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INNER HEALTH PLUS

SA/NT PSA awards

MONDAY night saw the South Australia and Northern Territory Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) awards dinner held at the Lenzerheide Restaurant in Adelaide with around 90 in attendance to witness key presentations.

Michael Bakker was the recipient of the inaugural Early Career Pharmacist Development Award, while Pharmacist of the Year went to Andrew Sluggett, co-vice president of the SA/NT branch committee and CPIE Pharmacy Services general manager.

The PSA Gold Medal was presented by national PSA ceo Dr Lance Emerson to Rebecca Thompson, who completed the program within four academic years with the highest grade point average, with a grade point average above 6.25.

Regulatory rethink

THE Grattan Institute has published an essay in *Future Hospital Journal* calling for a regulatory rethink when it comes to healthcare in Australia.

The essay said new regulation needed to ensure quality and financial incentives were aligned.

CLICK HERE to read more.

API: \$31.7m underlying profit

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries (API) has posted a statutory loss of \$90.8m for the year to August, following a \$131m impairment charge announced earlier in the year (**PD** 01 May).

The company said underlying net profit after tax for the year was \$31.7m, up 32.5% year on year.

This exceeded the updated guidance released in September (**PD** 03 Sep) and followed a statutory loss of \$114.9m in its half year results.

The company saw overall sales growth of 11.1% for its Priceline and Priceline Pharmacy network, with stores numbers up 27 to 390 for the year, and up from 373 stores in its half year results.

API ceo and md Stephen Roche said the results showed the company's strategic priorities continued to be executed to plan.

He said the company had seen online sales increase by 180% for the year.

API's pharmacy division had underlying sales growth of 11.9% year on year, excluding the impact of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme reforms, the company said.

Gross profit was up 6.8% to \$431m, with gross profit for API's

pharmacy distribution up 7% to \$214m.

Key industry issues for 2015 included the Sixth Community Agreement and the "patent cliff" no longer applying, leading to a supplier landscape change, the company said.

Another issue included the opportunity to participate in growing the services offered by pharmacy, which API backed in its submission to the Victorian Inquiry into Pharmacy (**PD** 15 Oct), it said.

Roche said the company expected further growth in this financial year, with expansion of the Priceline Pharmacy network by at least 20 stores.

Telstra's \$1b health unit

TELSTRA, with a 50% stake in pharmacy software provider Fred IT Group, has confirmed plans to turn its health services business into a \$1b a year stand alone unit, called Telstra Health, the *Australian Business Review* reported.

Fred IT Group formed part of the foundations for this unit, the publication reported.

Health CPI up 4.7%

THE consumer price index (CPI) for the health group fell 0.2% for the quarter to September, but was up 4.7% year on year.

The main contributor to the fall for the quarter was pharmaceutical products, which were down 1.4%, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) said.

This was largely due to the cyclical effect of consumers exceeding the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme safety net, it said.

For the 12 months to September, the main contributor for the almost 5% rise was medical and hospital services at 6.2%.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the health group rose 1.5% in the quarter, ABS said.

ED pts seen on time

THREE quarters of emergency department patients were seen on time for their urgency category from 2009-10 to 2013-14, up from 70%, a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has said.

Half of the patients in 2013-14 received treatment within 18 minutes of presenting to the ED and 90% within 93 minutes of presentation, AIHW said.



**HOW DO YOU CHOOSE WHICH
MEDICINE TO RECOMMEND TO
YOUR CUSTOMERS?**

The University of Newcastle is seeking your opinions about using evidence when selecting over-the-counter and complementary medicines. The survey is open to pharmacists and pharmacy assistants. If you are interested in helping please complete the questionnaire at

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/EBP_PD

By completing the questionnaire you will have the option to go into the draw to win an Apple iPad.

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CM cancellations

THIRTY six products from Newlite Enterprises Pty Ltd have been cancelled by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), due to the sponsor failing to comply within 14 days to a notice requiring it to provide information or documents relating to the goods, the TGA said.

Products include 'Arthritis Relief Tablets' - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Hypertension in >65s

TREATED hypertension in adults 65 years and older has been shown to decrease cardiovascular morbidity and mortality compared to those with no treatment, according to a review article published in *Drugs & Aging* this month.

Thirty one articles on Medline and ClinicalTrials.gov between 1996 to 2014 were studied.

Strict control with systolic BP (SBP) <140 mmHg was not consistently better than mild control (SBP <150 mmHg).

[CLICK HERE](#) for the abstract.

NPS: ROI is 2:1

NPS MedicineWise has said it provides a return on investment of 2:1, returning more than \$650m in health savings through its work in primary care settings.

In its submission to the Senate Select Committee on Health, the organisation said its programs influenced prescribing and diagnostic test ordering behaviours, delivering savings to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and Medical Benefits Scheme.

NPS said year on year it delivered between \$1.60 and \$2 for every dollar spent on program delivery.

MEANWHILE Medicines Australia based its submission on three main tenets; the need to provide a stable and predictable PBS policy environment, early access to innovative new medicines and creating an investment-worthy destination for pharmaceutical manufacturers to increase investment, jobs and growth in Australia, including tax incentives and a 'patent box' system.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

GSK drops 3% in Q3

GLAXOSMITHKLINE (GSK) released third quarter results for 2014, revealing total group turnover for pharmaceuticals, vaccines and Consumer Healthcare has declined 3% to £5.6b.

US pharmaceuticals and vaccines turnover declined 10% to £1.3b while Europe was down 2% to £972m.

Emerging markets such as Brazil, Latin America and China were up 9% to £2.3b and Japan grew 5% to £670m.

