the 12 month delay allowing appropriate professional and other stakeholder co-operation with Medicines Australia to effectively implement standards that supported greater transparency.

A pre-decision conference is scheduled for 28 Nov.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the various submissions.

Pharmacists' skills suited to Ebola crisis

REAR Admiral Scott F. Giberson, acting US deputy Surgeon General and the overall commander in charge of the Ebola crisis response, has told *pharmacist.com* that pharmacists are perfectly skilled to be deployed to West Africa to assist with the crisis.

"Pharmacists wear many hats and our skillset is diverse."

Five pharmacists were staffing a US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps treatment centre outside Monrovia, the publication reported.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the article.

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Call to strengthen IP

MEDICINES Australia ceo Tim James has called on the government to strengthen Australia's intellectual property (IP) system.

Australia's IP laws had traditionally been among the strongest in the world but government actions in recent years had undermined global confidence in the strength and stability of the system, he said.

"There is too much focus on the 'cost' of strengthening Australia's IP system, and not enough on the benefits, such as job creation and investment in R&D and high-tech manufacturing."

A five year exclusivity period was introduced in 1988, but these days even developing countries had more protection for intellectual property than this, he argued, with most developed countries offering eight to 12 years of data exclusivity.

"We urgently need informed discussion on the costs and benefits of strengthening Australia's IP system."

NHMRC supports Alltrials

THE National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has said it supports the principles behind the Alltrials campaign, which calls for all clinical trials to be registered and results reported.

This would reduce research duplication and legitimise trial results, the campaign said.

NHMRC ceo Professor Warwick Anderson said transparency helped ensure accountability.

PSA15 launches

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has launched PSA15, a single pharmacy education conference to replace PAC and CPExpo, set to be held from 31 Jul to 02 Aug at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth.

National president Grant Kardachi said this was in response to feedback from the profession and in recognition that the pharmacy conference market was becoming crowded.

Earlier this year, pharmacist Patrick Reid called on the industry to consolidate conferences into a Pharmacy General Assembly held in September (**PD** 05 Sep).

PSA ceo Dr Lance Emerson said there would be a focus on how to replicate and scale up in-pharmacy programs so that pharmacy became



a health destination, including diabetes, vaccination and asthma programs.

A series of Health Destination training modules would be launched in conjunction with peak bodies including the Asthma Foundation and Diabetes Australia, with the Health Minister and other politicians on board, Emerson said.

A strengthening of alliances with these bodies, as well as the Australian Medical Association with regards to chronic disease management, would occur, and the PSA would push for remuneration for pharmacists regarding these roles, Emerson said.

Pictured at the launch from left is Emerson, Kardachi and PSA NSW board member Warwick Plunkett.

Aspirin and urticaria

HYPERSENSITIVITY to aspirin may cause complications in some children with chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU), according to new research published in *Allergy*.

Researchers from the Hacettepe University School of Medicine, Ankara, studied 81 children diagnosed with CSU, finding that nearly a quarter were hypersensitive to aspirin.

The authors recommended challenging children with chronic urticaria with aspirin in a well-controlled clinical setting to avoid severe drug hypersensitivity reactions.

CLICK HERE to see the abstract.

Device conformity to save \$6m

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has said the change allowing Australian medical device manufacturers to use European conformity assessment certification (**PD** 20 Oct) was expected to save \$6.12m a year in reduced regulatory burden.

Manufacturers were also expected to save nearly \$1m annually in reduced TGA application and assessment fees, the TGA said.

In effect as of 05 Nov, the change reduced administrative costs and allowed devices to market more quickly, the TGA said.

CLICK HERE to read more.

\$160k Gilead grants

SIX Australian researchers investigating HIV and chronic viral hepatitis have been awarded \$160,000 through the Gilead Australia Fellowship.

Gilead Sciences gm Rob Hetherington said that next year the Research Grant Program would be increased to \$250,000.

The program opens in May 2015.

Further information is available at www.gileadfellowship.com.au.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Mid North Coast, NSW (Job# 2010933)
Your Seachange and nature lovers lifestyle awaits mid NSW coastal.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - East Gippsland, VIC (Job# 2010986)
Start Feb 2015 with a 12 month contract, in this lovely seaside town.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Far North, QLD (Job# 2010987)
New pharmacy, new team, enthusiastic owners - forward pharmacy.

Have you arranged a Locum for your next break? call us to sort it!

