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Annual National Conference



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia



# APP2015

12-15 March



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## King Island temp phmcy

**TEMPORARY** pharmacy facilities are being made available at the King Island District Hospital and Health Centre, Tasmanian Deputy Premier Jeremy Rockliff has said, following a fire which destroyed the island's only pharmacy (**PD** 27 Jan). A man has appeared in court over the fire, charged with burglary, stealing and arson, *ABC News* reported.

The damage caused by the fire was estimated at more than \$1m with the building expected to be demolished, the publication reported.

Sigma said its Launceston distribution centre supervisor John Brophy found the quickest way to despatch essential medicines, processed and picked the order, and delivered it to the airport.

Pharmacy co-owner Divesh Sanghvi said the team was to be congratulated for acting quickly.

## EMA: suspend GVK meds

**THE** European Medicines Agency (EMA) has recommended that a number of medicines for which authorisation was based on clinical studies at GVK Biosciences in Hyderabad, India, be suspended.

This was based on findings from an inspection that raised concerns about how GVK conducted studies at the site, the EMA said.

The inspection was carried out by the French medicines agency and found data manipulation of ECGs during some studies of generic medicines, over a period of at least five years, the Agency said.

"Their systematic nature, the extended period of time during which they took place and the number of members of staff involved cast doubt on the integrity of the way trials were performed at the site generally and on the reliability of data generated at that site."

The EMA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use looked at more than 1,000 pharmaceutical forms and strengths of medicines studied at the site, with more than 300 having sufficient supporting data from other sources, which would remain on the market.

For medicines which lacked data from other studies, the Committee recommended suspension unless these were of critical importance and alternatives would not meet patient needs, the EMA said.

Companies had 12 months to submit additional data for medicines considered critical.

"There is no evidence of harm or lack of effectiveness linked to the conduct of studies by GVK Biosciences."

A Therapeutic Goods Administration spokeswoman said the organisation was now considering the implications of the findings and recommendations and would take action if indicated.

The spokeswoman did not respond to queries as to whether any of the products were available in Australia.

However Sanofi confirmed none of its medicines listed were available here.

In a statement on its website, GVK said it was "respectful" of the decision but that the action was "unprecedented and highly disproportional".

It said the French agency's report had concluded duplication of check-out ECGs in nine studies, that those inspected were not essential given the demonstration of bioequivalence, and that observations made should not be extrapolated to other trial-related activities at the same site which were not directly affected by them.

The list of medicines is available by **CLICKING HERE**.

## TGA tablet warnings

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has said Power 1 and Top Gun for Men tablets pose a serious risk to consumers' health - **CLICK HERE**.

## Win a six month supply of nappies

**MATER** Mothers' Hospitals is offering pharmacy customers the chance to win a six month supply of Mater Nappies. See **page four** for more details.

## 80% see pharmacist instead of GP

**ACCORDING** to research conducted by BBS Communications on behalf of the Pharmacy Guild, 80% of participants had sought health advice from a pharmacist instead of a GP.

Conducted in March and April last year, four focus groups with about 25 people each were used, a Guild spokesperson said, giving about 100 people in total.

Accessibility was cited as a main reason for this, the research found.

## Global med orgs link

**INTERNATIONAL** medicine provider organisations the International Hospital Federation and the International Generic Pharmaceutical Alliance have said they endorsed efforts by patient representation organisations, healthcare professionals and R&D pharma to adhere to common ethical principles upon the anniversary of the Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration.

Countries currently planning joint national ethical health practices inspired by the Framework include Canada, China and the United Kingdom.

Signatories of the Consensus Framework include the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations and the International Pharmaceutical Federation.

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

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## Otsuka in Australia

**OTSUKA** Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd has opened its first office in Sydney, with the aim of establishing a presence in Australia and bringing new medicines for central nervous system disorders to patients.

A subsidiary of Otsuka Holdings Co. Ltd, the company said it intended a "long term commitment" in Australia, with the drug market estimated at \$13b in 2012.

## NZ Guild supports OTC diclofenac

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand has said it supports the continued sale of non-prescription diclofenac from community pharmacy despite classification changes in Europe and UK and being under review in Australia (**PD** 15 and 16 Jan).

Ceo Lee Hohaia said the organisation felt confident that patients were safe when purchasing the medicine because the sale was overseen by a highly trained health professional.

## PSA: support repeat dispense

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has said it supports pharmacists' role in the continued dispensing of medicines for the maintenance of some chronic and stable conditions.

Pharmacy Guild executive director David Quilty said last week that patients with long term, stable conditions like diabetes should be able to be issued extended repeat prescriptions by their pharmacies, and Grattan Institute health program director Stephen Duckett wrote that pharmacists could work with GPs to issue repeat prescriptions to reduce visits to GPs (**PD** 23 Jan).

PSA national president Grant Kardachi said the organisation had "long advocated" for an increased role for pharmacists in professional services and for their skills to be fully utilised.

"This enhanced role would lead to more efficiency in the health system.

"Further, this would help ease the

burden on GPs of patients visiting just to get a repeat script when examination and consultation may not be required.

"This would allow more time for GPs to manage more complex patients."

However, the PSA stressed that any change in the person's condition should result in an immediate referral back to the GP, Kardachi said.

Australian Medical Association (AMA) president Associate Professor Brian Owler has said while the organisation is working with the PSA on models for pharmacists to work within general practice to help patients with complex medication management, the AMA did not support pharmacists providing primary care in the pharmacy, as this fragmented care and moved away from a team based approach with a GP at the centre.

## Professionals earn \$1,207.10 on average

**PROFESSIONALS** paid by award only had estimated average weekly total cash earnings of \$1,207.10 as of May 2014.

This compared with managers, who earned \$1,398, and technicians and trades workers, who earned \$743.90, the Australian Bureau of Statistics said.

