

PDL \$1,000 prize

PDL will later today formally launch a new "Summer Vibes" competition, with a \$1,000 travel voucher up for grabs for pharmacy students and interns who apply for PDL membership before 21 Dec.

Membership is free for pharmacy students and interns, with benefits including full professional indemnity insurance liability cover as well as 24/7 Australia-wide advice and support for incidents such as customer complaints, labelling or dispensing errors. Apply at www.pdl.org.au.

Penalty rate issues

MEMBERS of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia gave of their time to attend hearings intended to help the Fair Work commission better understand the issues that arise in community pharmacy around penalty rates and providing full service to consumers, reports the Guild's *Forefront*.

A total of 23 ACT, Victoria, NSW, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia members gave evidence with 16 appearing in person and seven via video teleconference, the report said.

One of the key issues raised revolved around the provision of free, low-margin or loss-making services, usually without appointment, all of which "help to maintain the sustainability of the PBS and the wider health system".

Member concerns were focussing on the desire to provide the same services on weekends as on regular weekdays without prohibitive wage and salary penalties.

Blackmores into formula

BLACKMORES yesterday announced a joint venture with dairy group Bega Cheese to develop and manufacture a range of nutritional foods, including "high quality infant formula".

The equal share partnership will operate through Bega's subsidiary Tatura, with both companies saying their complementary experience was matched by a "strong alignment on sustainable sourcing and ingredient traceability as well as shared corporate values".

The products developed will be based on an understanding of consumers in Australia and Asia, and Bega will become the exclusive supplier of the Blackmores and Tatura formulations which will be available early next year.

"We are aware from our presence in the Asia region that there is significant demand for infant formula and we believe that, with the combination of Blackmores and Bega, we're uniquely positioned to support those women unable to breastfeed," the companies said.

Amoxicillin availability

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has posted updated expected return of supply dates for replacement stock of registered ampicillin injections and amoxicillin injections on its website.

In the meantime, Ampicillin-ratiopharm 1.0g injection is still approved by the TGA to be supplied temporarily in lieu of the ampicillin injection products listed. Go to www.tga.com.au.

The joint venture was revealed during the Blackmores Annual General Meeting yesterday, with ceo Christine Holgate highlighting the company's ongoing strong performance with net profit after tax for the last three months up a whopping 161% to \$22.6 million. "Sales to Chinese consumers, both directly and through Australian pharmacy partners, are estimated at \$55 million for the quarter, or 34% of Group sales".

Quarterly sales through Australian retailers were \$115.4m, up 76%, driven strongly by purchases by Chinese tourists and entrepreneurs.

Blackmores Sydney operation is now operational 24 hours a day for much of the week to meet demand.

Allergan, Pfizer confirm merger talks

PFIZER and Allergan have confirmed that they are in "preliminary friendly discussions" about a possible merger.

They're not commenting further, and have cautioned that no agreement has been reached and there is no certainty that the talks will lead to a deal being finalised.

Allergan was acquired earlier this year by Actavis for more than US\$70 billion, with the combined business subsequently taking on the Allergan name.

ACCC re-authorisation

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has issued a draft decision proposing the re-authorisation of the infant formula marketing code.

The *Marketing in Australia of Infant Formula* (MAIF) agreement is a voluntary, self-regulatory code which governs the marketing of formula for babies up to one year.

ACCC Commissioner Delia Rickard said the MAIF Agreement is "a cost-effective way to help protect and promote breastfeeding in Australia".

30 days off alcohol

NEW research out of the UK warns drinkers to take a month off alcohol to allow their body time to heal, according to a report in *The Independent*.

The work is the second such study at University College London and the Royal Free Hospital revealing that there was a significant drop in blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose/insulin resistance.

Other benefits included improved sleep patterns and weight loss.

Professor Kevin Moore, of the Royal Free Hospital, reportedly said that "if we had a drug that could achieve these results we would have a multi-billion dollar blockbuster on our hands".

The research continues to investigate the longevity of the outcomes if individuals return to their drinking ways.

Win with Natura Siberica

This week Pharmacy Daily and Natura Siberica are giving readers the chance each day to win a Natura Siberica prize pack including Revitalising Bath Salts 600g, Nourishing Cream Soap 500mL and Lifting Hand Cream.

Natura Siberica is a new organic beauty range for hair, body and bath. Originating from the unspoilt continent of Siberia, this unique range is formulated from Wild Harvested herbs and flowers and exclusive natural and organic ingredients. Visit www.naturasiberica.net.au.

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

Which Natura Siberica product won the ALLURE 2014 Best of Beauty Award?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Julia Phipps from Sturt Fleurieue.



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COMPETITION TIME

Register with Raven's Recruitment for employment opportunities before the end of November and be in the draw to win one of 4 x \$100 Coles/Myer vouchers. One winner drawn each Friday in November.

