

iNova \$100k fine

MEDICINES Australia has imposed a \$100,000 fine on iNova for off-label promotion of Duromine and promotion of a product not available in Australia to healthcare professional (HCP) audiences.

The company was also required to send a corrective letter to all HCPs in attendance at the meetings which featured an overseas speaker, Medicines Australia said in its quarterly report.

Other sanctions included a fine of \$45,000 imposed on BMS for false or misleading claims for Sprycel and \$30,000 for Bayer for a false or misleading claim for Xarelto.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Extension of public consultation on LSDP

PUBLIC submissions for the post market review of the Life Saving Drugs Program (LSDP) issues paper now close on 18 May, extended from 30 Apr.

Issues identified included that access is provided to drugs usually before there was clear evidence of effectiveness in the medium or long term (**PD** 13 Apr).

[CLICK HERE](#) to submit.

Pfizer \$10.9b Q1 result

PFIZER has reported revenues of US\$10.9b for the first quarter of 2015, down 4% year on year.

This reflected operational growth of US\$250m "more than offset" by unfavourable impact of foreign exchange of US\$739m, it said.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the results.

SDA applies to order Guild report

THE Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association (SDA) has applied for an order to produce a report cited by the Pharmacy Guild prior to a hearing in September.

In correspondence to Guild representatives regarding the four yearly review of modern awards, the SDA requested a copy of the report, 'The effects of the Pharmacy Industry Award 2010 on community pharmacy in Australia'.

If this was not provided, the SDA would apply to the Fair Work Commission to order production of the report, it said.

The Guild has said the report, completed last September but not released publicly as yet, would form part of its expert evidence to be presented at a hearing in September (**PD** 22 Apr).

Findings would show that annual wage costs for the average pharmacy had increased by

Medicine shortages

SANOFI-AVENTIS has advised the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of a short supply situation with Immucyst BCG 6.6-19.2 x 100000000 CFU powder for injection vial.

Merck Sharp & Dohme Australia has also submitted a medicine shortage notification for Oncotice 5 hundred million CFU powder for injection vial.

The TGA said both shortages were due to supply problems and alternatives were available under the Special Access Scheme.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

\$60,000, the Guild said.

The SDA wrote to Guild representatives on 23 Apr, requesting the report by 24 Apr, with a draft order submitted to the Commission on that day calling for the report to be provided by 28 Apr.

A Guild spokesperson said no order had been made as yet, and if it did, the Guild would apply to have it dismissed, as existing timelines should be allowed to stand.

PD understands the SDA has submitted the application and is awaiting a decision by the Commission.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the SDA correspondence.

APC insights

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has released the first edition of APC Insights, its new style of newsletter.

To access the newsletter, [CLICK HERE](#).

GSK: \$3.47m in payments in 2014

GLAXOSMITHKLINE Australia (GSK) has said it made payments to healthcare professionals and health related organisations totalling \$3.47m, of which \$2.16m was to individuals to attend international congresses and local meetings, and sponsorships for organisations for return benefits.

This compared with a total of \$2.43m in 2013 (**PD** 12 May 14), an increase which GSK said was due to the launch of a number of new medicines last year for which it invested in training for healthcare professionals.

GSK said \$418,000 was given in grants or donations to organisations in 2014 and \$890,503 for consultancy fees related to services provided such as advisory boards and speaking engagements.

Direct payments to healthcare professionals to speak on GSK's behalf about its medicines would be phased out at the end of 2015, it said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

Accu-Chek correction

ROCHE Diagnostic Australia in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration has initiated a recall for product correction for all models of its Accu-Chek Spirit Combo and Accu-Chek Spirit insulin pumps, not a product recall (**PD** 27 Apr).

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

PSA on meds containing codeine

THE PSA has said moving codeine containing medicines to prescription only would not address the issues behind misuse, and would negatively affect those who genuinely needed them.

In response to queries about moving codeine-containing medicines to prescription only, Minister for Health Sussan Ley said pharmacists were "well qualified" to advise, assess and determine how appropriate a patient's medication requests were.

However the Minister said she was interested in measures to stop pharmacy and doctor shopping.

PSA ceo Dr Lance Emerson said the Minister's confidence in pharmacy was "well founded".

The PSA had suggested strategies to minimise harm from inappropriate use, he said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

PBS changes must be assessed - groups

THE Consumers Health Forum (CHF), Arthritis Australia, PainAustralia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has said the Health Minister must assess the impacts of the proposed changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) ((**PD** 27 Apr) before implementing them.

CHF ceo Leanne Wells said while the groups accepted there was common sense in some of the measures, and potential benefits, there was a need for thorough assessment of what they would mean overall for healthcare.

The changes would be a costly blow to many people with chronic conditions, Wells said.