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

## FDA ticks generic esomeprazole, apps

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first generic version of esomeprazole.

Ivax Pharmaceuticals, a subsidiary of Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, will market the product in 20 and 40 mg capsules.

Medis Pharma and Alphapharm market generic esomeprazole in Australia.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

The FDA has also approved Novartis' Bexsero vaccine for the prevention of meningitis B.

The FDA used the accelerated approval regulatory pathway to approve Bexsero.

The vaccine was on sale through private prescription in Australia in March last year (**PD** 07 Mar 14) but was rejected for listing on the National Immunisation Program schedule for infants and adolescents by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee in November (**PD** 03 Nov 14).

**CLICK HERE** for more.

**MEANWHILE** the FDA has also approved the first set of mobile medical apps that allow people with diabetes to securely share blood glucose data with other people in real time on an iPhone.

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

## 500 million children vaccinated by Gavi

**HALF** a billion children have been given lifesaving vaccines by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in the 15 years since it was founded, the organisation said.

More than seven million deaths had been averted through its programs, it said.

**MEANWHILE** Pfizer has committed to a further 20% reduction in its per-dose price for Prevenar 13, which would see the price drop to \$3.10, to be introduced in 2016 and apply to Gavi eligible and graduated countries through 2025.

This follows Médecins Sans Frontières' call for the company, with GSK, to reduce the cost to US\$5 for three doses (**PD** 21 Jan).

## WIN WITH NUTRI-SYNERGY SKINCARE

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Plunkett Pharmaceuticals** are giving readers the chance to win a great Nutri-Synergy Lips and Hands prize pack, containing NS-5 Hand Cream, NS-5 Cuticle Cream and Nail Complex and NS-3 Lip Balm.



Nutri-Synergy skincare is based on natural formulas that work with the skin. NS does not contain irritants like petro-chemicals, parabens, colours or fragrance. This pack has everything you need to give your hands the treatment they deserve, and make your lips soft and smooth.

To win, be the first person from **QLD** to send the correct answer to the following question about Verona to:

[comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**How long does one application of NS-3 lip balm last?**

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

Congratulations to yesterday's winners Jack Huang from Alphapharm and Cathy Portolesi from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia!

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## Health, Beauty and New Products

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Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)



### DISPENSARY CORNER

**THE** puns are strong in this one.

The National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) Congress is on, and the social media punning is strong.

Under the hashtag #napsacongress, delegates got into the bodily function puns with a vengeance.

The erectile dysfunction education session obviously saw the most action (sorry), the puns for which kind of write themselves, while incontinence came in for its fair share of ribbing with Jamie Pisani (@Jamie\_Pisani) tweeting "Gotta be succinct when talking about incontinence. No time for dribbling."

Others lamented their early 5am start to the Congress, including Michael Phamvu (@Moham2814) who tweeted "Early bird gets the worm."

"Worm probs still sleeping."

Surely against the tenor of student life in general, NAPSA employed a sleep camera to catch napping delegates in the act, with past president Xavier Agostino (@NAPSAPastPres), catching two people snoring, tweeting: "The energy in the back row is contagious."

The Congress, presumably (hopefully) with more pun fun, continues until 30 Jan.

**HOW** about 'Paracetamol'?

It takes all sorts, we suppose, but we're hoping courts would come to a similar decision for any pharmaceutical-inspired baby names, as they did for the name 'Nutella', with a French court banning parents from naming their daughter after the chocolate spread, saying it would lead to teasing, *BBC News* reported.

For other banned names, including Mona Lisa in Portugal, [CLICK HERE](#).

### Keeping abreast of the latest information with AMH Online 2015

**AMH Online** is the Australian Medicines Handbook accessed via the browser. An independent, evidence-based national drug reference, AMH is an important clinical resource for health practitioners concerned with QUM. The content is subject to a rolling review process, so in addition to major changes, there are hundreds of minor revisions. More than 40 drugs are included and, as always, it contains new safety information, new accepted indications and hundreds of other changes including smartphone access.

Stockist: 08 8313 6977

RRP: \$195.00

Website: [www.amh.net.au](http://www.amh.net.au)



### PROPAIRA SPF50+ Sunscreen for Cancer Prone Skin

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Stockist: 0421 482 829

RRP: \$24.95

Website: [www.propaira.com](http://www.propaira.com)

### 2-in-1 Beyond Perfecting Foundation + Concealer by Clinique

**Clinique 2-in-1 Beyond Perfecting Foundation + Concealer** is a lightweight, full-coverage foundation that is smooth on skin like a foundation but covers like a concealer. It offers 12-hour wear and is formulated with dual-sphere particles that adapt to different skin conditions. The doe foot applicator allows for easy application, and the formula is allergy-tested and 100% fragrance-free. You can choose from 13 shades.

Stockist: 1800 556 948

RRP: \$50.00

Website: [www.clinique.com.au](http://www.clinique.com.au)



### Ambre Solaire No-Streaks Self-Tanning Mousse

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Stockist: 1300 659 259

RRP: \$13.95

Website: [www.loreal.com.au](http://www.loreal.com.au)

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A – 584118 S – 119881 C – 119881	Mater Baby Wash
A – 584215 S – 119865 C – 119865	Mater Baby Moisturiser
M – MBC005 C – 100206	Mater Nappies – Newborn First Weeks
M – MBC006 C – 100197	Mater Nappies – Newborn
M – MBC007 C – 100198	Mater Nappies – Infant
M – MBC008 C – 100199	Mater Nappies – Crawler
M – MBC009 C – 100200	Mater Nappies – Toddler

A – API, S – Symbion, C – Chemplus, M – direct from Mater