One of our friendly consultants would be happy to have a confidential discussion with you about your next career move... Remember we're here to help you.



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.

4 Nov: QCPP Refresher Training, Mackay; info and registration: www.guild.org.au/qldcpd

4 Nov: QCPP Refresher Training, Bundaberg; info and rego: www.guild.org.au/qldcpd

7 Nov: Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy Accredited Pharmacists' Forum; Novotel Sydney Brighton Beach; for details see: www.aacp.com.au

9-11 Nov: National Allied Health Conference (NAHC) - *Allied Health: Front and Centre*; Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne; see: www.nahc.com.au

11 Nov: ASMI Annual Conference, AGM & Awards Dinner; Waterview Convention Centre, Homebush; visit: www.asmi.com.au

11 Nov: CPD Accredited First Aid, Brisbane; info and rego: www.guild.org.au/qldcpd

14-15 Nov: Current Treatments in Oncology Seminar; Rendezvous Hotel Melbourne; see: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

16-18 Nov: Improving Healthcare International Convention; Pullman & Mercure Melbourne Albert Park; see: ihic.improve.org.au

25 Nov: Pharmacy Business Insight (PBI) Workshop: Building a more sustainable healthcare business for your community; Sydney; info and registration: <http://pbiworkshop.com.au>

3-10 Jan 2016: Education Vacation, Canyons/Park City USA; more info from www.cpdconferencing.com.au

Guild backs health record trial

PHARMACY Guild national president George Tambassis has welcomed the pilot program of the new My Health Record system (**PD** yesterday), which will see about a million people enrolled in Far North Queensland and the NSW Blue Mountains regions.

"Community pharmacies have always been early and conscientious adopters of beneficial technology for patients, and I know pharmacy will get behind the My Health Record and contribute to its success in the interests of better patient outcomes," Tambassis said.

The e-Health 'opt-out' bill has passed through the lower house (**PD** 21 Oct 15), and engagement is expected to ramp up if it passes through the Senate, in which case the new system is expected to come into effect in 2017.

EXPANDING NATIONALLY

For more information or to book a confidential meeting contact Feras Karem on **0414 653 803** or feras@pharmacy4less.com.au

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Pheburane NZ tick

MELBOURNE-BASED Orpharma has announced approval by New Zealand's MEDSAFE regulator for Pheburane, an improved formulation of sodium phenylbutyrate which is indicated as an adjunctive therapy in the chronic management of rare urea cycle disorders (UCDs).

It's estimated that the current patient population in NZ with UCDs is less than ten.

Pheburane was also recently granted marketing authorisation in Canada, South Korea and Israel, with Orpharma currently working on obtaining Therapeutic Goods Administration approval.

It's the only "taste-masked" coated formulation of phenylbutyrate, which in its normal form is well known for extremely bitter taste which may compromise treatment adherence, particularly in children.



DISPENSARY CORNER

POLYANDRY solution for one-child policy crisis?

Chinese economist Xie Zuoshi has proposed that Chinese men share their wives - because there aren't enough to go around due to the severe gender imbalance resulting from the government one-child policy.

It is estimated that by the year 2020, there will be 30 million unattached bachelors, or "guanggun" which means "bare branches".

Consequently Professor Xie recommended the practical solution of two or more men marrying one wife, given that studies have demonstrated that an excess of unmarried men leads to increased rates of crime.

Feminist reactions were predictable, especially when the good professor suggested men could "buy" themselves a wife.

YES, there's an app for that.

The proliferation of smartphones has led to some fascinating health applications, and the process is still continuing.

The latest version of the software in Apple's iPhone, iOS9, has expanded its offering with a new fertility feature, which encourages women to tell their device when they have had sex.

Previous iterations of Apple's iPhone HealthKit had the facility to track a range of personal well-being measures collected from third-party devices such as blood glucose meters, gathering all such information in a single place.

In the new version women hoping to fall pregnant can also store details of their menstrual cycles and sexual activity, in order to figure out the best time to conceive.

Don't worry - Apple assures users that details stored in their phones are absolutely private.

Awards for PSA journal

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is celebrating national recognition for its monthly *Australian Pharmacist* journal, which has recently taken out three prestigious awards.

Last week in Sydney the publication's editor, journalist Andrew Daniels, was named Journalist of the Year (Business) at the Publish Awards organised by marketing website Mumbrella and Publishers Australia.

Joining Daniels on the podium were Rebecca Jones and Lyn Todd who took home the Publish Award for "Cover of the Year (Business)".

And then on Wed this week Peter Waterman, who recently left the PSA to take up a role with the Pharmacy Guild (**PD** 16 Oct) won the Bupa National Press Club Health Journalism Award, in the Documentary category for his two part series about substance abuse by health professionals.



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