

Sponsor Sigma staff

ABOUT 35 staff from Sigma Pharmaceuticals will participate in the Upstream Challenge, a 50km walk from the Melbourne CBD to Donvale on Sat 14 Nov.

The walkers are seeking sponsorship for the walk which supports the Summer Foundation, an organisation focused on helping the more than 6,000 young people with acquired disability get out of aged care.

Tax deductible donations can be made at upstreamfoundation.org.

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SHPA urges surveillance

ALL submissions for new listings of medicines on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme should include a proposal for post-marketing surveillance, according to a Society of Hospital Pharmacists submission to the government's review of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) Guidelines.

The SHPA has also suggested considering the 'useability' of the medicinal product in the Guidelines, which it says would encourage manufacturers to highlight where they exceed minimum standards to improve the safe and effective use of the medicines - such as clear labelling

of ingredient names, barcoding, plain English PI and CMI, and even sizing to suit standard pharmacy dispensing labels.

In addition, the SHPA says the PBAC should extend its consideration of the net financial benefits of new medicines to also include any dispensing fees and patient out-of-pocket expenses.

Examples cited include the preparation fee for chemotherapy medicines which has been payable through the PBS since late 2011, as well as insulin products which require NDSS subsidy because they must be transferred from a cartridge into a suitable reservoir.

Blooms-Apotex partners

BLOOMS The Chemist has announced Apotex as its 'Strategic Partner of the Year', at the group's 2015 Pharmacy Awards held in Hong Kong last week.

Phil Smith, Blooms the Chemist ceo said this year's award was the most competitive to date, giving credit to Apotex for building such a strong relationship with the pharmacy group.

"Forging a strategic alignment with each of our partners is critical to our success," Smith said.

"Performing business together, in a flexible and productive manner, sets each party up for sustainable growth," he added, with Apotex performing "exceptionally well across the key areas of logistics and supply".

Smith identified Apotex's ApoWellness clinic as a significant contribution to Blooms the Chemist positioning itself as the First Call



Pharmacy Professionals.

The Hong Kong conference also saw the presentation of a range of other awards including the Dispensary Award, taken out by Blooms The Chemist, Kingsford, NSW; the Customer Service Award won by Blooms The Chemist, Padstow, NSW; and the Productivity Award, clinched by Blooms The Chemist, Forestville, NSW.

Pictured in Hong Kong are, from left: Phil Smith, ceo Blooms The Chemist; Ben Sullivan, Sales Director of Apotex; and Pamela Curtin, Blooms The Chemist Merchandise Manager.

Chiropractic degree back at Macquarie

SYDNEY'S Macquarie University has reversed a previous decision to close its Department of Chiropractic (**PD** 26 Apr 2013), saying the backflip follows the approval of a proposal which outlined "potential for greater and more rigorous research into the field, and highlighted the impact that such research could have on chiropractic around the world".

The university said in Australia the chiropractic and osteopathic services market is worth almost \$1 billion annually, and "by applying evidence-based research practices to the study and curricular development of this field, the department can ensure that Australians experience the best possible care at the hands of highly qualified graduates".

The department will consider structural changes to its current chiropractic degree programs to bring them into alignment with the rest of the university, and "increase cross-disciplinary opportunities for study and research".

iTherapeutics training

ONLINE pharmacy training portal iTherapeutics has launched a series of new CPD accredited education modules for pharmacists and pharmacy students.

The first four modules cover important conditions such as Childhood Eczema, Low Back Pain; Managing Insomnia; and Lifestyle Tips in Osteoarthritis.

iTherapeutics said it would also take care of CPD reporting requirements by tracking any points gained and generating online certificates with each successfully completed module.

For more information see www.itherapeutics.com.au.

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Corum chiefs resign

JOINT managing directors and chief executive officers of Corum Group, Mark Talbot and David Tonuri, have both resigned their positions effective immediately.

The listed pharmacy software supplier, which supplies the LOTS dispensary and point of sale system to many pharmacies across Australia, has announced the appointment of current chief financial officer David Clarke in the position of interim ceo, to be held for as long as it takes for the board to find a replacement.

Clarke has been chief financial officer of Corum since 2013 as well as having responsibility for the operations of Corum's eCommerce business, bringing many years of experience in senior roles in Australia in both retail and healthcare, an ASX update advised.

The Corum board stated that with an improved focus on execution and process improvements, the executive team will "continue to pursue the business strategies committed to earlier in the year".

Baby boomer blowout

OVER 65's account for a 27% relative increase, from 28.2% to 35.8%, in use of medications, according to the latest Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH) report on General Practice activity 2014-15 from the University of Sydney's Family Medicine Research Centre.

Similarly, this group predictably dominated chronic pain management and adverse drug reactions due to polypharmacy, as well as having relatively high smoking, alcohol and overweight issues, the report said.

There was a 24% relative increase in pathology and imaging tests ordered for patients aged 65+, while referrals for further investigation or treatment were up 33%.

All the relative increases were far larger than the 18% relative increase in the proportion of the population aged 65+ because these patients attended more often than average, with more problems being managed as a result, the report said.

CLICK HERE for the BEACH report.

SunPharma buys InSite

MUMBAI-BASED drug company Sun Pharmaceuticals, the world's fifth largest specialty generic pharmaceutical company and India's top pharmaceutical company, has completed its acquisition of US-based eyecare firm InSite Vision, making it an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary.

