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Novogen board roles

SYDNEY-FOUNDED drug researcher Novogen Limited has appointed former Eli Lilly executive Bryce Carmine and banker Ian Phillips to its board.

Both of the new directors are based in the USA, with the appointments part of a deliberate strategy to reflect Novogen's growing North American presence.

Win a Dermal therapy pack

This week, **Pharmacy Daily** and **Nice Pak Products** are giving away a Dermal Therapy prize pack.

Dermal Therapy is a clinically tested, therapeutic skin and foot care range developed for people who suffer from common skin conditions such as dry cracked heels and feet, very dry skin, or skin conditions like Eczema, Psoriasis and Dermatitis. According to Nice Pak, all Dermal Therapy products have been clinically tested for proven visible results.

Each product is formulated with high quality ingredients and has been developed with a concentrated, moisturising emollient base to provide optimum hydration.

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

Fill in the blank: Dermal Therapy Very Dry Skin Cream is clinically proven to increase the skin hydration by ___% in 14 days.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Adrian Sung from Pharmacy Online.



Pharmacist onto PHCAG

QUEENSLAND PSA branch president Bruce Elliot has been named as the only pharmacist member of a new advisory group announced yesterday by health minister Sussan Ley.

The new 15-strong Primary Health Care Advisory Group (PHCAG) comprises experts who will "investigate options to provide better primary care when and where people need it," Ley said.

To be chaired by former AMA president Steve Hambleton, the PHCAG will aim to ensure that advice is developed with a "whole of health system approach".

Pill to stay on script

THE Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling (ACMS) has recommended that oral contraceptives should remain as prescription medications, after considering a proposal that they be down-scheduled.

The move was discussed at the Mar meeting of the ACMS, with the reasons for the scheduling delegate's interim decision following the meeting published on the TGA website yesterday.

Reasons cited include a potential increase in oral contraceptive pill use when "alternative, safer, more effective and more appropriate contraceptive methods are available", inappropriate use of oral contraceptives, and adverse effects associated with chronic use.

The ACMS is seeking further comment on the decision with a closing date of 18 Jun.

It complements another task force which will review the 5,500 services on the Medicare Benefits Schedule to "better align with contemporary clinical evidence".

PSA said the appointment of Elliot to the advisory group follows advocacy urging the inclusion of a pharmacist, with Elliot saying he was delighted at his new role.

"Pharmacists know that there is so much more we can add to the healthcare system, and I will be highlighting this in my work on the group," he said.

Elliott added that the skills and experience of pharmacists "have been greatly under-utilised for too long and we now have the opportunity to begin reversing this.

"The benefits to the community and the efficiencies gained for the entire health system will be great if all clinicians can work to their clinical capacities, rather than complete just what they are funded to do," he added.

Elliott said he would also highlight the importance of eHealth, with PHCAG set to deliver a final report to government by the end of 2015.

Student competition

EBOS has joined Blackmores, Gold Cross and PDL in supporting the Guild's National Student Business Plan competition.

The Guild says the competition has this year attracted the highest number of entries ever, and will now progress through several rounds culminating in the finals at the Pharmacy Business Network in Sep.

New CSIRO capsule

AUSTRALIAN scientists have developed a new "seashell-inspired" capsule which ensures that important proteins stay effective in hostile environments.

The new shell, which has huge potential for the development of new drugs as well as extending the shelf life of vaccines because it preserves active biological ingredients, has been created in a collaboration between the CSIRO, the University of Adelaide and the Australian Synchrotron.

CSIRO lead researcher Dr Kang Liang said the new capsule was made of an extremely porous material called metal organic frameworks (MOFs) which has tiny holes similar to a sea creature's pores and are designed to capture or release specific biomolecules.

CSIRO is now seeking industry partners to develop the technology for use in pharmaceuticals and other applications.

No blood monitoring for NOACS - TGA

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised healthcare professionals and consumers that a recently completed TGA review has found that based on the current information, there is no evidence to support a recommendation for routine blood monitoring to improve the safety of the new oral anticoagulants (NOACs).

The NOACs are apixaban (Eliquis), dabigatran (Pradaxa) and market leader rivaroxaban (Xarelto).

