



APC June insights

HIGHLIGHTS of the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) June *Insights* newsletter includes a section on the 2015 third annual Colloquium in Canberra on 25 Aug (PD 16 Jun).

The event theme will be *The secret ingredient: can we turn up the heat on experiential education?*

The credentialing of advanced practice pharmacists pilot program (PD 13 May) is also summarised with 43 pilot participants having now submitted their practice portfolios to be evaluated by a multidisciplinary panel.

Other inclusions are the May Council Update, changes to the APC constitution, and the appointment of four new directors to the governing Council in May 2015 (PD 12 May).

CLICK HERE for the newsletter.

Senate passes PBS bill

THE Senate yesterday passed unamended the Federal Government's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) reform package which also allows for the implementation of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA) from 01 Jul.

Health Minister Sussan Ley says the Package will deliver cheaper medicines into the future and a doubling of investment in patient primary care and support programmes.

The plan means that over 2000 brands of common medicines slashed in price, some by as much as half, from Oct 2016, at the same time saving taxpayers \$2b over the next five years, she said.

"With spending on the PBS expected to reach \$50b over the next five years, and another \$2.5b worth of new listing recommendations in the pipeline, it was essential the Government moved to ensure PBS spending remained sustainable and new drugs could be funded," Ley said.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia said it welcomed the passage of the bill which provides certainty for Australia's community pharmacies, their patients, and staff as well as reconfirming the location rules which provide an equitable distribution of pharmacy services across the country (PD yesterday).

The Guild said the Package establishes pharmacy funding, medicines pricing arrangements

and a range of sector measures to ensure ongoing access to innovative and generic medicines through a sustainable PBS.

The Bill drew on consultations with a wide range of stakeholders from pharmacy, the pharmaceutical industry and consumer groups, the Guild said.

National president George Tambassis said the 6CPA will deliver considerable benefits for Australian health care consumers.

"Fundamentally, the Agreement underpins the viability and ongoing delivery of medicines and services by the 5,450 community pharmacies across Australia.

"Australians value and trust their local pharmacy, and this Agreement is vital to sustain those pharmacies and the services they provide," Tambassis said.

The Federal Government has also said that while it had consulted fully with pharmaceutical peak body Medicines Australia, the organisation had been unable to support measures around F1 (patent-protected products) pricing and the Government followed the independent advice of the expert Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

CPD conferencing

PHARMACISTS interested in attending the upcoming Borneo or Park City CPD Conferencing events are urged to register before the end of the financial year.

Both conferences take place in the Australian school holidays, with the Sep event in Borneo to also include opportunities to see the local orangutans, while attendees in Park City/Canyons, Utah in Jan will also be able to experience the region's winter snow.

For full details go to www.cpdconferencing.com.au or contact Ben or Lorraine on 02 9233 6466.

Four types of pain

GUILD Script has called upon pharmacists to start a conversation with customers about the four different types of pain.

The Guild has collaborated with Pain Australia, Palliative Care and the Australian Physiotherapy Association to create new resources for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants.

The materials distinguish between acute, sub-acute, recurrent and chronic pain.

CLICK HERE for more details and to access the new resources.



– can we turn up the heat on experiential education?

- Free registration for students and interns
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2015 Colloquium

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Hosp spend over \$55b

RECURRENT hospital expenditure in Australia, for public and private hospitals combined, topped \$55b in 2013–14, according to a report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

More than \$44 billion was spent by public hospitals, and over \$11b by private hospitals, the report said.

In the period, 1,359 hospitals in Australia—747 public hospitals, accounted for 65% of hospital beds (58,600), and 612 private hospitals accounted for 35% of beds (31,000).

CLICK HERE for the report.

\$1.2m to up life-expectancy

CLOSING the life-expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is now one-step closer thanks to a \$1.2 million donation.

MSD in Australia, a subsidiary of Merck & Co. donated \$600,000

(pictured) to not-for-profit organisation

One Disease, while the amount is being matched dollar-for-dollar by an unnamed benefactor.

One Disease aims to eliminate preventable disease, one at a time from remote Indigenous communities.

