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Generic's New Generation



SA/NT PSA MIMS intern of the year

PHILIP Spyrou is the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) MIMS Australia SA/NT Intern of the Year for 2014.

The award highlighted the achievements of exceptional interns in developing skills for their professional career, the PSA said.

The MIMS sponsorship provides \$2,000 to each state winner to advance their pharmacy career with the PSA MIMS Intern of the Year Award recipient, chosen from state winners, announced at PSA15.

Five new meds - EMA

THE March meeting of the European Medicines Agency's (EMA) Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use saw five new products recommended for approval including Gardasil 9, which covers five more types of human papillomavirus than Gardasil and Lenvima (lenvatinib).

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Senate attention to audit

GREENS health spokesperson Senator Dr Richard Di Natale has drawn attention to the findings of the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) report on the audit into the administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (5CPA) (**PD** 06 Mar) in the Senate.

Di Natale last week moved that the Senate note the findings, in particular that there was no straightforward means to know the expected or actual cost of key components of the 5CPA and that

funds were reallocated without prior Ministerial approval to a communication strategy delivered by the Guild (**PD** 09 Mar).

Di Natale has previously asked Assistant Minister for Health Fiona Nash whether the government would commit to a public inquiry into the 5CPA and pause before signing the Sixth.

Nash said the Department of Health had implemented the ANAO recommendations and that the Minister was conducting "wide ranging consultations" for the 6CPA.

Di Natale wrote to the ANAO requesting a further audit into the 5CPA, as well as into the Guild's administration of the Agreement (**PD** 27 Mar), which a Guild spokesperson said was "nothing but a fishing expedition" and a waste of taxpayer money.

The Minister would continue to progress the 6CPA negotiations, Nash said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Blooming into Vic

BLOOMS The Chemist has said it is expanding its network of 88 community pharmacies further into metropolitan and regional NSW and Queensland and now has its first Victorian pharmacy in Cranbourne Park, which opened on Saturday.

The company said it was assessing "a number of other options in other states" when it came to expansion.

Amneal's new generics generation

AMNEAL Pharmaceuticals is inviting pharmacies to join the generic's new generation.

See the **front page** for more.

Reasons for decisions

THE reasons for the scheduling delegate's final decisions on matters referred to the November meeting of the Advisory Committee on Chemicals Scheduling are now available.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

DDS flu vax donation

DISCOUNT Drug Stores (DDS) has said \$2 from every influenza vaccination administered in its campaign will be given to Free to Be, to vaccinate children in Kolkata against conditions such as hepatitis B, typhoid and tetanus.

The vaccination campaign would be run in more than 100 stores from March until May, DDS said.

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Trent Ruprecht, Business Services Manager at PKF Sydney and Newcastle.**



Do you know where your pharmacy is heading?

What net profit did your pharmacy return last month? Is your gross profit increasing, decreasing or flat? If you don't know the answer to these questions, why?

There is little doubt that the community pharmacy industry is experiencing some challenges – PBS reform and intensifying competition from discount pharmacies to name just two – so knowing how your pharmacy is performing has never been more important. However, this takes more than preparing the annual financial statements or producing the monthly BAS.

It's crucial to know the key drivers of your pharmacy and put in place the right reporting and monitoring framework that provides you with the right information when needed to make decisions that will strengthen your business.

Not every pharmacy is the same so don't fall into the trap of choosing some generic measures to monitor. Understand your market and your business, consider any specific targets or objectives and make sure these are included.

It's vital for your pharmacy that you have the right people, producing the right reports, in a timely and accurate manner. It's impossible to really know how your pharmacy is performing and quickly adapt to problems as they arise if it's not timely or accurate. Why act when it's too late?

Cannabis bill revision needed

THE Department of Health has said if the Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill were to proceed, it would need "substantial revision" to address various issues.

In a submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, the Department said the Bill (*PD* 16 Feb) would set up a regulatory framework for the provision of medicinal cannabis that would "cut across and replicate" those already in place in the Commonwealth, states and territories.

The Bill left "a number of important legal and practical issues unidentified and/or unresolved" with the risk of regulatory gaps, overlapping laws and lack of clarity when it came to agency jurisdiction, the Department said.

The Bill would seem to operate in parallel with the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989, with an 'opt in/out'

choice, which could be confusing for regulators and those who were regulated, as it would be unclear which law applied and what legal responsibilities would be, it said.

Another issue was that there were aspects of the Bill which might not adequately implement Australia's obligations under international drug control conventions, including the requirement to prevent the accumulation of quantities of drugs by manufacturers and traders in excess of those required for the normal conduct of business, the Department said.

Further consideration of how the laws interrelated was needed to make sure legislative framework was "coherent, clear and workable", the Department said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

SensaSlim reinstated

THE registration for SensaSlim Australia Pty Limited will be reinstated in order that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission can pursue a claim for a \$6.6m penalty.

Justice David Yates said the company was deregistered on 22 Jun 14 by its then liquidator, who acknowledged this was done in error.

The Federal Court found the weight loss company had engaged in misleading or deceptive conduct last year (*PD* 10 Apr 14).

A hearing had been set regarding the question of penalty, Yates said. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Behavioural support for COPD patients

BEHAVIOURAL-CHANGE interventions can promote better outcomes for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) patients and their carers resulting in less hospital admissions and associated downstream costs, according to a new report from Atlantis Healthcare.

The report is written from a psychologist's viewpoint with a focus on reasons for adherence to all relevant therapies.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the report.

