

Friday's winner

FRIDAY'S competition winner was Emma Brady from Symbion - congratulations!

This week, **PD** and Plunketts are giving away a Vita E prize pack, starting with ACT and NSW.

See **page three** for more details.

PSA15 program announced

THE program for PSA15 has been announced.

To be held at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth from 31 Jul to 02 Aug, it will be the first conference discussion after the 6CPA signing, organisers have said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

ACT PSA MIMS Intern



BRENDON Wheatley, a community pharmacist at Dickson Capital Chemist, has been awarded the PSA MIMS Australia ACT Intern of the Year 2014.

Preceptor Thomas Ferguson said Wheatley had demonstrated commitment to patient care and the safe use of medicines in his everyday practices.

Pictured from left is Wheatley with PSA ceo Dr Lance Emerson.

Orphan drugs discussion

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has invited comments on its Orphan drugs program discussion paper.

The paper said with the program having been in operation for nearly 20 years, it was timely to consider whether it had a tangible impact on helping medicine availability for patients with rare diseases, and the financial impact of the program, given the amount of revenue foregone by the Therapeutic Goods Administration with the waiving of evaluation and registration fees,

Fluarix Tetra demand

GLAXOSMITHKLINE (GSK) has said due to high demand, its new quadrivalent influenza vaccine Fluarix Tetra, available through private sale, is no longer available for the rest of this year's influenza season.

Its trivalent vaccine Fluarix was also unavailable for the remainder of the year due to high demand, GSK said, however, supply to the National Immunisation Program and state vaccination programs was not affected.

A GSK spokesperson said the company allocated doses globally prior to the start of the season, and was now focusing on starting production for the next Northern Hemisphere flu season.

"GSK brought in a considerable amount of stock for the first season Fluarix Tetra was to be available in Australia, and we saw unprecedented demand for this product."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

SICK AND TIRED OF THE SAME COLD AND FLU SEASON ROUTINE?



Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist consult your healthcare professional.

ETHICAL NUTRIENTS
PROFESSIONAL NATURAL MEDICINES



SHPA supports Choosing Wisely

THE SHPA has said it supports Choosing Wisely, which looks to reduce wasteful medical tests, treatments and procedures (**PD** 30 Apr).

Federal president Professor Michael Dooley said the SHPA supported evidence-based decision making, with improving the quality use of medicines being the cornerstone of pharmacy practice.

"Pharmacists have a vital role in this initiative – in having conversations with patients and with prescribers when evidence does not support the use of a medicine."

Codeine combination drugs 'problematic'

MONASH University postdoctoral researcher in forensic toxicology Jennifer Pilgrim has said the easy and widespread availability of codeine-based drugs is causing a "substantial level" of harm, in an article in the *Conversation* about the proposal to move such medications to prescription only.

Pilgrim said it was the increased risk of toxicity of accompanying drugs combined with the addictive effects of codeine that made such drugs "problematic".

Minister for Health Sussan Ley has said pharmacists are "well qualified" to advise, assess and determine the appropriateness of a patient's medications, with the PSA saying moving to prescription only would not address the real issues behind misuse (**PD** 01 May).

[CLICK HERE](#) for the article.

Methotrexate recall

HOSPIRA in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has initiated a recall of DBL Methotrexate Tablets, 2.5mg tablets in bottles of 30.

The TGA said bottles of the product had been supplied without child-resistant caps, although there was no concern around the quality or safety of the medicine.

[CLICK HERE](#) for affected batch numbers.

I ♥ ENLIVA

MAY HELP MAINTAIN HEALTHY CHOLESTEROL LEVELS IN HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS WHEN COMBINED WITH DIET AND LIFESTYLE

Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist consult your healthcare professional. ENLIVA contains Lactobacillus Plantarum (AB-LIFE) 1.2 billion CFU. May assist in the maintenance of normal/healthy cholesterol levels in healthy individuals. May help to reduce intestinal absorption of cholesterol from dietary sources. BGP Products Pty Ltd, Trading as Mylan EPD, ABN 29 601 608 771, 299 Lane Cove Road, Macquarie Park NSW 2113. Ph: 1800 225 311. ENLIVA is a registered trademark. AU-ENL-2015-2. Date Prepared: April 2015. ABB3136/PNI/B

Mylan

Amneal completes Actavis acquisition

AMNEAL Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd has completed the acquisition of "substantially all" of Actavis' Australian generics business.

The acquisition was announced in April for an undisclosed amount (**PD** 01 Apr), following Actavis' confirmation that it would exit the Australian generics business as part of the acquisition of Allergan Australia and New Zealand (**PD** 26 Mar).