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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Central QLD (Job# 2011295)
Experience country pharmacy in this friendly town - you'll be surprised!
- **Pharmacist** - Grampians Region, VIC (Job# 2011301)
Exp Pcist, well supported by another Pcist and 2 Techs. Great location!
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Canberra, ACT (Job# 2011313)
Are you ready to take the next step in your career?

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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.

3-4 May: Naturally Good Expo; Royal Hall of Industries, Moore Park, Sydney; details at: www.naturallygood.com.au

4 May: 6CPA briefing session – NSW; NSW PSA office; visit: www.psa.org.au

4-5 May: 2015 Asthma Australasia Conference; Sofitel Brisbane Central; more info at: www.asthmaaustralia.org.au

16-17 May: Laboratory Tests Seminar; Brisbane; see: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

17 May: Clinical Practice Seminar – Pain; Parramatta; details at: www.psa.org.au

23 May: HIV Workshop introduction; Brisbane; see: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

24 May: Medicines in the Bush Symposium; Darwin Convention Centre; details at: www.psa.org.au

25 May: PSA Immunisation Training; Gosford Golf Club; more info at: www.psa.org.au

29-31 May: ConPharm 2015; Park Hyatt Melbourne; more info at: www.aacp.com.au

30 May: HIV Workshop introduction; Sydney; see: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

3 Jun: 2015 Quality Learning Seminar; Swissotel, Sydney; visit: www.cmaustralia.org.au

11 Jun: Instigo and PKF Lawler Retail & Business Improvement Master Class; Sydney; click here for tickets and further details: www.proticket.com.au

TI tele-chemotherapy

THE Queensland Government has announced the establishment of a tele-chemotherapy service for Thursday Island (TI) and Torres Strait residents, saving cancer patients from needing to travel to Cairns Hospital for chemotherapy.

The service will operate weekly from the new renal dialysis unit at the community Wellness Centre on Thursday Island from the end of April.

CLICK HERE for more.

New NAPSA platform

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) has said it is in the first stage of development of a new online community, education and networking platform.

National president Sam Turner said in *ePlacebo* that the platform would hopefully be launched by the start of next semester as a free member benefit.

NAPSA also renewed its partnership with the PSA, he said.



DISPENSARY CORNER

AB resistance is Snow joke.



Yes, it's a Game of Thrones reference (we asked), and what better way to promote a new short film competition?

Launched by Tropfest in partnership with NPS MedicineWise, it looks to raise awareness about antibiotic resistance in the flu season.

With the tag line 'Winter is coming so #savethescript', it is open to filmmakers of all skill levels to make a short film of up to 45 seconds to spread the word about resistance, a global health threat, NPS says.

There's a \$10,000 prize pool, with entries open until 31 May, so **CLICK HERE** if interested.

And to scratch that GoT itch, take a look at **THIS** take on the Dumb Ways to Die videos.

WHAT holes?

Well, it's one way to get any potholes outside your pharmacy fixed...

An anonymous artist in Manchester has started drawing penises around potholes in the road in an attempt to get them fixed by the local council, *stuff.co.nz* reports.

The artist, whose related nickname rhymes with the moniker of English graffiti artist 'Banksy', wrote on their Facebook page that a pothole that had been in the road for eight months was fixed in 48 hours after they drew a phallus around it.

However, the local council has said this is vandalism and insulting, the publication reports.

UTS simulated pharmacy

THE University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Master of Pharmacy program has opened a new training facility employing the latest technology to create simulated pharmacy environments.

The Rowa robotic dispensing machine from Dose Innovations simulated the systems installed in many Australian pharmacies, UTS said.

Housed in the new Faculty of Science and Graduate School of Health building, which opened this week, the simulated pharmacy also included counters, private



consulting rooms and sit down counselling space, the University said.

Griffith University in Brisbane also opened a virtual pharmacy training facility in February this year (*PD* 26 Feb).

Win a Nourish Naturals pack

This week, *Pharmacy Daily* and Nice Pak **Products** are giving away a Nourish Naturals prize pack including Nourish Anti-Itch Soothing Cream, Nourish Naturals Soap Free Wash, Nourish Naturals Dry Skin Lotion and Nourish Naturals Skin Oil.

The Nourish Naturals™ range contains naturally derived ingredients and provides skin with deep nourishment. Clinically tested, Nourish Naturals products are free from sulphates, parabens, artificial colours and fragrances. According to the company, the high quality ingredients deliver real results for dry, sensitive, rough, itchy and flaking skin, or skin prone to eczema, psoriasis and dermatitis.

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

What is the active ingredient in the Nourish Naturals Dry Skin Lotion and what is its purpose?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Muthi Ahmed from Tennant Creek Pharmacy.

