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Rego data out

NEWLY released registration data shows there are now 28,950 registered pharmacists in Australia. 17,574 of them are female (60.7%) and 11,376 (39.3%) are male, with the figures also showing 8,966 in NSW; 7,174 in Vic; 5,672 in Qld; 3,101 in WA; 2,095 in SA; 698 in Tas; 474 in the ACT and 208 in the NT, with 562 having "no principal place of practice".

Drug listings double

HEALTH minister Sussan Ley has downplayed claims that Australia is slow to approve new drugs, with the government having given the tick to 652 new or amended listings since it came to office.

She said that was double the 331 figure during the Labor gov't's final three year term (2010-2013), with the Abbott government "clearly delivering on its election commitment to accelerate the listing process for new medicines".

Ley said the new listings were worth almost \$3 billion "and that investment is only going to continue to grow".

She said the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee was now averaging just 17 weeks from submission to recommendation for inclusion on the PBS.

However Ley warned that in order to continue listing new drugs quickly, taxpayers had to find a sustainable way to fund them.

"The sensible place to look is the price taxpayers and patients pay for existing medicines to ensure we have the capacity to fund new ones," she said.

Ley said she was continuing to hold "constructive discussions with the entire pharmaceutical supply chain about the best ways to achieve this," and expects to announce a full package of measures soon.

New standards from Jul

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has confirmed that revised English language skills and criminal history registration standards for pharmacists practising in Australia will come into effect on 01 Jul.

There's little change to the criminal history registration standard, which is common to all National Boards and has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council.

"No changes have been made to the factors National Boards will take into account when considering an applicant's or registrant's criminal history," the Board said.

Criminal history must be declared when first applying for registration, and all registered health practitioners must inform their National Board if they are charged with an offence punishable by 12 months imprisonment or more, or convicted or found guilty of an offence punishable by imprisonment in Australia and/or overseas.

The revised English language registration standard is also common between pharmacy and most other health professions apart from dental, medical and nursing & midwifery, which have slightly different requirements.

The new standard provides for

ACT PSOTY winner

ASHLEI Momement, a University of Canberra pharmacy student, has been named as the ACT Pharmacy Student of the Year.

Ashlei is in her final year of a Master of Pharmacy Degree, just pipping fellow finalists Kasya Lee and Therese Pham in a "borderline decision" by the judges.

She'll now compete against other state finalists at PSA15 in Sydney from 31 Jul-02 Aug.

four pathways which can be used to demonstrate competence in English language, including the "primary language pathway," "combined secondary and tertiary education pathway," the "extended education pathway" and the "English language test pathway".

The number of pathways has been expanded "to ensure that applicants who demonstrably meet the standard are not disadvantaged due to their particular circumstances".

There are also two new English language tests, and the number of test sittings from which results can be counted in certain circumstances provides more flexibility for applicants.

For more information see the FAQ by **CLICKING HERE**.

Blackmores Q3 record

BLACKMORES has released details of its third quarter performance, with the period to 31 Mar showing a record profit performance of \$12.2m, up 125%.

That was on record sales of \$119 million, up 42%, with Australia a particularly strong market where sales surged 48%.

Blackmores' full nine months performance showed a strong trajectory, with margins improving due to improved cost of goods and expense management.

The company said it's "winning market share, with growth in all channels," and is continuing to achieve strategic priorities including building brand loyalty through its "Big Brand Idea" which has included a \$160m investment including the training of 2,500 pharmacists across the country.

Terry White chemists

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Terry White Chemists Myer Centre Brisbane are looking for a full time Retail Pharmacy Manager to lead a large fast paced pharmacy. Terry White offers a fantastic, supported culture with development opportunities working within an award winning team. We are looking for someone with lots of energy, confidence and a willingness to take on the responsibility of the business. The position is also open to a pharmacist with active hands on retail management experience.

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Hep C med imports

HEPATITIS Australia is alerting people who are looking to purchase medicines from overseas for hepatitis C treatment, that due to poor quality checks, the practice is risky, as well as being potentially illegal.

With new drugs now available in Australia (*PD* 12 May), Hepatitis Australia also says it should not be necessary to import from overseas, and it is important to have patients' current status evaluated before starting new therapies.

Corum appointments

LISTED pharmacy software supplier Corum Group has announced the election of Bill Paterson as chairman of the board.

A long-term significant shareholder, Paterson has been a non-executive director since Apr.

Mark Talbot, the company's chief operating officer, who joined the business in Feb this year, has been appointed as an executive director of the company to fill a casual vacancy.

FDA meds adherence push

THE US Food and Drug Administration has signed a major Memorandum of Understanding with the non-profit US National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention, with the aim of reducing the burden of disease related to a lack of medication adherence in America.

It's described as a "first-of-its-kind cooperative public education program," which targets the millions of people who suffer from preventable cardiac episodes because they don't take medication as prescribed.

"In the US only about one in every four prescriptions is taken as directed by a health care provider," said Heidi Marchand, a pharmacist who is assistant commissioner in the FDA's Office of Health and Constituent Affairs.

She said this costs more than 125,000 lives a year, with the five year MoU part of a national initiative by the US Department of Health and Human Services to

prevent one million heart attacks and strokes by 2017.

The agreement will see the FDA and the Forum cooperate on the development and evaluation of innovative health promotion concepts, exchange information on ways to increase the number of patients who take their medication, and develop concepts for community-based interventions.

"Our goals are clear: create recommendations to improve compliance with prescribed medical therapies and implement the recommendations to improve the lives of patients living with heart disease," Marchand said.

The National Forum will recruit a Therapy Adherence Steering Committee including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, behavioural scientists, patient groups "and others invested in complying with medical therapy".