FDA meds guidance

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued new medication guides on its website adding information for Belbucal (buprenorphine) buccal film, Invokamet (canagliflozin and metformin hydrochloride) tablets, Keytruda (pembrolizumab) for injection, Letairis (ambrisentan) tablets, Opdivo (nivolumab) injection, Suboxone (buprenorphine and naloxone), Sublingual Film for sublingual or buccal administration (CIII), Trizivir (abacavir, lamivudine, and zidovudine) tablets and Ziagen (abacavir) tablets.

CLICK HERE for access.

PHARMAC defends cancer drugs position

PHARMAC medical director Dr John Wyeth has defended New Zealand's Pharmaceutical Management Agency (PHARMAC) position rejecting drugs that are now being funded in Australia.

"Most of the additional medicines funded in Australia but not in New Zealand don't offer health gains that would be considered clinically meaningful by international cancer specialists in recent research," he said.

"Using these measures of survival, New Zealand's usual standards of care offer better health gains for people than the medicines on offer."

To fund all of the medicines currently available in Australia but not New Zealand would cost the country an additional \$80 million per year, said Wyeth.

Since the analysis was completed, New Zealand has funded one more cancer medicine, while Australia has funded five, PHARMAC reports.

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Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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For example, the 28-night 'Italy, Dalmatian Coast & Adriatic Dream' itinerary aboard HAL's *ms Oosterdam* is priced from only \$6,549 per person - see [ecruising travel](#).

Maldives 4-night package deal

FREESTYLE Holidays has launched a "Massive Maldives Sale" with savings of up to \$853 per couple.

Offers include a four night package at Paradise Island Resort & Spa in a Superior Beach Bungalow from just \$999 per person - including breakfast and dinner daily, a meet and greet at Malé airport and return speedboat transfers.

The offer is valid for travel 21 Apr 16 to 24 Jul 16 - for details or to book see your travel agent.

Record turnout for CMA

COMPLEMENTARY Medicines Australia's recent annual conference in Sydney saw a record number of delegates in attendance, reflecting an "exciting time for the Australian complementary medicines industry" according to ceo Carl Gibson.

He said the event's "The Next Big Thing" theme reflected the importance of the industry operating at the forefront of knowledge, including R&D, business practices and consumer trends.

"A number of factors are contributing to the rapidly escalating demand for our products in the Asia Pacific region," he said, citing a "well-deserved reputation for high safety standards and high quality products".

As well as growing export demand, the sector is also playing a key role in connection to the increasing consumer trends towards better health.

The event also included the 2015 Industry Awards, which recognised top performers including Lipa Pharmaceuticals and Ferngrove Pharmaceuticals as Quality Manufacturer of the Year.

Caruso's Natural Health won the Most Outstanding Contribution to Research, Education or Training award; Gelita was the Quality Raw Material Supplier of the Year; and Complementary Medicines Australia was Wholesaler/Distributor of the Year.

The Retailer of the Year was Go Vita from Southlands, WA and the Most Outstanding Marketing Campaign award was taken out by Thursday Plantation.

Fiat Mist Seminar

THE Sydney University Faculty of Pharmacy is hosting the Fiat Mist Seminar on 23 Nov, sponsored by Nexia, looking at "Evidence, influence and the second most trusted profession".

Speakers will be Professor Lisa Bero, Dr Barbara Mintzes, Dr Quinn Grundy and Dr Alice Fabbri who will examine the evidence upon which pharmacists rely.

Ring 02 8627 1905 to register for the free seminar.

ANZ HCC Communiqué

AUSTRALIAN and New Zealand Health Complaints Commissioners are implementing "Open Disclosure" in all jurisdictions, they have announced in their latest Communiqué - [CLICK HERE](#).

DISPENSARY CORNER

RAYBANS that last and last.

Ever wanted a pair of sunglasses you couldn't lose, would never break and would be a great, well respected brand?

One man has found the solution. He celebrated rather heavily at a party and woke up the next day with a (very amateurish unfortunately) pair of Rayban sunglasses tattooed on his face, unsure how it all happened.



The hapless victim, no stranger to tattoos himself, at first thought the effect was due to some clumsy permanent pen effort, but soon found out that the only way to remove the markings was laser treatment.

He needed six sessions at a local beauty clinic to erase the marks.

KNOW someone who is moody?

It could be a sign that they are in fact very adaptable, according to a new theory published this month in the *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* journal.

Researchers from University College London postulated that moodiness helps to "reinforce our responses to positive or negative environmental factors" - so when we react in a negative manner to something, we are likely to avoid it in future, which in basic terms could have an impact on survival.

"Throughout the course of evolution, our moodiness must have conferred a significant competitive advantage," they said.

WIN with Hydralyte

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Hydralyte** are giving away a Hydralyte pack each day.

Stay hydrated over the festive season! Did you know that for each standard alcoholic drink consumed, you urinate 100mL more than you drink, leading to dehydration? Hydralyte contains the correct balance of fluid, electrolytes and glucose, to restore hydration effectively. Visit www.hydralyte.com.au for more information. Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist consult your healthcare professional.

To win, be the first person from **SA** or **NT** to send the correct answer to the following question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

How many flavours are available in the Hydralyte range?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Simon Harper from Wizard Pharmaceutical Services.