Core earnings per share (EPS) were declared at 27.9p with advice that full year 2014 core EPS can be expected to be broadly similar to 2013 at constant exchange rate and on ex-divestment basis.

Other highlights included a proposed transaction with Novartis to strengthen parts of the business, a possible IPO for ViiV Healthcare, a restructuring program to refocus the pharmaceuticals business and a healthy looking pipeline of products already in for approval and to come.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the report.

Childhood Crohn's Rx

HUMIRA (adalimumab) is now approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in Australia for the treatment of moderate to severe Crohn's disease in children who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapies or have lost response to or are intolerant of infliximab.

Self-medication study

SELF-MEDICATION is frequent among the elderly, according to a review paper published in *Drugs & Aging* this month.

Using Cochrane, PubMed, Scopus, LILACS, SciELO, PAHO, MedCarib and WHOLIS databases, the researchers looked at the prevalence of self-medication in community-dwelling elderly (aged 60 and over).

The most commonly utilised non-prescription drugs were analgesics and antipyretics, followed by anti-inflammatories, cardiovascular agents, dietary complements and alternative medicine components.

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Ebola factsheet

THE Pharmacy Guild has published a factsheet about the Ebola virus on its website.

CLICK HERE to read it.

MEANWHILE the World Health Organisation (WHO) has said serum made from the blood of recovered Ebola patients could be available within weeks in Liberia and WHO's Dr Marie Paule Kieny said drugs and a vaccine may be available by January 2015, *BBC News Health* reported.

The European Medicines Agency is encouraging companies with Ebola treatments to apply for the incentivised orphan drug designation.

Travel Specials

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

UNLIMITED SPA ON TOBERUA ISLAND, FIJI

In the sparkling waters off the east coast of Fiji's main island sits a tiny island resort - one of Fiji's best kept secrets. Toberua Island Resort is just four intimate acres of beach and lush tropical gardens, and embodies the quintessential island experience.

If the resort wasn't already near-perfect, Toberua is now giving guests even more reason to choose its sandy white shores for their next getaway with the introduction of Unlimited Spa Packages.

The resort's Unlimited Spa offers include: F\$330 per person to enjoy three days of unlimited spa treatments or F\$440 for four days or F\$550 for five days.

Toberua Island Resort is a boutique resort offering just 16 recently refurbished authentic Fijian style bures.

Go to www.toberua.com.

ACCC focuses on cosmetics

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has said it is focusing on cosmetic products this year in a bid to ensure safe items and accurate marketing claims, with cosmetics accountable for about 30% of injury reports to the organisation in the past year via the mandatory reporting regime.

In a speech to the Accord conference, ACCC deputy chair Delia Rickard said as part of its surveillance activities this year, the organisation would look at products with no ingredient labelling and where labelling was in a non-English language, the ACCC said.

"Where we identify non-compliance with the cosmetics labelling standard, we will speak with the suppliers and enforcement action will be seriously contemplated."

However, she said in a 2012-13

regulatory audit of cosmetic related injury reports received in 2011, there were "surprisingly low" injury reporting rates for pharmacies.

The ACCC performed initial surveillance activity on 202 retailers this year, with 16 found selling non-compliant products.

The Pharmacy Guild advised members in September of this activity, saying pharmacists could source products from reputable suppliers and ask for documentary evidence of compliance with the mandatory standard from suppliers.

Rickard said manufacturers, importers and retailers could be expected to display "appropriate levels of product stewardship", and recent trends involving products with natural ingredients or with fewer preservatives still needed to be covered by quality assurance programs - **CLICK HERE** for more.



DISPENSARY CORNER

RECESSION cuts.

The great recession of 2007-2009 may have challenged pharmacy businesses, but budgets weren't the only things that were cut in those circumstances.

A US survey revealed what urologists had anecdotally reported previously, namely that more men than usual sought a vasectomy due to concerns about supporting a big family, *USA Today* has reported.

Prior to the recession the rate of vasectomy was 5.8% while post-recession, 7.5% asked for the procedure based on data on 8,000 men aged 18 and over.

Factoring in age, race, and income, the researchers found a 35% increase in vasectomies after the recession began, said the report.

The data, collected between 2006 and 2010, came from the federally funded National Survey for Family Growth.

HOW can you bear it?

Some pharmacies will do anything for a store promotion.

Ashland Rite Aid Pharmacy in Jackson County, US, found itself the centre of attention briefly when a surprise visitor wearing nothing but her recently acquired fur coat visited the store.

The 'drug store' visitor was a 13 pound (almost 6 kg) bear cub, the *Mail Tribune* reported.

She found herself quickly apprehended by store staff who used an upturned shopping cart to trap her, the publication reported.

Having interacted with humans, it was not considered safe to return it to the wild, so the cub was checked by vets and would end up in an animal shelter, it said.

WIN A Natural footcare PACK

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and **Plunketts** are giving five readers the chance to win a NS-8 Natural Footcare pack.

Give your feet some love! Spring is here and it's time to make sure your feet are ready - soft, smooth and odour-free. NS-8 Natural Footcare formulations are based on carefully selected naturally active ingredients to deliver superior results. NS-8 Heel Balm is not greasy, so you don't need socks, and natural exfoliants gradually remove dry, thickened skin, so you don't need foot files. NS-8 Foot & Leg Moisturiser refreshes and moisturises hot, tired legs, softening and smoothing dry skin. NS-8 Foot and Shoe Deodoriser is a non-aerosol spray that kills odour causing bacteria on shoes and feet, and is Australian owned and made. Visit: www.NS8.com.au



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

What vitamins does NS-8 Foot and Leg Moisturiser contain?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner,
Deborah Caldera from **Jardine's Chemmart Pharmacy**.