First priority to deal with is

scabies, a preventable disease that contributes to premature death in remote Indigenous communities.

Scabies currently affects 70% of



Indigenous children in remote communities at least once before their first birthday, One Disease said.

One Disease

founder and chairman, Dr Sam Prince said "These funds will bring us one step closer to our goal to empower Indigenous Australians to self-manage scabies, reduce the disease burden and ultimately, eliminate the severe form of the disease by 2030."

AMH Aged Care Companion:

for health professionals working with older people, the online version includes information on deprescribing.



Patch a broken heart

NEW research has demonstrated the use of stem cell exosomes delivered by an engineered fibrin patch to repair cardiac tissue that had suffered a serious cardiac event, namely a heart attack, according to cardiovascular research journal, *Circulation Research* and discussed in *Temple Health*.

Lead researcher Raj Kishore said "Our work shows that the best way to regenerate the heart is to augment the self-repair capabilities and increase the heart's own capacity to heal" thus avoiding surgery and risks associated with teratoma formation and other potential complications of using full stem cells.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

US pharmacist admits to stealing oxycodone

BETH Israel Medical Center's former pharmacy director pleaded guilty to four counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance, reports US publication *Drug Topics*.

Anthony D'Alessandro, 48, had been the pharmacy director for 14 years and confessed to stealing nearly 200,000 oxycodone tablets with an estimated street value of US\$5.6m, the report said.

Apparently the New York hospital had been tipped off by an anonymous letter which led to an internal audit.

Greater pharmacy role

AN ENHANCED role for pharmacies with increased personal responsibility for self care are the key messages to come from a report from the Global Access Partners (GAP) Taskforce on Self Care, Towards Responsible Self Care: *The Role of Health Literacy, Pharmacy and Non-Prescription Medicines*.

Several recommendations are proposed in the document for government, citizens, health professionals, industry and private health insurers to increase uptake of self care.

GAP Taskforce on self care chair Alex Gosman said the report emphasises the importance of health literacy and the role pharmacies and non-prescription medicines can play in supporting responsible self care and reducing government expenditure.

"As well as enabling a more efficient health system and improved health outcomes, these factors are consistent with a growing desire by health consumers to become more involved in their own health care, particularly with the advent of new communications technologies," Gosman said.

"A key recommendation is that pharmacies play a greater role in delivering primary health care.

"Health care professionals should be offered incentives to encourage and support self care,

as its success relies on partnership, communication and cooperation with patients and the wider community."

Gossman also highlighted the need for increased community investment in health literacy and preventative health to control overall expenditure, adding that private health insurance could expand into payments for better integrated primary care to encourage and promote its development.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed the launch of the report saying it is a significant and timely report reaffirming the role of community pharmacies and the potential for that role to be enhanced to the benefit of patients, in keeping with a strong international trend in comparable countries.

The Guild said the opportunity exists for pharmacies to become health and wellness hubs, working collaboratively across the wider health system.

"As the most accessible health professionals, pharmacists are well placed to enable patients to take greater personal responsibility for their health."

Guild national president, George Tambassis said: "We can make better use of the resource that is the community pharmacy network" adding that pharmacies must continue to evolve to take on this enhanced role as part of the self care team.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the GAP report.

Mini-Med recall

MEDTRONIC Australasia, in consultation with the TGA, has initiated a recall for product correction for MiniMed Sure-T infusion sets with an expiry date on or before Apr 2019.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

NZ Zero Fees scheme

NEW Zealand's Zero Fees doctor visit scheme is being extended to all children under the age of 13 from July in South Canterbury, *stuff.co.nz* reports.

While the original scheme only covered six year-olds and younger, the extended scheme makes the Zero Fees scheme available for 13 year-olds and younger both for day and after-hours visits, nor will they need to pay the standard \$5.00 pharmacy charge for each prescription.

GPs can choose to opt in to the scheme and receive an additional government subsidy, said the report.

South Canterbury chief primary care medical officer Dr Bruce Small said he believed all GPs in the area are opting to participate.

The benefits of ensuring children received good health care in the early years of life often transferred to good health in adult life, said Small.