Marchand said the problem cannot be fixed overnight, "but by addressing it strategically we can move forward and improve the odds of preventing and surviving heart disease and stroke".

The proposed action plans would be completed in the "next several years," she said.

PBN program out

THE preliminary program for the upcoming Pharmacy Business Network (PBN) has been released, with the Melbourne conference set to take place 17-19 Sep.

Targeting pharmacy owners, managers, leaders, students, interns and industry stakeholders, the PBN will include a "not to be missed" Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement panel.

There will be a presentation from the 2015 Pharmacy of the Year winners, as well as sessions on development of a realistic business plan, managing supplier relationships, keeping on top of staff costs and selling techniques.

Other key topics include dealing with banks, making professional services profitable, partnerships, customer loyalty and more - pharmacybusinessnetwork.com.au.

NetHealth launches HealthData

QUEENSLAND based company NetHealth is about to launch a software platform called HealthData that connects patients with doctor practices, directly transmitting health data from bluetooth and wireless-enabled devices, *Pulse+IT* reports.

As well as being able to book an appointment online, the system will now enable patients to forward data such as blood glucose readings and vital signs to the clinician prior to the appointment, the report said.

The third phase of the software roll-out will enable web-based video conferencing, anticipated later this year.



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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Mid QLD Coast (Job# 2009590)
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- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Mallee Country, VIC (Job# 2011341)
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- **Pharmacist** - Canberra, ACT (Job# 2011359)
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Take the pledge

NPS MedicineWise is urging people to "make a renewed pledge to help fight antibiotic resistance this cold and flu season".

NPS said rather than demanding antibiotics patients should use common sense for symptoms such as plenty of rest and fluids.



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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.

24-27 May: 13th National Rural Health Conference; Darwin Convention Centre; details at: www.ruralhealth.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

6 Jun: Provide First Aid; Neutral Bay Club; see: www.psa.org.au

13-14 Jun: Cardiology Seminar; Brisbane; details at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

14 Jun: PSA Immunisation Training; Rydges, Port Macquarie; see: www.psa.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

5 Jul: Provide First Aid; Parramatta RSL Club; visit: www.psa.org.au

6-9 Jul: Pharmacy Alliance Members' Forum; Honolulu USA; more details at: www.pharmacyalliance.com.au

EMA gene feedback

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) is seeking feedback on new draft guidelines on quality, non-clinical and clinical aspects of gene therapies.

The consultation will extend for three months with the EMA saying gene therapy has great potential for the cure of many diseases.

"80% of rare diseases are caused by faulty genes," the EMA said, with many developers of gene therapies being very small companies or from academia "and are not familiar with the regulatory environment".

CLICK HERE for the guidelines.

Animas pumps recall

AMSL Diabetes, in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration, is recalling Animas 2020 and IR 1200 insulin pumps.

Due to a software problem relating to an end of service life date, these insulin pumps will cease operation on 01 Jan 2016.

The end of service life date was not originally identified in the product labelling for these insulin pumps, the TGA said.

AMSL Diabetes has been replacing the affected devices with Animas Vibe insulin pumps.

For more information, contact AMSL Diabetes on 1300 851 056.

PHARMAC consults

NEW Zealand's Pharmaceutical Management Agency (PHARMAC) is seeking feedback on a proposal for various pharmaceuticals, including a new listing and amendments to funding restrictions, to take effect from 01 Aug.

Changes are proposed for a range of medications including aripiprazole, benzbromarone, febuxostat, somatropin, tacrolimus and valaciclovir.

PHARMAC is also proposing to widen access for the diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine to include vaccination of all pregnant women between gestational weeks 28 and 38, regardless of whether or not there is an epidemic, effective from 01 Aug this year.

ACMS meeting later

THE Jul 2015 meeting of the Therapeutic Goods Administration's Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling has been moved to 04-06 Aug, according to an update published on the TGA website.

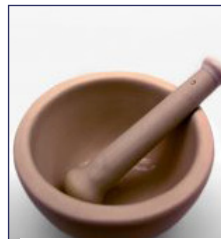
The TGA said that despite the change "all related decision timeframe dates remain the same".

That means pre-meeting submissions are still due on 28 May, while the deadline for public comment is 25 Jun.

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DISPENSARY CORNER



THE risk-benefit profile of exercising on a treadmill is under consideration, after the tragic sudden death of a US internet entrepreneur who was found lying next to one of the machines at a holiday resort in Mexico.

Dave Goldberg, who was the CEO of SurveyMonkey, had reportedly slipped and banged his head, and later died of his injuries.

According to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission about 24,000 people were admitted to hospital in America last year with treadmill-related injuries.

However deaths are extremely rare, with just 30 reported over the 12 years to 2012.

A CANADIAN researcher has come up with a novel idea for anaemia in developing countries - literally add some iron to the cooking pot.

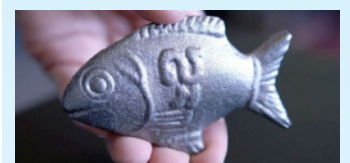
Christopher Charles visited Cambodia some years ago and noticed that in many parts of the country iron deficiency was a major public health problem.

Iron supplementation was not the answer, with tablets not affordable in much of the nation, while side-effects were also an issue, reports the BBC.

He came up with the "Lucky Iron Fish" (**below**) - basically a lump of metal in the shape of a commonly found aquatic species - which is simply added to a pot of soup and boiled for at least ten minutes.

Iron leaches out, and then a little lemon juice is added to the recipe to assist with absorption.

Used correctly it can provide 75% of an adult's daily recommended iron intake.



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This week, **Pharmacy Daily** and **FGB Natural Products** are giving away a Braun Touchless + Forehead thermometer each day.

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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 gap: "... Braun's user-friendly, _____ design."

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Sandra White from Iron Pharmacy Group.

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