

## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today has two pages of news, plus a full page from **APP2016**.

## Guild PA training

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia is offering hands on face to face training sessions for pharmacy assistants wanting to meet QCPP Refresher Training requirements.

Described as "fun, interesting and interactive QCPP Approved Refresher Training sessions", each will include a refresher of Pharmacy Medicine/Pharmacist Only Medicine, said the Guild.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## 2016 hepatitis meeting

**HEPATITIS** Australia's 2016 National Health Promotion Conference is themed 'Navigating the Future - Opportunities through engagement'.

Set for 19 to 20 May in Melbourne, the meeting is calling for abstracts and will explore the future health promotion response to viral hepatitis in Australia.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## ACCC small business policy

**THE** Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has expounded its compliance and enforcement priorities in a presentation given at the first 2016 meeting of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA).

ACCC chairman Rod Sims gave the presentation and highlighted the changed priorities for the organisation in terms of consumers and small business.

Indigenous consumer protection has been elevated to an enduring priority, he said.

Other vulnerable groups cited include the elderly and newly arrived migrants.

Audiology clinics have targeted the elderly, said Sims, while mobility equipment companies have also been investigated for misleading claims.

"Competition and consumer issues in the health and medical sector remain a priority in 2016," he said.

Projects hit in 2015 included supply of day surgery services in

Wagga Wagga, "unconscionable conduct in promoting and supplying medical services and medications for men suffering from sexual dysfunction" and "misleading conduct in claiming that pain relief products were each formulated to treat a specific type of pain, when the Nurofen products are identical".

Sims warned that health service providers need to ensure their disclosure practices are in line with the Australian Consumer Law, adding that the Commission will probably "take some action in this area shortly".

Read the full transcript of Sims' speech by **CLICKING HERE**.

## Corum trading halt

**PHARMACY** point-of-sale and dispensing software company Corum Group has sought a trading halt to their shares from the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX).

The company announced the request saying it is in order to facilitate an orderly market in Corum's securities pending the release of an announcement to the market relating to historical financial matters that are material.

In addition, Corum did not want its shares trading "in an uninformed market".

The ASX has agreed to comply with the request, announcing that the trading halt will apply until a further ASX announcement or prior to the commencement of trade on 25 Feb.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## TGA conferencing

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced the conferences at which it will present in the near future.

Among the audiences are University of Technology Sydney School of Pharmacy, ASMI advertising seminars, an ARCS meeting and more.

The TGA invites questions and comments about TGA participation in conferences.

Call 1800 020 653 or email to [tga.conferences@tga.gov.au](mailto:tga.conferences@tga.gov.au).

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## Pill refused in NZ

**A NEW** Zealand pharmacist is refusing to sell the morning-after pill over the counter because of personal beliefs, according to reports in the *NZ Herald*.

Owner of Wairoa Pharmacy Elsa Norvil told the newspaper she saw conception as a "potential life, with a soul".

"I consider this as ending another's life," she said.

"I am prepared to dispense it on doctors' instructions and believe this acknowledges other's rights to access this service," she continued.

Residents are concerned this will add to the town's high teenage pregnancy rate, especially considering Wairoa Pharmacy is the area's only dispensary and there are no local family planning facilities available.

## Antivaxers blamed

**A MEASLES** outbreak spreading through Melbourne's inner north from Brunswick is being blamed on anti-vaccination campaigners, according to reports from the *ABC News*.

Last week the National Health Performance Authority revealed that about one in 10 Australian children were not fully immunised.

Loss of herd immunity is consequently the issue with vaccination advocate Dr John Cunningham saying, "I'd have to say the proof is in the pudding."

"Brunswick has the measles outbreak and currently the areas around it don't."

## First ARNI approved

**THE** first in a new class of medicine that reduces the strain on failing hearts and the risk of cardiovascular death and hospitalisation from systolic heart failure compared to angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor therapy can now be prescribed in Australia.

The new drug is Entresto (sacubitril/valsartan) from Novartis, an angiotensin receptor neprilysin inhibitor (ARNI), approved for use in adults for the treatment of chronic heart failure (NYHA Class II-IV) with reduced ejection fraction.