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- **Pharmacist Manager** - Regional South, WA (Job# 2011392)
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- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Great Ocean Road, VIC (Job# 2011128)
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Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

- 10 Jun:** Cardiovascular Update: Blood Pressure; Newcastle; see: www.guild.org.au
- 14 Jun:** PSA Immunisation Training; Rydges, Port Macquarie; see: www.psa.org.au
- 16 Jun:** Professional Services in Pharmacy: C your O2 in action; Wollongong; for details visit: www.guild.org.au
- 19 Jun:** Australian Seminar Series; Adina Apartment Hotel, Sydney; for details visit: www.cpdconferencing.com.au
- 20-21 Jun:** Evidence Based Seminar; Sydney; details at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 24 Jun:** Cardiovascular Update: Dyslipidemia; Newcastle; see: www.guild.org.au
- 5 Jul:** Provide First Aid; Parramatta RSL Club; visit: www.psa.org.au
- 7 Jul:** Cardiovascular Update: Atrial Fibrillation and Anticoagulants; Central Coast; visit: www.guild.org.au
- 6-9 Jul:** Pharmacy Alliance Members' Forum; Honolulu USA; more details at: www.pharmacyalliance.com.au
- 10-12 Jul:** Clinical Pharmacy Practice Seminar (foundation); Mercure Hotel, Sydney; details at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 14 Jul:** Making the most of your aged care services; St Leonards; details at: www.guild.org.au
- 31 Jul-2 Aug:** PSA15; Sofitel Sydney Wentworth; visit: www.psa.org.au/psa15

Pharmacy panel hearings

MAY was a busy month for the Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA), which described the outcomes of three panel hearings in recent weeks in its latest communiqué issued yesterday.

In the first hearing a pharmacist has used a corporate structure for his pharmacy business and issued shares to another corporate entity.

This was contrary to section 5(1)(b)(ii) of the Pharmacy Regulation Act 2010 (the Act), which requires that all the shares are held by registered pharmacists.

The pharmacist was reprimanded and required to provide evidence of changes to the shareholding to show compliance to the Act.

In the second case, the pharmacist was cautioned for failing to comply with the Act in



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relation to good pharmaceutical practice, with the dispensary not being maintained as a private area and privacy of medicines not being maintained.

Staff belongings were stored in the dispensary alongside patient records, and the dispensary area was used by staff for meal breaks.

The third case was similarly a failure of good pharmaceutical practice with relation to Schedule 8 drugs handling and disposal of unwanted medicines.

The proprietor was reprimanded and ordered to submit quarterly audits to the VPA for a period of twelve months.

Victorian Pharmacy Authority registrar Stephen Marty advised that the next edition of the VPA Guidelines will be released within the next week and will become effective from 01 Sep.

In addition, the VPA Strategic Plan has also now been published online at www.pharmacy.vic.gov.au.

Safety advice: Ja Dera

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised healthcare professionals and consumers that Ja Dera 100% Natural Weight Loss Supplement capsules contain sibutramine, the prescription only substance which was withdrawn from world markets in 2010 because of increased risk of cardiac events and stroke.

Supply in Australia is illegal and patients are advised to take any supplies they have to their pharmacy for safe disposal.

Stroke recovery tool

THE National Stroke Foundation has partnered with The Bupa Health Foundation to launch a new online tool called *enableme* for people recovering from stroke.

It aims to give survivors, their families and carers control over their recovery journey - see www.enableme.org.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

APPARENTLY they don't always wash off easily.

Temporary tattoos may sometimes prove to be neither very temporary, nor harmless according to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

While most temporary tattoos are intended to last from a few days to a few weeks at most, some have caused severe skin reactions that can outlast the original tattoo, the FDA warned in a recent update.

Reported problems include redness (gross! **pictured**), blisters, raised red weeping lesions, loss of pigmentation, increased sensitivity to sunlight, and even permanent scarring.



PARAMEDICS in the US nearly dropped dead when a man who was pronounced dead bounced back to life.

The Milwaukee resident began to move as he was about to be taken to the morgue.

The partner of 46-year-old Thomas Sancomb called police in a panic to seek his whereabouts, after she was unable to contact him for two days.

Police attended Sancomb's home, finding he had collapsed and died, according to a report from the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner.

A transport team arrived to take his body to the morgue, but Sancomb had "spontaneous respirations" and began moving.

His pulse returned and he was rushed to Columbia St Mary's Hospital in Milwaukee.

His diagnosis at the hospital was redacted from the report.



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