Amneal said under the agreement, it had the right to distribute Actavis-labelled product on a transitional basis.

AZ and UniQuest research partnership

ASTRAZENECA (AZ) and UniQuest, the University of Queensland's main commercialisation company, have announced a joint research program.

The collaboration would give University researchers access to a specific number of AZ's candidate drugs and related data to allow pre-clinical and clinical studies in areas of "high unmet need", the organisations said.

Hep C meds in phmcy support

IF AUSTRALIA is to broaden access to hepatitis C treatment, the drugs used should be made available through community pharmacies, the Senate Standing Committee on Health has heard.

At a public hearing in March, Dr Tuck Meng Soo told the Committee the main difficulty of shared care programs, involving GPs providing hepatitis C treatment in communities, was that patients needed to have treatment started by a specialist, and the drugs were \$100 medication.

To broaden access, these medications needed to be available through community pharmacies, Soo said.

"I think that this includes consideration of access to new directly acting antivirals when they become available through prescription by suitably trained GPs and dispensing in community pharmacies."

The Committee has previously heard that pharmacy could coordinate care for hepatitis C patients with methadone programs, which Professor Alex Thompson said was a "fantastic" idea (**PD** 18 Mar).

MEANWHILE when point of care



Stop Fungal Nails Now!

Affordable Fungal Nail Treatment

Always read the label, use only as directed. If symptoms persist seek advice from your health care professional.



testing kits, involving a small blood sample to check for antibodies, were registered and available in Australia, these should not be made "freely available", the Pharmacy Guild has said.

Presenting to the Committee, SA branch committee member Ian Todd said such kits should only be provided where there was the opportunity for advice to be provided as well as screening, as a positive result was not necessarily "a disaster", and people needed to be advised what it meant, including that they might once have had the virus, but it had since cleared.

"A pharmacy would be an obvious place for them but also places where there are nurses, in doctors' surgeries and so on, where appropriate advice can be given in the event of a positive test."

CLICK HERE to read more.

MJA production outsourced

THE Australian Medical Association (AMA) board has endorsed the decision to outsource some of the production of the *Medical Journal of Australia* to Elsevier.

An agreement with editor in chief Professor Stephen Leeder regarding the move could not be reached, and his tenure was terminated, AMA president Associate Professor Brian Owler said.

A "significant number" of the editorial advisory committee had also resigned, Owler said, reported to be 19 of 20 members.

ABC reported Leeder had raised ethical concerns about Elsevier, which reportedly published a "fake" journal in 2009 paid for by a drug company.

Owler said the AMA subsidiary AMPCo's financial position had been "perilous", requiring outsourcing of some functions.

AMPCo said the decision was made "after proper due diligence".

CLICK HERE to read the article and **HERE** for the AMPCo letter.

Call for 'arms-length' cancer research

THE Australian Melanoma Research Foundation has called for the establishment of a Cancer Clinical Improvement Research Fund to manage independent 'arms-length' cancer research, in its submission to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee inquiry into the availability of new and specialist cancer drugs (**PD** 05 Dec 14).

The Foundation envisaged this research as being funded by drug companies and linked to PBS funding while also recommending other independent institutions be created with total independence from drug companies.

The submission claimed there was an over-reliance on drug company approaches.

CLICK HERE for submissions.

Cervical cancer low

THE incidence of cervical cancer cases and deaths in Australia remains low by international levels, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has said.

There were 682 new cervical cancer cases diagnosed in 2011 and 143 women died from cervical cancer in 2012, equivalent to between nine and 10 new cases diagnosed and two deaths per 100,000 women.

During 2012-13, more than 3.8m women participated in the National Cervical Screening Program, representing 58% of women in the 20-69 year old target age group.

CLICK HERE to access the report.

FOR SALE

Pharmacy Located 3.5hrs from Sydney

- Turnover \$6m
- Secure Lease
- Average 350 Scripts/day
- \$1M Nominal Stock Value
- Regional Hub with Airport



Sean Roffey

Tel: 0408 882 111

email: pbs@healthbusinesssales.com.au



INSPIRED BY NATURE, SUPPORTED WITH SCIENCE

Premium herbal & nutritional products
formulated by specialists using the
finest ingredients.



NEW & EXCLUSIVE TO PHARMACY

1800 853 333

vitascience.com.au

VITA SCIENCE
THE SCIENCE OF HEALTHY LIVING

Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Debbie Capuano, Recruitment Consultant at Raven's Recruitment.**



Employer envy, aka "I want what she's got..."

Although the perception is out there that pharmacy owners are spoilt for choice when it comes to who they can staff their pharmacies with, it's the truth that not all pharmacy owners have businesses where people want to work. They are just not considered an Employer of Choice within the pharmacy industry.

