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Arise, Sir Simon

SIMON Campbell, the UK scientist who developed sildenafil for Pfizer, has received a knighthood in the 2015 New Year's Honours.

Campbell was also responsible for the development of amlodipine and doxazosin, both for hypertension.

Guild Update

National President of the Pharmacy Guild to visit remote communities in Australian outback

THE National President of the Pharmacy Guild, George Tambassis, will spend this week in some of the most remote communities in Australia, observing the special conditions and challenges faced in delivering medicines to Aboriginal people.

George will be hosted by experienced bush pharmacist Andrew Robbo Roberts, whose base is at the community of Jameson WA, 924 kilometres west of Alice Springs. Robbo is a veteran of remote medicine supply, and is well known for his 'bitethedust' website and blog. George, a Melbourne pharmacy owner, went to University with Robbo in the 1980s, and is looking forward to seeing at first hand the important work Robbo has committed himself to for many years.

George will be visiting the Ngaanyatjarra Health Service in Alice Springs before driving to Jameson. Robbo's workspace is a very remote area of about 25000sq kms (larger than Victoria) covering 11 communities and 10 clinics for the Ngaanyatjarra Health Service. Over four days, Robbo will brief George on Indigenous Remote Health and the \$100 remote supply scheme.

CW: \$300k for phmcy license

CHEMIST Warehouse (CW) has proposed pharmacy ownership could be restricted to 'fit and proper persons', with a license fee of about \$300,000.

In its submission to the Competition Policy Review panel's draft report, the company said requirements for ownership could include demonstrating "appropriately upstanding" financial, criminal and business conduct histories, with a licence to open a new pharmacy priced to reflect both the value to government of the business and some economic deterrent to those who might be motivated to "clear the market" of small pharmacies, with a figure of \$300,000 suggested.

The submission said there could be continued restrictions on moving pharmacies more than 1 to 2 km, but that any 'fit and proper person' convinced a location could support a new pharmacy would be

Medsafe domperidone review

NZ'S Medsafe and the Medicines Adverse Reactions Committee have concluded that there is a small increased risk of adverse heart effects with use of oral domperidone, an anti-nausea medicine.

The balance of benefits and potential harms remained favourable, however, Medsafe said.

CLICK HERE to read the full review.

PBAC has vision

THE Macular Disease Foundation Australia (MDFA) has welcomed the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee's (PBAC) positive recommendation to list injectable aflibercept (Eylea) for the treatment of diabetic macular edema.

entitled to risk capital establishing the business "where ever they wanted".

The Guild's submission said its own analysis had shown the assertions that the location and ownership rules restricted competition and limited consumer choice were "deeply flawed" (PD 08 Dec).

CLICK HERE to view CW's submission.

Nutrition Warehouse undertaking

NUTRITION Warehouse Pty Limited has given an undertaking to the Secretary of the Department of Health to engage a qualified compliance professional to advise and assist with the implementation of regulatory procedures to ensure it does not commit any future breaches of the Therapeutic Goods Act.

The undertaking follows Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) investigations into the company's importation of goods, including Cellucor L2 Extreme, not in 2013, included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods in the name of Nutrition Warehouse as sponsor, the TGA said.

The company also said it would establish a therapeutic goods compliance program.

It had stopped importation of the contravening goods since becoming aware of the investigation, the TGA said.

CLICK HERE to read more.

Pharmacy clinics

DISCOUNT Drug Stores has said it completed 8,590 testing services, along with provision of awareness and preventive health advice, in 2014.

The chain's 2015 program would start with its Sun Awareness clinic in more than 115 stores, it said.



DISPENSARY CORNER

NOW that's automatic dispensing.

Robotic dispensing devices are now commonplace in pharmacy, but not quite like this as yet.

A crowd funding project by Santa Monica based company RoboDynamics will produce the first human-sized robot designed for everyday personal use, *Orange News* has reported.

The five foot tall (152 cm) robot, which looks like an overgrown electric toothbrush, could walk the dog, serve drinks and be reprogrammed via apps to perform an endless variety of tasks, the publication reported.

First shipments of the robot, named Luna, are planned for the end of this year.

WHAT'S the deal with psychiatry?

What do you think you'd be dispensing for the Seinfeld characters?

We ask, because a psychiatry professor in New Jersey is using the TV show to demonstrate psychiatric disorders to medical students at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, *NJ.com* has reported.

Apparently, third and fourth year medical students have to watch two episodes a week and then discuss the psychopathology demonstrated, with the professor, Dr Anthony Tobia, saying Jerry had obsessive compulsive traits, Kramer had schizoid tendencies, Elaine was incapable of forging meaningful relationships and George was egocentric, *Yahoo! News* reported.

The professor is calling the exercise 'Psy-feld' and for those with a Seinfeld bent, *TIME.com* helpfully provided some medically-themed clips from YouTube - just what's the deal with psychiatry anyway?

CLICK HERE to view.

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