

Today's issue of PD

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

Hepatitis action call

HEPATITIS Australia has issued an urgent call for government action to better support the estimated 500,000 Australians living with viral hepatitis in combating life-threatening liver disease, said Hepatitis Australia ceo Helen Tyrell, speaking on World Hepatitis Day.

Hepatitis B and C are preventable and treatable liver health conditions, she said, urging more testing & improved access to liver check-ups and new therapies.

"One Australian for every 40 people" are affected, she added, but "only a fraction of these people are being monitored or treated."



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NSW debuts cannabis trial

NSW premier Mike Baird yesterday unveiled details of a new trial of medical cannabis which will take place at Newcastle's Calvary Mater Hospital, under the auspices of a newly established Centre for Medicinal Cannabis Research and Innovation.

To be conducted in conjunction with researchers from the University of NSW, the trial will examine the effects of vapourised cannabis leaves for the treatment of symptoms including fatigue, insomnia and loss of appetite.

"We do not want patients or carers having to play pharmacist - that is why it is so important to explore the safest and most effective ways we can deliver compassionate care and improve the quality of life," Baird said.

After initial trials with 30 patients, a second stage will test a pharmaceutical tablet or liquid form of cannabis.

Adult Pompe drug

MINISTER for Health Sussan Ley has approved Genzyme's Myozyme (alglucosidase alfa) for patients over 18 with late-onset Pompe disease through the Life Saving Drugs Programme (LSDP) from 01 Sep.

An enzyme replacement orphan drug, the medication has been listed on the LSDP for children with the infantile-onset form of the disease since 2010 and since Feb 2015 for children aged two to 18.

EMA nods 11 meds

MOSQUIRIX, a new vaccine from GSK for malaria, along with 10 other new medicines, has been approved by the European Medicines Agency in the July meeting of the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use.

Other approvals included Praluent (alirocumab) for cholesterol lowering, Cresamba (isavuconazole) for aspergillosis and mucormycosis, Zerbaxa (ceftolozane/tazobactam) for post-operative pain, Ivabradine Anpharm (ivabradine) plus two generic meds and some recommendations for extensions of indication - **CLICK HERE** for details.

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Allergan sale

TEVA Pharmaceuticals and Allergan overnight confirmed that Teva will buy Allergan's generic drug business (**PD** yesterday), with Teva also formally withdrawing its rival offer for Mylan.

After the acquisition Teva will have a commercial presence in 100 markets, with the company saying it will "help eliminate inefficiencies and duplications in the global generics space".

Teva will acquire Allergan's Actavis operations globally, the firm's generics R&D unit, the international OTC commercial unit and its global manufacturing operations.

Vitamin D stoush

CONTROVERSY has erupted over an article published in the *British Medical Journal* which challenged the benefit of calcium and vitamin D in the treatment of osteoporosis.

The findings have been hotly refuted by Professor Peter Ebeling and Dr Greg Lyubomirsky, the medical director and ceo of Osteoporosis Australia, in a joint statement to *MJA Insight*.

They said their organisation acknowledged the controversy and would not "shy away" from changing recommendations if future evidence warranted this.

The OA representatives argued that the *BMJ* article did not present a balanced view of existing evidence, stating "calcium and vitamin D play a key role in the maintenance of bone health" although this is not the only means of treating osteoporosis.

CLICK HERE for *MJA Insight*.

Blood donor week

ASSISTANT health minister Fiona Nash yesterday launched National Blood Donor Week during a tour of the Melbourne Processing Centre which receives all blood donations from Vic, Tas and SA.

Last year the centre processed more than 525,000 donations, and Nash urged "everyone to join the many generous Australians who roll up their sleeves and donate blood".

RGH Phcy E-Bulletin

THE E-Bulletin this week gives a summary of recent US Food and Drug Administration approvals and changes to advisory statements.

CLICK HERE to access the bulletin.



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Guild Update

PA Conference to help improve staff performance

PHARMACY assistants make up the frontline of pharmacy and not only need to be knowledgeable about a wide range of products and ailments, they also need to provide excellent customer service.

While in-store training can provide some of the valuable product knowledge required, it doesn't include the personal and professional development training that can turn a good pharmacy assistant into a great one.

The Pharmacy Guild's Pharmacy Assistant National Conference gives pharmacy owners and managers an opportunity to invest in their staff development.

