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Legal issue update

ZOE Bojanac, outgoing Australian lawyer member on the Pharmacy Council of NSW, is one of the presenters at the upcoming Pharmacy Ski Conference taking place in Utah, USA over the upcoming Christmas period.

Topics will include the role and function of the AHPRA and HCCC, Section 150 hearings, NCAT and Appeals, professional misconduct and ownership issues including pop up kiosks and online selling.

See www.cpdconferencing.com.au.

PotY applications open

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia yesterday opened applications for the 2016 Pharmacy of the Year (PotY) Award, which is open to all Guild member community pharmacy businesses.

Once again the competition involves three categories: Excellence in Business Management; Excellence in Community Engagement; and Innovation in Professional Services.

Guild National President, George Tambassis, urged prospective entrants to start thinking about their applications now.

"We're looking for well-managed, high performing, industry-leading pharmacy businesses that are at the top of their game," he said.

Applications involve completing

an online entry form, with the attachment of a maximum of six photographs and additional material.

Entries close on Wed 14 Oct, with previous Pharmacy of the Year award entrants, including winners, are also invited to take part.

See pharmacyoftheyear.com.au.

Rhinitis webinar

EXCELLENCE in Allergic Rhinitis seminar and webinar returns in September, addressing an issue that affects one in five Australians, says the Pharmacy Guild of Australia in *Forefront*.

The Guild Academy is hosting the program which will cover the pathophysiology and epidemiology of allergic rhinitis, positives and negatives of treatment options, lifestyle issues, long term management and more.

CLICK HERE to register.

TGA running IGDRP

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has confirmed that it is acting as an Interim Secretariat for the International Generic Drug Regulators Programme (IGDRP).

The IGDRP grew out of the former International Generic Drug Regulators Pilot, a three year program launched in 2012 which was extended for two years at the 7th and final meeting in Singapore last November.

The first IGDRP face to face meeting was held in Pretoria, South Africa in May, where members agreed that Australia's TGA would operate the scheme until Dec 2016.

The meeting launched the IGDRP website to facilitate communication, with the site currently hosted by the TGA.

See www.igdrp.com.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page reminding pharmacies to order their **API Calendars**.

72 hour CSO change

THE Customer Service Obligation delivery period to pharmacies from wholesalers has increased from 24 hours to 73 hours, with the Pharmacy Guild confirming that it has informed its members about the change which is enshrined in a new deed between the government and wholesalers.

The Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement capped the value of the CSO at \$195.22 million for each financial year of the agreement, with no indexation.

The 6CPA stated that the govt intends to undertake a formal process to appoint CSO distributors in the next 12 months, while there will also be a formal competitive process undertaken to appoint a CSO administrator.

CSO distributors "may not impose new or additional fees for the supply of section 85 medicines under the CSO arrangements," the document states.

Apparently wholesalers are still complying with the previous 24 hour delivery standards but the Guild is understood to be concerned about the longer delivery period.

Medicine statistics

THE Australian Statistics on Medicines for 2012, 2013 and 2014 are now available, representing estimates of the aggregate community use of prescription medicines in Australia.

Produced by the Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee, the figures can be downloaded from www.pbs.gov.au.



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ENTRIES CLOSE 14 OCTOBER 2015

Roche acquisition

ROCHE Holdings has announced the acquisition of US-based Kapa Biosystems, a Massachusetts company which provides "genomic tools in the life sciences sector"

Kapa owns protein engineering technology which can optimise enzymes for "next generation sequencing," with Roche saying the deal builds on its commitment to provide customers with a complete genetic testing solution.

Ladies love-drug tick

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Addyi (flibanserin) from Sprout Pharmaceuticals to treat acquired, generalised hypoactive sexual desire disorder (HSDD) in premenopausal women.

This is the first such therapy available for women, in contrast to the multiple options available for men with erectile dysfunction.

For more details, **CLICK HERE**.

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Pharmacy DAILY

Thursday 20 Aug 2015

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Book one tour with **Back-Roads Touring** and get a 50% discount off a second, for trips departing Oct to Dec 2015.