"Particularly so with some of the more chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes and the ever-increasing problem of obesity.

"If access to primary care is easier then it is possible to tackle these issues and work more in a preventive fashion."

WIN WITH AROMABABY

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and *Aromababy* are giving away a gift pack each day, including Bath Gel, Pure Hair Cleanse, Nappy Cream and natural healer Barrier Balm, valued at \$50.

Celebrating 20 years, Aromababy is Australia's first natural and organic baby skincare brand to use research as a guide in providing effective and safe formulations. Used in select hospitals and suitable for eczema and sensitive skin, Aromababy is well known as an affordable, pharmacy-focused alternative to mass produced baby care.

To win be the first from **WA** to send the correct answer to the following question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

How many years has Aromababy been in business?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Melanie Sharpe from Sanofi!



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Aromatic Body Oil by Trilogy

This delicate, aromatic blend of 100 per cent pure, preservative-free plant oils (rice bran, avocado, rosehip, almond and calendula and vitamin E) is lightweight and absorbs quickly, providing the skin with an instant boost of vitamins, antioxidants and essential fatty acids to encourage collagen production and cellular renewal. **Aromatic Body Oil** also helps protect against skin-ageing environmental factors, Trilogy says.

Stockist: 1800 651 146

RRP: \$32.95 for 100 mL

Website: www.trilogyproducts.com



GUESS Dare

GUESS Dare is a fruity, floral fragrance inspired by daring 70s screen icons. Its vibrant scent has top notes of crisp kumquat, shimmering pear blossom and fresh lime flower; heart notes of living Palm Springs cactus flower, seductive jasmine and feminine wild rose; and base notes of lingering blonde woods, living Key West coconut palm and primal musk. The pink bottle is shaped to evoke the curves synonymous with the modern GUESS girl.

Stockist: 1800 812 663

RRP: \$49.00 for 50 mL

Website: www.cotyaustralia.com.au

Bamboo Baby Wipes

GAIA Natural Baby Bamboo Baby Wipes are moisturising baby wipes made from 100 per cent biodegradable ultra-soft bamboo cloth. The wipes have a light, fresh scent and contain organic aloe vera, chamomile and lavender to cleanse and soothe babies' delicate, sensitive skin. They are alcohol-free and gentle enough to use on the face, hands and nappy area.

Stockist: 03 9703 1707

RRP: \$14.95 pack of 240 wipes

Website: www.gaiaskinnaturals.com



Amber Scented Candle

L'OCCITANE Amber Scented Candle features a welcoming oriental fragrance, which marries the sweetness of vanilla with a bouquet of white musk, jasmine and spices. It diffuses a natural aroma derived from bee hives kept near lavender fields in the Provençal village of Valensole. Packaged in a beautiful hexagonal metal tin, the 100 per cent cotton wick is non-toxic. Provides around 20 hours of soft fragrance for the home.

Stockist: 02 8912 3000

RRP: \$28.00

Website: www.au.loccitane.com

DISPENSARY CORNER

DIRECT from extreme-envy central.

Most of us dream about winning mega-bucks, closing the door and walking away from it all, but so few get the privilege.

Newlyweds Stacy and David Foster, of Orleans US bought a \$30 Supreme Millions ticket less than two months into their married life to win US\$15m last Monday according to *Yahoo! News*.

After tax they had US\$9.75m and said they intended to pay off student loans, buy a house and buy a truck (!), while the store selling the ticket also wins US\$50,000.

HIGH-FLYING fearless furry feline.

A French Guiana light aircraft pilot was videoing his flight as a standard procedure, when he noticed something he hadn't seen in the preflight check, a little black and white moggy stowaway up in the left wing, *stuff.co.nz* reports.

The cat is reportedly doing well post flight and remains the flying club's mascot.



IN CASE you were wondering.

The University of Exeter has shown that race horses are getting faster UK's *Telegraph* reports.

More than 70,000 horses in 616,084 races dating back to the 1850s were the source of data that revealed horses now win on average seven horse lengths or 1.18 seconds faster over six furlongs than in 1997.

Place your bets, quickly.

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