

Medsafe recruiting

MEDSAFE New Zealand is recruiting for a Senior Advisor Science (GMP Audit).

Applicants need experience in pharmaceutical Good Manufacturing Practice with the ability to put their highly developed technical and problem solving skills into practice auditing manufacturers of healthcare products.

CLICK HERE for more.

HBF drops premiums

FEDERAL Minister for Health Sussan Ley has welcomed the announcement by private health insurer HBF they will be resubmitting a lower premium for their members, as a response to the governments request to reconsider premium increases.

"While there is still a formal process to follow, today's announcement by HBF is an encouraging sign for consumers and builds on the positive noises being generated by a number of insurers," she said.

Given the industry holds about \$5.1b of excess capital, it's an important moment for insurers to demonstrate to their members their commitment to future reform by offering cheaper premiums, said Ley, in a bid to place downward pressure on other suppliers.

"Ultimately insurers who try to maintain high premium increases in the face of the Government's request and consumer dissatisfaction over their current policies risk missing the boat and leaking customers elsewhere."

Whooping cough rate up

SUPPLIES of whooping cough vaccine to the private market fell short of demand as 12,240 whooping cough notifications were reported in New South Wales in 2015, four times as many as 2014, according to Fairfax Media.

With the NSW government providing the vaccine to children and pregnant women based on clinical evidence, the National Immunisation Program (NIP) has created more demand than anticipated in the tender for supply, leaving, the lower prioritised private market uncovered.

According to comments from NSW Director of Communicable Diseases Dr Vicky Sheppeard, whooping cough outbreaks were cyclical because unlike diseases such as measles or diphtheria, immunity given by the vaccine diminishes after about four years.

Recent concerns over a similar situation developing this year have drawn attention from health authorities while vaccine supplier

PBAC website update

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has updated its website to create a consistent look between the PBS, Health and PBAC websites.

With the changes cosmetic only, said the PBAC, there is no change to the content or utility.

Viewers will notice improvements though in the form of infographics, clarity of layout and intuitive flow of content, click-through and other functionality, PBAC said.

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PSA ticks cannabis

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has welcomed the bill to establish a national licensing and compliance scheme for medical cannabis.

Health Minister Sussan Ley introduced the Narcotic Drugs Amendment Bill 2016 this week in a bid to allow the controlled cultivation of cannabis for medicinal or scientific purposes.

PSA national president Joe Demarte said the pharmacy profession supported timely access to medicines for all Australians. "Pharmacists have an important role in Australia advocating for and supporting consumers and carers to access appropriate medicines," Demarte said.

The PSA supports clinic trials of the drug and has called for investment in pharmacist education on medicinal cannabis.

GSK has made assurances (**PD** 03 Feb).

The company confirmed uninterrupted supply of its diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis (whooping cough) (dTpa) vaccine Boostrix in 2016 for NIP, State, Territory and Federal Government programs, GSK said.

However, in the face of unprecedented demand from the private market again this year, GSK has clarified that stock outs may occur intermittently, but temporarily, in some areas around Australia.

The company further reassured **PD** that they are "working to resolve the situation and are expecting additional supplies to be available in the coming months".

TGA on advertising

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has updated its rules around advertising and endorsements.

Advertisements that refer to the TGA and use government logo, or imply that any government body (including a foreign government agency) endorses a therapeutic good are not permitted in consumer advertising.

Examples of disallowed phrases are statements such as "TGA approved", "Government endorsed" or even "registered by the TGA".

For the full rundown on rules surrounding TGA related advertising **CLICK HERE**.

MEANWHILE the Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) has announced that it has developed face-to-face training seminars on the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code and the surrounding regulatory framework.

These have replaced the TGACC seminar series, which were discontinued in 2013, ASMI said.

The seminar explains each aspect of the current system, including the application of the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code, the approvals process and complaints mechanisms.

CLICK HERE for more.



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- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Grampians Region, VIC (Job# 2011996)
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- **Pharmacist/PIC** - South Coast of NSW (Job# 2012083)
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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.