Experience a traditional Scottish New Year's on the four-day Edinburgh's Hogmanay tour, or enjoy the picturesque seven-day Bavaria & The Romantic Back-Road tour.

Prices start from \$2,295 per person, twin share before discount. See other options across Britain and Europe at www.backroadstouring.com.au or phone 1300 100 410.

Trackers Mountain Lodge at Falls Creek in Victoria will host its first "Snowga" retreat, combining the wellness benefits of a yoga retreat with skiing or snowboarding during the day.

Great food will be a focus of the holiday which is priced from \$995 per person twin share for five nights - trackers.com.au.

Have an Out-of-Africa experience with **Sanctuary Retreats** at the award-winning Sanctuary Olonana tented safari camp.

Located a 45 minute flight from Nairobi in Kenya, the property offers game drives, cultural visits, scenic flights and balloon rides.

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Walgreens to pay \$500k settlement

AMERICAN pharmacy giant Walgreens has been ordered to pay a US\$502,200 settlement in a consumer protection lawsuit brought in California.

The San Diego County District Attorney alleged the company failed to always provide pharmacist consultations for patients who had been prescribed a new drug or a new dosage - contrary to requirements of the California State Board of Pharmacy, which referred 23 citations issued to Walgreens to the prosecutor.

District attorneys in several jurisdictions began an undercover investigation of major pharmacy chains across the state, and found a "consistent failure to provide consultations" during 28 undercover purchases.

The investigation also saw similar breaches recorded against CVS and Rite Aid in 2013 and 2014, which were also ordered to pay US\$658,000 and US\$498,000.

Corum resignation

LISTED pharmacy software specialist Corum Group yesterday announced the resignation of Michael Cleary A.O. as a non executive director of the company.

He's been on the company's board since January 2012.

"Pharmacist consultations prevent drug errors and ensure that patients have the right prescription for their condition," said District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis.

"Without these checks and balances, dire consequences could result," she added.

As well as the payment, Walgreens has been ordered to fully comply with the regulations and implement an internal compliance program.

A Walgreens spokesman was quoted by NBC as saying "our settlement agreement is consistent with our company's long-standing commitment to make pharmacists available to patients for advice and consultation on their medications and any other health concerns they may have".

F1 price cut fact sheet

THE 2015 PBS Access and Sustainability Package includes a new one-off Statutory Price Reduction of 5%, applicable to drugs on the F1 formulary once they have been PBS listed for at least five years.

A new fact sheet has been released detailing the changes, including flow-on effects to combination products - for details see www.pbs.gov.au.

Aged Care folders

THE Pharmacy Guild is calling on its members to use special new 'My Aged Care' prescription repeat folders which have been produced by the Department of Social Services to assist in raising public awareness of the new www.myagedcare.gov.au website and contact centre.

Each community pharmacy was sent 1,500 of the folders.



DISPENSARY CORNER

LOVE you long time...

An American couple celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary this week.

Leslie and Walter Kimmel, who are both 100 years old, married on August 18th 1940 and now live at the Charlestown Retirement Community in Catonsville, Maryland.

They have two sons, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

AND in another example of healthy ageing - which could potentially have gone horribly wrong - an 80-year-old woman has taken a great leap of faith by bungee jumping off one of Europe's highest bridges.

Penka Baleva from Varna in Bulgaria leapt from the 190-metre high Europe Bridge near the Austrian city of Innsbruck on Sat, and told reporters the feat had fulfilled a lifelong dream.

"It was quite scary but I kept my head together and did it... it was beautiful, with these spectacular natural views all around.

"And I always take pleasure in jumping," she enthused.

She said she had picked the auspicious date of 15 Aug for the jump because it marks the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, which she believed would bring her good luck.

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To win, be the first person from SA or NT to answer the question correctly. Send your answers to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Name the movie released in cinemas on August 20 2015.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Wenity Teng from Wanneroo Discount Drug Store.



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