

### Competition winner

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Catherine Riley** from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, who won a Propaira for acne prone skin pack on Friday.

This week, **PD** and Propaira are giving readers a chance to win, starting today with ACT and NSW.

### Call for public release of TPPA

A GROUP of 27 health practitioners from Australia, New Zealand and five other Pacific-Rim countries involved in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) has called for the public release of the full draft TPPA text.

Signatories, which included Public Health Association of Australia ceo Michael Moore, said there were "serious concerns" about the health effects of the TPPA, including expansion of IP rights that would prolong monopolies on pharmaceuticals and reduce access to generic medicines.

The correspondence, published in the *Lancet* on Friday, said one worry was investor state dispute settlement provisions, which would allow investors to sue governments if policy changes substantially affected the value of their investment, and that only USA-based industry advisers had access to negotiation documents.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

### Hospira posts US\$35.8m net income

**HOSPIRA** confirmed net income for its fourth quarter 2014 of US\$35.8m (A\$46.0m), up 6.9% year on year.

Net sales for the fourth quarter increased 6.2% on the back of strong US injectables sales, the company said.

Hospira ceo F. Michael Ball said the company's "solid" fourth quarter results contributed to a year of "excellent growth".

The company recently announced its acquisition by Pfizer for about US\$17b (**PD** 06 Feb).

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full results.

## Medicinal cannabis regulator

**THE** Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee will look into a bill before Senate to establish a Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis.

The Regulator would be responsible for creating rules, and monitoring compliance, for licensing the production, manufacture, supply, use, import and export of medicinal cannabis, the bill proposed.

It would create a national system to regulate the cultivation, production and use of medicinal cannabis products, and was introduced in November last year by Senator for Victoria Richard Di Natale on behalf of several senators.

Di Natale said there was evidence from international trials and in peer reviewed journals supporting the use of medicinal cannabis "under strict regulations".

While the Regulator would approve medicinal cannabis products for inclusion on "a register", this regulation would be separate from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), Di Natale said.

This would not prevent pharmaceutical companies from applying to the TGA instead.

A spokesperson for the senator told **PD** this was because it was very expensive to go through the TGA for a drug which companies could not patent.

The TGA also did not regulate

where product was grown, and like opium poppies, the Regulator could control this, the spokesperson said.

Medicinal cannabis dispensation "could well be" through pharmacies, but this was something the Regulator would determine, the spokesperson said.

Di Natale emphasised control when it came to medicinal cannabis use, production and supply, including that criminal sanctions for misuse would still apply.

Membership of the Regulator would include people with expertise in pharmacology, horticulture, medicine and law.

The proposed bill follows moves by various states and territories to trial medicinal cannabis.

A report from the Committee is due on 21 Apr.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

### Paediatric seminar

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia will hold a seminar on paediatric pharmacy in Adelaide next month.

The seminar will touch on topics such as common seizure disorders in children and other neonatology subjects.

To be held from 28 to 29 Mar, the seminar is CPD-accredited.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

### PSA Tas new president

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Tasmanian branch has a new president in Rachel Dienaar.

Dienaar replaces Dr Shane Jackson, who had served on the branch committee for more than 15 years, the PSA said.

Dienaar was awarded the PSA Tasmanian branch Pharmacist of the Year award in 2013, and was currently the NITP senior clinical tutor, the PSA said.

### Hydroxyzine PI change recommended

**THE** Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee has recommended a range of measures to minimise known heart risks of hydroxyzine-containing medicines, following a review which found hydroxyzine was associated with a small but definite risk of QT prolongation and torsade de pointes, or alterations in the electrical activity of the heart.

The Committee recommended measures to minimise these risks, including a change to Product Information (PI) and using the medicine at the lowest effective dose for as short a time as possible, and not by the elderly.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

### WIN WITH PROPAIRA FOR ECZEMA



This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Propaira** are giving readers the chance to win a prize pack to the value of \$49.90 containing one Propaira Ultra Calming Lotion 100mL and Ultra Calming Cleansing Gel 100mL.

Propaira Ultra Calming Lotion and Cleansing Gel have been designed to combat itchiness, dryness, redness, burning, stinging and tingling, and support the integrity of the skin barrier, Propaira says. According to the company, Propaira for Eczema range is suitable for use on the face, body and hands for people of all ages, and is steroids free, with the key ingredients being niacinamide, ceramide, zinc gluconate and colloidal oatmeal.