Call for Guild to set skin check protocol

THE Pharmacy Guild should develop a protocol for pharmacies offering skin lesion checking services, the Standing Committee on Health said in its report on skin cancer, as first reported by *Pharmacy News*.

"This protocol should include the provision of written advice to customers on the limitations of the service and include a comment that the service is not a substitute for a complete skin check."

The report also proposed interactive kiosks for pharmacies along with brochures as well as pharmacist advice and follow-up communication.

A Guild spokesman confirmed that the recommendations had been noted and were under consideration.

The Guild's submission highlighted those at high risk in remote areas with limited access to a GP, let alone a specialist dermatologist.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the report.

CHF: New script needed

THE Consumers Health Forum (CHF) has reiterated its call for an inquiry by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Accounts and Audit into the report on the audit of the administration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (CPA) (*PD* 06 Mar).

A blog post from ceo Adam Stankevicius said the CPA had been subject to "strong criticism" from the CHF, pharmacists and more for a lack of transparency, accountability and inadequate focus on health outcomes.

"This report vindicates calls for a fundamental rethink of the arrangements for taxpayer remuneration of pharmacy owners and of the dominant and potentially conflicted role played by the Pharmacy Guild."

The Guild has previously said the CHF's claims regarding flaws in the 5CPA administration were ill-informed and "riddled with errors" (*PD* 18 Mar).

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the post.



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Safe use of codeine

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has developed a leaflet for consumers alerting them to the dangers of inappropriate use of combination codeine pain relievers.

The leaflet was designed to be a useful tool for pharmacists to use counselling patients on their pain management, PSA said.

The leaflets are available in packs of 100 for pharmacists from the PSA Bookshop and is also available for download by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Standard for med mgmt in aged care

THE UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence has released a quality standard on managing medicines in care homes.

The standard lists actions to take to ensure all healthcare professionals were aware of residents' needs and could administer the right medicines to the right person at the right time, including having a multidisciplinary team to undertake medication reviews for people in care homes.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Alchemy Bar has the cure

HOLIDAY

operator Carnival Cruise Lines has channelled the vibe and classic charisma of a vintage pharmacy in the design of its newest onboard attraction.

Dubbed 'Alchemy Bar', the premium offering allows

guests to design and customise a drink using a prescription pad, with the line's best mixologists on hand to provide guidance and then to bring a creation to life.

Starting with a choice from six spirits as a base, guests can then add fruits such as watermelon, raspberry and peach, season with savoury options such as mint, lavender, sage or cucumber and cap it off with bitters before waiting for it to be served.

Pharmacy props also make an appearance, with bitters added to drinks using an eyedropper from medicine bottles.

Alchemy Bar is one of several onboard dining venues on nine of



Carnival Cruise Lines ships around the world and is progressively being rolled out across the global fleet.

Carnival Spirit - one of two Carnival ships based in Australia - will be fitted with Alchemy Bar as part of a \$44m renovation in dry dock in August this year.

Carnival Cruise Lines Australia vp Jennifer Vandekreeke is **pictured** ready to order a customised cocktail on her prescription pad.

For more information on booking a Carnival cruise, see your local travel agent.

Innovation stifled

LOW financial incentives, high failure rates and the dominance of generics in the drug pipeline have created an environment which does not encourage innovation, business intelligence provider GBI Research has said.

The research said that although the antibiotics pipeline was very active with 741 products in development, the majority were at Discovery or Preclinical stages.

In addition, the report said that only 12 new drugs had been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration and European Medicines Agency since 2000, and only four of the 12 were first-in-class, of which three were at Phase I, eight at Phase II but none at Phase III.

Both agencies had initiated major projects to address the issue.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more detail.



DISPENSARY CORNER

POST-EXERCISE beer for all.

Normally known for its ability to dehydrate, beer has now had its alcohol and sodium content manipulated to improve its hydrating effects without killing off its taste, according to Griffith University researchers on the Gold Coast.

The work, which involved taking 12 males into the lab and forcing (?) them to drink beers of varying strengths following a controlled exercise-induced weight loss activity, was published in the *International Journal of Sport Nutrition and Exercise Metabolism*.

The authors said that large concentrations of electrolytes added to beer further enhanced an individual's fluid retention following low alcohol beer consumption.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the research.

ELEPHANTINE effort.

Trying to move a pallet of medications but finding it a bit much?

Have you considered enlisting the help of elephants?

The driver of an 18-wheeler in Natchitoches Parish in Louisiana last week used this unusual moving crew to prop up the truck, which was under threat of overturning after pulling over in soft ground, *Associated Press* reported.

Apparently, the driver, also an elephant trainer, had been transporting the animals between circuses and walked them out of the truck to act as living props, before walking them back in using spoken commands, when non-mammoth aid arrived, the publication reported.

It's not April Fools' Day until Wednesday, right?

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

WIN A BIO-OIL PACK

This week **PD** and **Bio-Oil** are giving away five 'Love Yourself Fit' mini prize packs to the value of \$110, including Bio-Oil 200mL, Bio-Oil 60mL, a Bio-Oil sports drink bottle and a Bio-Oil Watch In tin.

Bio-Oil is a specialist skincare oil that helps to improve the appearance of scars, stretchmarks and uneven skin tone. It has also been proven effective on ageing skin and dehydrated skin, the company says. With a plethora of skincare awards under its belt, Bio-Oil has become the No.1 selling scar and stretchmark product in 18 countries since its global launch in 2002.

To win, be the first from **NSW** or **ACT** to send the correct answer to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



What are the five common skin concerns that Bio-Oil helps to address?

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

Check here tomorrow for the name of today's winner!

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