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Friday's comp winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Louisa Daly-Whittington from the Pharmacy Guild who won a Nutri-Synergy Skincare pack.

This week, **Pharmacy Daily** and Propaira are giving readers the chance to win Propaira sunscreen, starting today with NSW and ACT.

Soliris sales up 44%

ALEXION has reported full year sales of Soliris (eculizumab), the treatment for atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome (**PD** 30 Sep 14), at US\$2.234b for 2014, up 44% from 2013 (US\$1.551b), with steady growth worldwide.

This includes US\$88m for reimbursement of prior year shipments and represents GAAP earnings per share of US\$3.26 versus US\$1.27 for 2013.

For more, [CLICK HERE](#).

MEANWHILE the company has announced the appointment of ceo David Hallal, effective 01 Apr upon the retirement of Leonard Bell, who will continue as chairman.

CPI up 4.4% year on year

THE Consumer Price Index (CPI) for health for the year to December was up 4.4% year on year.

It was down 0.9% on the September quarter, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Overall, all groups CPI rose 0.2% in the December quarter, and was up 1.7% in the year to December, the Bureau said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

NSW Labor to allow phmcy vax

NSW Labor has said if elected, it will allow pharmacist-administered influenza vaccinations to adults, and consider extending it to adult measles and whooping cough.

Opposition leader Luke Foley said trained pharmacists would be allowed to deliver influenza vaccinations for a standard charge to people between the ages of 18 and 65 in the state, with all pharmacists required to undergo a two day training course accredited by NSW Health, including managing anaphylaxis.

The move would improve the health of the community, reduce doctor visits and hospital admissions and improve productivity in the State's economy, Foley said.

The commitment to implement required regulatory changes by June was welcomed by the Pharmacy Guild NSW branch president Paul Sinclair, who said comparable countries had benefited from allowing pharmacists to administer vaccinations, and other states and territories, including most recently

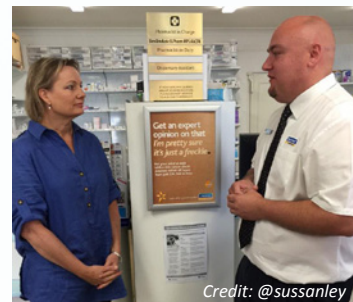
South Australia, had already led the way in allowing this (**PD** 14 Jan).

NSW Health Minister Jillian Skinner re-iterated support in principle for pharmacist-delivered immunisations in December (**PD** 03 Dec 14).

Australian Medical Association NSW president Dr Saxon Smith said on social media that the move would fragment healthcare, and pharmacies were not set up for private history taking or emergencies.

The election is set for 28 Mar.

Health Minister on rural pharmacy



Credit: @sussanley

MINISTER for Health Sussan Ley visited a rural pharmacy in Urana last week, saying it was "rural medicine that's part of a local, informal but very effective care team".

Ley is **pictured** with Urana pharmacist owner Ben Brndusic.

FIP on pharmacy role in resistance battle

ANTIBIOTIC resistance can most effectively be tackled through optimising antibiotic use, with pharmacist stewardship identified as the key, according to a report by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Broomhead to leave Corum Group

PHARMACEUTICAL software company Corum Group Limited has confirmed that Geoffrey Broomhead will no longer be managing director and ceo as of 30 Jan.

The board had appointed David Tonuri as acting md and ceo until 30 Jun, chairman Michael Shehadie said.

Shehadie said the move came as the company looked to change direction and perhaps expand a little.

The board would look for a ceo with more pharmaceutical industry experience, he said, who would start from 30 Jun onwards.

For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

Training tender call

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is seeking tenders for the provision of smart form related services as part of the information technology consultation services sector.

The tenderer will provide specialist services for developing smart forms using the development tools provided by the Department of Industry and host the forms on the Department's platform covering training, mentoring and smart forms development.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

WIN WITH PROPAIRA SPF 50+



This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Propaira** are giving readers the chance to win two lots of Propaira SPF 50+ sunscreen 80mL.

Propaira SPF50+ Sunscreen is designed to protect cancer prone skin from harmful UVB and UVA. The term "SPF (Sun Protection Factor) UVA/UVB Broad Spectrum" used on sunscreen labels represents UVB protection but has less emphasis on UVA protection, the company says. Propaira SPF50+ Sunscreen has very high UVB protection as well as very high UVA protection to further prevent the development of skin cancers, Propaira says.

To win, be the first person from **NSW** or **ACT** to send the correct answer to the following question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What is the skin disease Propaira SPF 50+ sunscreen designed for?

Need a hint? [Click here](#).

Check here tomorrow for the name of today's winner!

blink

PHARMACY BROKERS

NEW LISTING:
Strip Shop Pharmacy for Sale
Rural Victoria

Click here to see more & complete the relevant
"Confidentiality Deed"

Pharmacy Ref. 3015V

Opioid users also sourcing cannabis

ONE in six people using prescribed opioids for chronic pain also use cannabis, according to a new study of 1,514 Australians by researchers from the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre.