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

**What is the role of niacinamide in Propaira eczema products?**

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

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

## Liver Detox Time?

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## Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Dr. Freda Barbayannis, CEO at Star Pharmacy.**



### A proactive approach to government reforms

**GOVERNMENT** reforms came suddenly and progressed steadily with huge impacts on the dispensary. For a pharmacy that already had tight measures and was constantly reviewing and controlling KPIs, tightening these further was not really an option without affecting the overall performance. However, we knew that we had to combat reforms in some way. Our focus turned to the most important person in community pharmacy, the customer. We re-merchandised relevant to consumer demand, increased stock intensity and marketed accordingly. We formed close alliances with suppliers so that we could buy and offer pricing that was acceptable to the market place. Most importantly we placed our pharmacists out of the dispensary and on the floor where they can provide "better health solutions".

These pharmacists are free from the dispensary and available to conduct all government paid clinical services, they are further trained in complementary medicines for relevant companion selling and specialise in some other sector such as wound management.

Such changes have allowed us to better engage with the customers resulting in increased customer satisfaction and our ability to off-set the loss on revenue due to government reforms. Our strategy to combat the upcoming April 2015 reforms is on track with the implementation of a new weight loss program and expanding into compounding. Have you got your plan before the next cut in April?

## 6CPA discussions start

**THE** first in a series of discussions about the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA) was held last week, with Minister for Health Sussan Ley saying it had been a "positive and constructive start".

Pharmacists, consumers, doctors and medicines manufacturers had the opportunity to give their views about the next agreement.

Ley said she wanted to hear from "a range of sources" about the best ways patients could continue to access affordable medicines in a timely manner.

She said the government recognised the important role community pharmacists played in supporting the health system, but that purchasing and subsidising medicines was an "expensive

exercise for everyone in the supply chain.

"For example, \$1.5b worth of new medicines were recommended for listing on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in November.

"And just like our Medicare consultations, we want to ensure all relevant voices are heard ahead of the next Community Pharmacy Agreement as well."

The Fifth Agreement saw \$15.7b in funding over five years for the dispensing of subsidised Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medicines and for professional pharmacy programs.

The Pharmacy Guild has recently said it put a "comprehensive proposal" for the 6CPA to the Minister (*PD* 12 Feb) and that while it was committed to working constructively with government, it would not agree to anything that was not in its members' best interests.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

### Research should be in Code

**A SUBMISSION** to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) regarding Medicines Australia's 18th Code of Conduct has said payments for pharmaceutical research should be included in the reporting requirements.

WA Centre for Mental Health Policy Research medical director Dr Geoff Smith said payments for clinical trials "substantially outweigh" other payments and funded activity that formed the basis of evidence-based medicine.

"There is now indisputable evidence that pharmaceutical funding for research biases the outcomes and that this, in turn, distorts the evidence base."

Including payments for research in reporting requirements would provide an opportunity for other healthcare professionals to better understand and judge the evidence base that underpinned their practice.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

### NOMAD study protocol

**THE** protocol for the long awaited National Opioid Medications Abuse Deterrence (NOMAD) study has been released.

Run by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, the study looks into whether there was a reduction in extra-medical use, including via tampering, of OxyContin following the introduction of reformulated OxyContin (*PD* 29 Jan).

The authors said it was one of the "most comprehensive and transparently conducted" studies to date of the potential impact of an opioid medication upon use, tampering and diversion.

"Results have the potential to inform policy makers, clinicians, consumers and researchers alike."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the protocol in full.

## DISPENSARY CORNER



**THE** prehistoric history of drugs may have been confirmed by a German paleontologist, who claims to have uncovered new evidence that dinosaurs enjoyed some recreational hallucinogens.

Joerg Wunderlich discovered an amber fossil in Burma, which contains some 100m year old grass, topped with a form of the ergot fungus, the basis of LSD.

The sample was investigated by US researcher George Poinar, who identified the narcotic components of the ancient fossil, titled *Palaeoclaviceps parasiticus*.

He said it was difficult to determine how LSD would affect a dinosaur, but the ergot fungus definitely affects lizards and birds today.

**SHOPLIFTERS** come in all shapes and sizes - as evidenced by an incident in the US state of Georgia in which an 82 year old woman was arrested for stealing perfume.

You'd have to wonder what was going through the mind of Anneliese Young, when the octogenarian was allegedly spotted trying to steal a bottle of the 'Sexiest Fantasies' fragrance from her local pharmacy.

A pharmacy assistant saw the elderly woman slip the US\$10 bottle into her handbag and then walk out without paying.

When challenged outside the shop she reportedly admitted the theft and returned the item - but was arrested after the pharmacy manager called the police and told them he wanted to formally press charges.

According to the manufacturer the stolen scent is "as addictive and seductive as the woman who wears it," promising to provide a "burst of sensuality".

The body spray also promises to "drive any man wild".

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