With pharmacy being ever more competitive, it's vital that you secure and retain the best staff for your business.

When you think back to when you were an employee, what comes to mind when you think about the boss you most liked to work for? Was it for someone that was:

- willing to see you as an individual not just a payroll number?
- open to your ideas and suggestions for the business?
- flexible with the roster to be a lifestyle friendly work place?

You can be assured that these are just some of the things that are valued by employees.

So my challenge to you would be to carefully consider if you are a pharmacy owner that you would have wanted to work for. What changes can you bring about to make it a workplace that has your staff boasting to their pharmacy friends?

You want their friends thinking, "I want what she's got..."

Indigenous primary care contacts up 13%

GOVERNMENT funded primary healthcare organisations saw an increase in the number of times patients had contact with healthcare workers in 2013-14 of 13% to 4.6m involving 419,000 individual clients, 77% of whom were indigenous, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The report showed that 68% of the organisations were Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, 23% were state and territory government managed and the remaining 9% were run by non-government groups.

Most contacts were with nurses (30%), GPs (29%) and Aboriginal health workers (13%), with remote areas generating the highest level of contacts, the report said.

CLICK HERE for more.

PBS website update

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) website has been updated to include the monthly summary of changes to the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits as well as drugs subject to price disclosure as at 01 May and the agenda for the July PBAC meeting.

CLICK HERE for the site.

- Cost Effective
- Targeted
- Easy

For details call us today 1300 799 220

Elderly filling EDs

ALTHOUGH the older members of society are accessing hospital emergency departments (EDs) under appropriate circumstances, some presentations could be avoided if there were more available services in the community, according to a study published in the *Australian Health Review*.

Two hospital EDs provided data relating to patients over 65 years of age, and three focus groups with medical, nursing and allied staff as well as interviews with 58 older people, comprised the study.

The authors also concluded that hospital EDs needed more gerontology training to meet the needs of their patients.

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

Bromhexine, codeine med restriction recs

NEW Zealand's Medicines Adverse Reactions Committee has recommended the use of bromhexine and codeine-containing cough and cold medicines be restricted to adults and children six years of age and over, for bromhexine-containing medicines, and adults and children 12 years of age and over for medicines containing codeine, following a review.

CLICK HERE to read more.

DISPENSARY CORNER

PUPULAR walks.

Remember how we were warning you to keep an eye out for seal pups flopping into your pharmacy (**PD** 24 Apr)?

Another aquatic cutie, this time a sea lion pup in San Francisco, has been spotted wandering the streets far from home, *Associated Press* reports.

The pup was found hiding under a car last week, but was rescued and taken to the Marine Mammal Centre in Sausalito, where a vet recognised the pup as having been rescued in February, the publication reported.

Apparently, warming ocean and dwindling food supply has left 1,800 sea lion pups stranded in California since the start of the year, the publication reports - so if ever there was an adorable reason to get into environmental conservation...

For more seal-related goodness, you can **CLICK HERE** to watch a seal repeatedly trying to climb onto a surfer's board, although one commenter ominously suggests this is to get away from sharks, rather than catch a wave.

ANYONE got any dice?

We're not suggesting this is a good way to decide on your pharmacy manager, but a town in South Dakota, USA, has rolled the dice, literally, to pick its new mayor.

The town of Platte chose its newest mayor last week by getting the two candidates, who split the vote in April, to roll some dice, with a state statute saying certain elections could be decided by a high card draw, or dice rolling, *Associated Press* reported.

Steve Christensen became mayor for two years after rolling a seven - his opponent rolled a four, the publication reported.

WIN WITH PLUNKETTS

This week, **Pharmacy Daily** and **Plunketts** are giving away a Vita E prize pack including Vita E Cream, Vita E Oil and Vita E Ointment.

New Plunkett's Intensive Vita E ointment with extra high levels of vitamin E plus rich rosehip oil is your new best friend. The handy tube softens dry lips, rehydrates cuticles, tames eyebrows, calms stressed skin, treats burns and grazes and even relieves nappy rash. It's a First Aid Kit and Beauty Fix in a tube. For more info visit www.plunketts.com.au.

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

In which country is Plunkett's Vita E made?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

Sign up free at www.pharmacydaily.com.au.

Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

Publisher: Bruce Piper

Editor: Alex Walls info@pharmacydaily.com.au

Reporter: Mal Smith

Advertising and Marketing: Magda Herdrik advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Travel Daily CRUISE WEEKLY

travelBulletin

business events news

Pharmacy DAILY

Travel Daily