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 Nov: Managing the side effects of chemotherapy and cancer treatments in the community; Gold Coast; see: www.psa.org.au

30 Nov: Penola Seminar: Neurology Clinical Update; Patrick of Coonawarra; see: www.psa.org.au

5-7 Dec: Australasian Pharmaceutical Sciences Association (APSA) 2014 Conference; Brisbane; see: www.wired.ivy.com/event/APSA14

6 Dec: Mental Health First Aid; Taree; visit: www.guild.org.au

19-20 Jan: Tools for the Medicinal Chemist Symposium 2015; Parkville; see: www.monash.edu/pharm/about/events/tmc2015

1 Feb: Provide First Aid; Bankstown; see: www.psa.org.au

14-16 Feb: Pharmacy Re-Entry Course: Refresher Training for Australian Community Pharmacy; St Leonards; details at: www.psa.org.au

21 Feb: Pharmacy in Focus: Bridging the Gap Workshop; Wagga Wagga; more details at: www.psa.org.au

21 Feb: Better Pharmacy Futures Forum; Wagga Wagga; more details at: www.psa.org.au

21-22 Feb: Pharmacy in Focus: Cardiovascular Weekend; Wagga Wagga; for more details visit: www.psa.org.au

Students value rural visits

NEW research found pharmacy students value their visits to rural sites and interaction with other rural health professionals.

The study, conducted in the Gippsland region in 2011 and 2012, had 57 responses from third and fourth year pharmacy students.

More than 70% said they intended to seek employment in rural areas if opportunities arose as a result of their increased rural awareness, the research found.

CLICK HERE to read the study.

FDA Tecfidera alert

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning health professionals that a patient with multiple sclerosis who was being treated with Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate) developed a rare and serious brain infection called progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML), and later died.

The drug label will be edited to include this case.

CLICK HERE for the FDA warning.

Oz HIV prophylaxis study

THE Kirby Institute based in the University of NSW has commenced a study evaluating the use of HIV treatment by HIV-negative people to reduce their risk of acquiring the virus.

The largest study of its type ever conducted in Australia, the PRELUDE study will test daily administration of Truvada (emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate in a combination tablet) as a pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

Patients will be recruited at Royal Prince Alfred Sexual Health, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney Sexual Health Centre and Western Sydney Sexual Health Clinic.

CLICK HERE for more.

Health Hub module

RECKITT Benckiser (RB) has released a new CPD accredited Health Hub Experts module for remote learning around tension headache pathophysiology and practical management, featuring two video tutorials.

CLICK HERE to access it.



DISPENSARY CORNER

I'LL take 10 shipments!

We've got an idea for your newest product to range in your pharmacy - fart pills.

Bear with us - a French man has reportedly invented pills that he claims will make human gas smell like roses or chocolates.

According to his website, Christian Poincheval had the bright idea during a particularly noxious dinner with friends and developed said treatments during "many many tests", apparently also involving dogs, since the website advertises a 'Fart powder for dogs that stink'.

There's even a special Christmas edition which gives your biological expulsions a chocolatey aroma for about €10 and an early Christmas present in the form of a video of Poincheval apparently appearing before the Inventor of the Year panel to promote his product, complete with sound effects - **CLICK HERE**.

THIS is *really* good cake.

Various states and territories are making moves to legalise medical cannabis, but we think using cannabis butter is probably still pretty illegal.

Possession is decriminalised, but not always a good idea, in Oviedo, Spain, given the story that eight people were taken to hospital after eating a birthday cake made of the unusual baking ingredient, *Orange News* reported.

Apparently, one of the guests' mothers had baked the cake and didn't tell any of her child's friends about the extra ingredient, the publication reported.

No one suffered any permanent damage, it said, but apparently the guest who provided the cake was "in no fit state to be interrogated".

WIN with CHILLAX

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and **Vitality Brands** are giving five readers the chance to win an 800mL bottle of Chillax Natural Sleep Support Drink.

Chillax Natural Sleep Support Drink is the natural way to help you get a better sleep. It's made with Montmorency cherry juice, which is high in natural melatonin (the same hormone produced within the human body to regulate the sleep-wake cycle). Chillax also contains lactium, a milk protein derivative, scientifically proven according to Vitality Brands to help calm and relax you at the end of a busy day.

To win, be the first from **VIC** or **TAS** to send the correct answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Can you have Chillax if you are lactose intolerant?

Hint: chillax.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's winner,
Chelsea Millward from **Symbion**.