This year's conference (held from 15-17 October on the Gold Coast) provides a three streamed program offering something for everyone:

- Product Knowledge Stream which covers product education and enables pharmacy assistants to provide the best advice for their customers;
- Personal & Professional Development Stream which cover topics to enable pharmacy assistants to develop personally and professionally;
- and the Management Master Class which is designed for pharmacy managers and supervisors.

Pharmacies that register two or more staff to attend this year's Pharmacy Assistant Conference will receive a free APP2016 Full Registration Excluding Street Party, valued at \$760.

To register two or more staff or to register an individual staff member, please visit the registration page at www.pharmacyassistants.com.

'Our House' comes to Bourke St



THE Melbourne CBD was the scene of celebration yesterday with the official opening of a new flagship Chemist Warehouse store in Bourke Street Mall (**PD** Fri).

Melbourne Deputy Lord Mayor Susan Riley presided over the event which also included a special performance by the Choir of Hope & Inspiration.

Chemist Warehouse group chief operating officer Mario Tascone said the opening of the new store was a significant milestone for the "Melbourne born, privately owned business".

There are now almost 300 Chemist Warehouse stores across Australia, with the new 450 square metre outlet in Bourke Street

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HPV vax tender

THE Department of Health has issued a request for tender for the supply of human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) for 12-13 year olds.

The department is procuring the vaccine for use in all States and territories under the National HPV Vaccination Program, with the tender closing on 03 Sep.



DISPENSARY CORNER

SELF-LIMITING selfies - again.

While Dispensary Corner reported that life in Russia would become much less risky than previously, after the launch of a new campaign to educate citizens about "Safe Selfies" (**PD** 16 Jul), Yellowstone National Park in the US has had to follow suit.

Visitors to the world's oldest national park have been putting themselves at serious risk of harm by attempting to snap selfies with the none-too-friendly bison, reports *BBC News*.

One 43 year old Mississippi woman was thrown in the air recently when she got too close on her seriously-stupid-selfy mission, and was unable to outrun the beast.

Bison can weigh as much as 900kg and as Miss Mississippi found, are very nimble on the hoof.

PROVING that obesity definitely need not be a permanent condition, a cat in Texas which formerly weighed more than 20kg has slimmed down to just 9.5kg.

Appropriately named "Skinny," the orange tabby cat was adopted in 2013 by Dr Brittney Barton, a veterinarian in Dallas.

Her clinic's "resident cat" managed to slim down with a special diet and plenty of exercise.

She said Skinny is "living proof that while he's a large cat, he's not supposed to be an obese cat".

"offering Melbourne shoppers and tourists alike the opportunity to purchase department store brands at Chemist Warehouse discounted prices," the company said.

Pictured above at the event are, from left: Jo Silvagni, Chemist Warehouse Wellness Ambassador; Chemist Warehouse co-founder Sam Gance; Deputy Lord Mayor Susan Riley; chief operating officer Mario Tascone; Grace Theodoratos who is Chemist Warehouse's regular on-camera presenter on 'The Morning Show'; and co-founder Jack Gance.

Alteplase review tick

AN IN-DEPTH independent expert review of clot-busting drug Alteplase, used in the treatment of acute ischaemic stroke, has provided reassurance that it is safe and effective for use up to 4.5 hours after the onset of symptoms, said the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

The benefits outweigh the risk of using the product as long as it is administered within the time frame the review group stated.

The team was comprised of experts in neurology, cardiology, emergency medicine, statistics and epidemiology, the MHRA said.

FDA ticks Odomzo

A NEW treatment for locally advanced basal cell carcinoma (laBCC) called Odomzo (sonidegib) from Novartis has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

Other drugs passing muster were Daklinza (daclatasvir) for hepatitis C virus (HCV) genotype 3, and Praluent (alirocumab) injection, the first of a new cholesterol-lowering class of drugs known as proprotein convertase subtilisin kexin type 9 (PCSK9) inhibitors.

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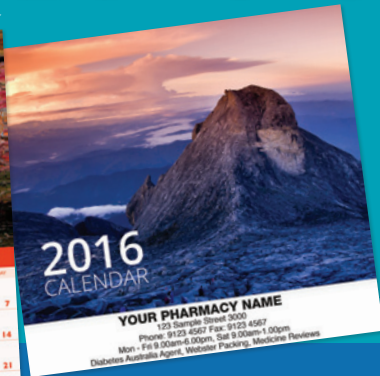
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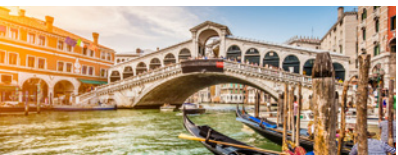
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