13-14 Feb: Evidence Based Practice Seminar; Rydges Sydney Central; details at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

19-21 Feb: Foundation Clinical Pharmacy Practice; Novotel Brisbane; for more info visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

20 Feb: Provide First Aid; UoNDRH Tamworth Education Centre; visit: www.psa.org.au

4-6 Mar: NSW Annual Therapeutic Update; Crowne Plaza Terrigal; visit: www.psa.org.au

5-6 Mar: Emergency Medicine Seminar; Crowne Plaza Melbourne; details at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

12-13 Mar: Oncology Seminar (foundation); Parmelia Hilton Perth; more info at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

17-20 Mar: Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual National Conference APP 2016, Gold Coast - more information at: www.appconference.com

15-17 Apr: PharmHack: The world's first pharmacy hackathon; Fishburners, Ultimo; details at: www.pharmhack.com.au

16-17 Apr: Victorian Pharmacy Conference 2016; Monash University, Parkville; more info at: www.psa.org.au

1-10 May: 41st Offshore Refresher; Cape Town and Sun City, South Africa; details at: www.psaoffshore2016.com.au

FDA 8% fund increase bid

UNITED States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is fighting for a total budget of \$5.1b to protect and promote the public's health as part of the President's fiscal year 2017 budget, representing an eight percent increase over the enacted budget for FY 2016.

What could be interpreted as an ambit claim, the FDA is seeking a net increase of \$14.6m in budget authority and \$268.7 million in user fees for initiatives tied to several key areas, including the implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and efforts to improve medical product safety and quality.

The agency has said it is also seeking \$75m in new mandatory funding to support the National Cancer Moonshot initiative being led by the Vice President (PD 21 Jan).

FDA Acting Commissioner Stephen Ostroff said, "The FDA continues to work to obtain the most public health value for the federal dollar as we address expanded regulatory responsibilities and scientific challenges."

This will require more than \$3m

in building and facilities funding, he said, along with some \$600,000 for other infrastructure.

"The agency remains fully committed to meeting the needs and high expectations of the American people regarding the products we regulate, as well as advancing the prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer," Ostroff explained.

Multiple meds danger

POLYPHARMACY, officially described as the simultaneous use of five or more medications, can trigger a decline into frailty and death, according to a report from the Monash University.

Research, led by Monash's Centre for Medicine Use and Safety, in collaboration with the University of Sydney, followed men aged 70 years and over measuring increases in the Drug Burden Index (DBI).

Higher DBIs were associated with a 22% greater risk of transition from a robust state, to various stages of frailty, and finally death.

The work was published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* - [CLICK HERE](#).

DISPENSARY CORNER



IRON Boy (pictured below) saved Sydney yesterday: firstly he rescued Make-a-Wish Foundation reporter Hope Joy from the clutches of the evil Ultron before defeating the villain in a battle on the Opera House steps with hundreds of bystanders cheering him on with supportive banners.

The superhero was congratulated by NSW police chief Andrew Scipione before being presented with a bravery medal.

The hero behind Iron Boy's costume was Sydney's nine-year-old Domenic Pace who is seriously ill with cystic fibrosis.

Yesterday he had his wish to have super powers granted.

"Not only has Domenic battled villains and saved his city, he's stared down his illness and won the day," Scipione said yesterday.

Thanks Iron Boy! Watch his brave actions yesterday [HERE](#).



BACON-lovers, I think we just found you the ultimate Valentine's gift: roses made from bacon.

This is no joke. These mouth-watering treats were invented by Florida Atlantic University student Logan Rae.

"We've received a lot of excitement in response to our products – it's a totally new product unavailable anywhere else; we couldn't be more proud," he told *Mirror UK*.

And...the meat is sourced from family-owned farms that raise their cattle organically.

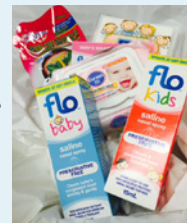
Ethical, tasty and romantic...

Win with flo

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Flo are giving readers each day the chance to win a Flo Pumper Pack.

Flo Baby and Flo Kids Saline Nasal sprays help clear congested, snuffly or snotty noses to help your child breathe more easily. Flo Baby and Flo Kids sprays are gentle enough to be used daily and are natural and preservative-free. The handy thing about Flo Baby/Kids sprays is that they can be used at any angle, which means you can clear your child's nose quickly and easily in any position that is comfortable for them. For more information [WATCH THIS](#) or [CLICK HERE](#).

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



Always read the label.
Use as directed.

Does clearing a baby's nose with a saline spray like Flo Baby help improve feeding and sleeping?