



New super-antibiotic

GERMAN scientists have isolated the gene responsible for staphylococcus lugdunensis' ability to suppress staphylococcus aureus, the dreaded 'golden staph' organism, or multiply resistant staph aureus (MRSA), opening the way to create a new antibiotic, which they have dubbed lugdunin.

Tests on mice showed lugdunin could treat superbug infections on the skin including MRSA, as well as enterococcal infections.

Staph lugdunensis was found in the noses of humans who had no staph aureus, and researchers believe the body is host to a large number of potential antibiotics.

"It is possible that this report will be the first of many demonstrating that bacteria in our bodies can produce novel antibiotics with new chemical structures," researchers said, according to the BBC.

Ley ramps up Pharmacy Trial

HEALTH minister Sussan Ley has confirmed she plans to shortly call for further funding applications for the Pharmacy Trial program, urging pharmacists across the country to "be thinking about how you might get involved".

Speaking on Fri at the opening session of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's PSA16 conference (PD breaking news), Ley reiterated the government's commitment to remaking the health system, with pharmacy a vital part of the mix.

Collaboration across professions will be key, she emphasised.

"We are not in competition, as professionals, practitioners, policy makers, patients, industry groups... we are in cooperation," she said.

Three trials have been approved



so far (PD 18 Mar), with the Guild-led Diabetes Trial "progressing well," she added.

Further consultations in Mar saw 108 submissions including "ideas that would trial an expanded role for pharmacists in primary care".

In terms of the contentious Pharmacy Review, Ley said she wants it to "consider first and foremost if we have a system that meets the needs of consumers".

To that end the forthcoming consumer survey as part of the review process will be key, with hopes as many as 40,000 people will provide their input.

"It will tell us the programs and services that pharmacists deliver that are most important to consumers," Ley said.

Any future pharmacy agreements "must be in the context of long-term sustainability and equitable distribution of the PBS as a government-funded community resource," she concluded.

CSL to challenge GSK

WITH the TGA approval of CSL's Afluria Quad (inactivated quadrivalent influenza vaccine) for prevention of type A and B influenza, serious competition enters the quadrivalent vaccine market in Australia, recently dominated by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) who hold the contract for the National Immunisation Program supply.

Afluria Quad is now Australia's only locally manufactured, quadrivalent seasonal influenza vaccine (QIV) and will also be exported globally from the Parkville facility in Melbourne.

CSL's vaccine company Seqirus, will rebrand its current trivalent vaccine Fluvax to the globally used name Afluria and will have supplies of Afluria Quad available in time for the 2017 influenza season, the company has said.

As the first home-grown quad influenza vaccine, Afluria Quad is one of three new chemical entities registered with the Therapeutic Goods Administration in July.

The other two were Brenzys (etanercept) sponsored by Era Consulting for MSD (PD Fri) for specific immunological diseases and Allergan's Belkyra (deoxycholic acid) for submental fullness (double chin appearance).

Visit www.tga.gov.au for details.



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PSA2016 winners

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia conference last weekend saw pharmacists honoured in the annual PSA Excellence Awards,



which have been sponsored by Symbion for more than a decade.

PSA national president Joe Demarte said, "The Awards applaud the profession's pinnacle achievements with a focus on pharmacists involved in innovative practice, raising practice standards, and providing a model of practice for others to emulate."

Noel Fosbery from WA was named Pharmacist of the Year in recognition of his development of the Easy Dose software program.

Early Career Pharmacist of the Year was awarded to Victoria's Erin Nunan, who has worked with WHO in the Solomon Islands, in Timor-Leste and Swaziland; while Con Peoples of NSW, the "living legend of Broken Hill", was recognised with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

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PSA hails conference success

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia says about 900 delegates attended its PSA2016 conference last weekend, including many newcomers and Early Career Pharmacists from across Australia.

PSA national president Joe Demarte thanked attendees for such a strong turn-out, which was higher than in previous years.

Key issues canvassed during the conference included improving the levels of wages for pharmacists, the patient-centred medical home, pharmacists in GP clinics and the "next level of innovation with respect to new career options for pharmacists," Demarte said.

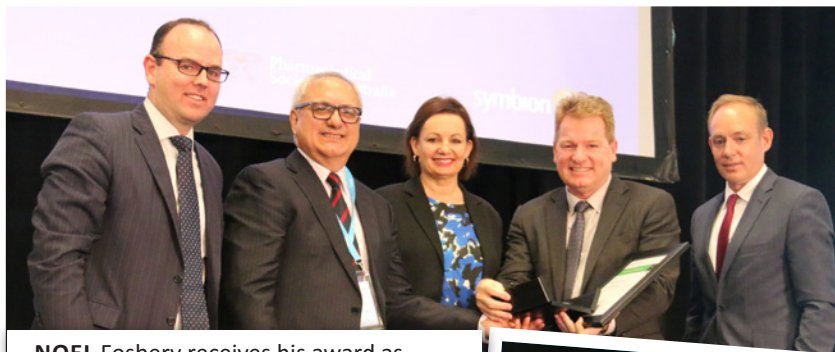
The PSA also launched a new CPD planning tool to help pharmacists meet their statutory obligations.