The authors reported that 16% of opioid users had ever used cannabis while 23% said they would if it were available.

Chief Investigator Professor Louisa Degenhardt said there was currently limited evidence on the efficacy of cannabis for chronic pain management, but the usage was relatively high.

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

NPS Choosing Wisely

NPS MedicineWise is set to launch the Choosing Wisely initiative, which aims to identify tests, treatments and procedures that are commonly used but often provide no or limited benefit to the patient.

Based on a US campaign, the initiative would include collaboration with medical colleges and consumer groups, providing lists of these tests that should be considered or questioned, NPS MedicineWise said.

A full list of participating organisations would be provided ahead of the project's launch in the first half of this year, it said.

Cancer data 'wake up' call

NEW data showing cancer causing "unprecedented" levels of premature mortality should be a wake up call that more needed to be done to prevent cancer, support patients and boost research, Cancer Council Australia has said.

A new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found cancers were the largest contributor to years of life lost in 2010, accounting for 35% of the total, while cardiovascular diseases accounted for a further 23%.

Cancer Council Australia public policy director Paul Grogan said the main reason the data showed more people dying from cancers was that the population was living longer, with more people getting cancer in older age, partly reflecting positive improvements in the management of other diseases.

"Australia does comparatively well in cancer outcomes, but there is still plenty more we can do to prevent and treat cancer, and to care for people with cancer and their families."

A third of cancer deaths in Australia were caused by modifiable risk factors such as smoking, and poor diet, physical inactivity and obesity, he said, with cancer care outcomes for patients varying depending on socioeconomic status, ethnicity, location and other factors.

CLICK HERE to read more.

Diabetic eye resource

MACULAR Disease Foundation Australia (MDFA) has produced an information booklet on diabetic eye disease to support healthcare professionals counselling patients or their carers.

MDFA ceo Julie Heraghty said all health practitioners could play an important role in increasing awareness about diabetic eye disease.

CLICK HERE for the resource.



DISPENSARY CORNER

INSULIN overdose weapon.

Be afraid, be very very afraid of any insulin-needle-wielding cone snails invading your pharmacy.

Researchers from the Monash Institute for Pharmaceutical Science at Monash University have discovered that the world's most venomous cone snail produces a sophisticated cocktail of rapidly acting toxins to target the nervous systems of fish.

The mixture also contains a unique form of insulin which overdoses the fish into an hypoglycaemic coma, allowing time for the snail to rush in (comparatively) on its prey.

Scientists believe further research on this form of insulin may prove useful to learn more about insulin metabolism in the human body.

Keep that snail gun loaded in preparation, just in case, and read more by **CLICKING HERE**.

LOVE'S sting.

If your pharmacy gets into the swing of various festivals, and you're considering various Valentine's Day decorations or promotions, consider the San Francisco Zoo's approach of offering spurned lovers the chance to adopt a giant scorpion or hissing cockroach, and name it after their ex.

The Zoo is offering up the 'Giant Hairy Scorpion' for adoption, with the tag line "Much like your low-life ex, they are usually found in and around low-elevation valleys where they dig elaborate burrows.

"Also just like you-know-who, when a suitable victim wanders by, the scorpion grabs the doomed creature with its pinchers and stings the prey."

The US\$25 donation is used to support the creatures.

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR APPOINTMENT OF TWO PHARMACIST MEMBERS TO THE VICTORIAN PHARMACY AUTHORITY

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ARE SOUGHT FOR THE POSITION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE VICTORIAN PHARMACY AUTHORITY

The Victorian Minister for Health, the Hon Jill Hennessy MP, is pleased to invite applications for appointment to two pharmacist member positions on the Victorian Pharmacy Authority (the Authority).

Members of the Authority are responsible for governance of the Authority in accordance with the Pharmacy Regulation Act 2010.

Pharmacist members must be a registered pharmacist under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009. Applicants who are registered pharmacists are also invited to express interest in their application for the position of Chairperson of the Authority.

These are paid, part-time Victorian Governor in Council appointments. The terms of the appointments are for up to three years, commencing on 1 October 2015. Preference will be given to those applicants whose principal place of practice is in Victoria.

Further information including guidelines for applicants, application forms and terms and conditions of appointment are available from:

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pracreg/pharmacy-regulation#appointments>

Applications close at 5.00pm on Friday 20 February 2015. Short listing and interviews are tentatively scheduled between late February 2015 to early March 2015.

Please submit a completed application addressing the key selection criteria, along with a covering letter and a signed and dated personal resume to:

Ms Anita Madden, Senior Policy Advisor
Health Workforce Regulation Unit
Department of Health & Human Services
GPO Box 4541, MELBOURNE 3001
Ph: 03 9096 3270

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