As well as non-stop education, therapeutic updates, masterclasses and networking the event also featured a trade show and exhibition, with Demarte confirming PSA17 will take place at the same venue, the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Darling Harbour next year - although by then the hotel will have rebranded as the Hyatt Regency Sydney - on 28-30 Jul 2017.

More photos from PSA16

at facebook.com/pharmacydaily.

ALL smiles on the PSA's Health Destination Pharmacy stand.



NOEL Fosbery receives his award as Pharmacist of the Year from health minister Sussan Ley, with Symbion's Brett Barons and Joe Demarte & Lance Emerson of the PSA.



KEYNOTE speaker George Savvides with PSA national president Joe Demarte.



THE Fred IT team flex their computing muscle.



PDL really capped off the exhibition.



SOME of the National Australian Pharmacy Students Association team.



JOHN Chapman from the PSA with the Boehringer Ingelheim team.



DINAH Graham and Kumar Singh from MIMS.



THE Aspen Australia team at PSA16.



WILLACH'S John Koot and Marta Stybowski.



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Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Associate Professor Kirstie Galbraith, Monash Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.**



Lifelong learning: forming the habit

IF INDEED they ever existed, the days when graduation marked the end of one's education are long gone. An appreciation of lifelong learning is now entrenched in our profession.

It is driven by the understanding that we work in a highly dynamic field where our current knowledge has a limited shelf life, but also by a desire to achieve the best health outcomes for our communities.

To prepare our students for a rewarding career, we educators must ensure our students embrace lifelong learning. With this in mind, Monash University is launching a new pharmacy program in 2017, the BPharm(Hons)/MPharm. It will include a personalised learning plan for each of our students that identifies their strengths and weaknesses, and tracks their progress, specifically as it relates to skill development.

This will address a workforce need: feedback from the profession, combined with our own vision of the future of the profession, suggested that our students would benefit from enhanced skills in areas like teamwork, empathy, problem solving, integrity and communication.

By explicitly positioning these skills as essential competencies to be deliberately acquired, and by charging students with their own development, we are seeding the notion that education is both ongoing, and lifelong.

PharmacyID rolling out

PRE-EMPLOYMENT Screening firm Personnel Risk Management Group (The PRM Group) has launched an awareness campaign for its PharmacyID system (*PD* 14 Mar), claiming more than 1,500 pharmacies across Australia are now offering the service.

PRM md Geoff Stockton said the system brings "state-of-the-art identity verification technology" to solve identity fraud problems at a consumer level.

PharmacyID offers online national police history checks, with the system potentially able to be used in the future for licence renewals, proof of age cards, confirmation of identity for retail purchases, banking and finance transactions and identity verification for travel documentation such as visas and passports, Stockton said.

PRM is one of several organisations targeting the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade's passport operations, which are currently handled by Australia Post but are expected to go to tender this year.

Using PharmacyID means individuals don't need to copy

their ID documents and have them certified, with the system instead seeing 100 points of identification verified within the pharmacy by staff who have completed training.

"One in five Australians have had their identities stolen or had their personal data illegally accessed, with people aged 35-49 most likely to fall victim to identity fraud.

"Criminals are using people's stolen identities to access their existing accounts, open new accounts, claim government benefits and accumulate credit card debts," Stockton said.

See pharmacyid.com.au.

NZ funds more vax

THE New Zealand Pharmaceutical management Agency (Pharmac) has announced it will fund broader immunisation programs.

As of 01 Jan 2017, human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines will be available for all children and adults up to the age of 26 years and from 01 Jul 2017 varicella (chickenpox) vaccine will be funded for all children as a part of the childhood immunisation schedule.



Dispensary Corner

USUALLY it's the woman's baby bump that's front and centre of a maternity shoot - but not this time around.

One cheeky Florida man carrying a rotund belly of his own (**pictured** below) decided he wanted in on the action.

Lewis Mohorn who freely admits he is a "very goofy person" unbuttoned his pink shirt for the shoot, cradling his own food baby as his fiancé cradled their, ah, actual baby.

The photographer said it was unusual to find men who were so comfortable with their beer belly but Mohorn's willingness to have a laugh at himself made for a pretty unique shoot.



MASSAGE therapists could be out of a job, with the a new lady on the scene whose arm never gets tired.

Emma, a star masseuse, is also a robot whose name stands for Expert Manipulative Massage Automation.

The robotic arm uses a 3D stereoscopic camera and a custom made 3D-printed massage tip which apparently delivers the best remedial therapy possible.

Emma, who is undergoing clinical trials at the Kin Teck Tong medical institution in Singapore, uses sensors to measure the stiffness of a muscle or tendon and gauge the patient's response.

CLICK HERE to see a video of Emma massaging her trial patients.

Win with MOR

This week Pharmacy Daily and MOR are giving away each day the Essentials Collection in Sugar Rose worth \$149.65.

The Essentials collection presents five memorable fragrances in an assortment of quality products to embrace everyday self-indulgence. Experience the collection with Triple-Milled Soaps, Vitamin enriched Hand Creams, Hand & Body Washes and Lotions, regenerating Body Polish and fragrant Candles and Reed Diffusers.

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

What fragrance notes can be found in the soft sugary scent of Sugar Rose?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



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