## Unlock 6CPA Funds

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## EMA EPAR list update

**THE** European Medicines Agency (EMA) has announced an updated list of products on which it has issued a European public assessment report (EPAR) or included in the list of nationally authorised medicinal products.

**CLICK HERE** to access the full list of additions and updates.

## Guild Update

### Regulation review website

**STAKEHOLDER** meetings with the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation panel are underway, with a discussion paper expected to be released in April this year.

The panel of Mr Bill Scott, Ms Jo Watson and Professor Stephen King (Chair), is to present recommendations on future remuneration, regulation including pharmacy location rules, and other arrangements that apply to pharmacy and wholesalers for the dispensing and supply of medicines and other services provided under the PBS.

The panel will continue consultations after the April discussion paper is released with a view to presenting its interim report in the second half of 2016. A final report will be provided to the Minister for Health by March 2017.

In the meantime, the Department of Health has launched a Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation section on its main website. This section includes details of the review including terms of reference, contact details for the review secretariat and other information relating to this important review.

The section can be accessed [here](#).

## Drug pricing challenges

**DRUG** making companies are facing criticism over the prices they are charging for new drugs, with companies such as Merck & Co increasing the price of drugs on a yearly basis.

In an interview with *The Wall Street Journal*, Merck & Co's ceo Kenneth Frazier tried to defend the high pricing saying it's "a necessary incentive for risky R&D products".

He told the journal his company faces "a huge challenge" between trying to optimise access to drugs and trying to ensure they have the resources to continue to pursue the next generation of drugs.

"We're going to have to find new

and better ways to link what we charge for the drug to the value that it actually creates in the marketplace," he continued.

He said the growing debate about drug pricing has spurred him to engage more in helping the public understand the "need for capital to be invested in tomorrow's drugs".

In his view, pricing laws are not geared towards "risk sharing" or "experimental approaches".

## Phcy research boost

**PHARMALLIANCE** has announced its first round of grant funding for projects aimed at improving pharmacy education.

First round offers went towards two projects: the first, headed up by Dr Felicity Smith of University College London, will develop a module to assist pharmacy students provide improved healthcare to adolescents.

The second, led by University of North Carolina's Dr Alex Trophsa, uses virtual reality for students to explore the way the body reacts to drugs.

Four further research projects have also been funded.

## Vit D & breastfeeding

**BREASTFED** children who were not supplemented appear to have lower vitamin D status after one year than those supplemented, according to new research in *The American Journal of Public Health*.

Of the 2,508 children studied between 2012 and 2013, the interaction between vitamin D supplementation, the duration of breast feeding and median serum 25-OHD was statistically significant.

## Win with MILANI

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Milani are giving away everyday a prize pack including Supreme Kohl Kajal Eyeliner, Eyeshadow Primer and Tastastic Face & Body Baked Bronzer.

Milani Cosmetics is a cruelty-free brand. They do not test products on animals, nor do they allow others to test on their behalf. The brand is certified by both PETA and The Leaping Bunny Program (CCIC) as cruelty-free. Milani also has a ton of Vegan options also. For more info visit [www.milanicosmetics.com.au](http://www.milanicosmetics.com.au)

To win, be the first from **QLD** to send the right answer to the following question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

How many Limited Edition Rose Blushes are posed on the website in the limited edition section?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Sinny Thio from the Lamson Group.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**DO SWEATY** strangers gross you out more than sweaty friends? There's actually a scientific reason for that.

Research by the University of Sussex has shown people are less disgusted by the bodily secretions of people close to them.

Psychologists found a person's 'core' disgust response is reduced if the source is within their own social group.

The study looked at the reactions of students to sweaty t-shirts with the logo from their own university compared to one from a separate school.

When handling the shirt with their uni's own logo participants walked slower to wash their hands and pumped the soap dispenser fewer times.

Apparently a lack of disgust is essential for social cohesion and enabling select groups to work together effectively.

So, if someone's smell disgusts you maybe science is telling you to keep away!



**IT'S** the research we had been waiting for - regular chocolate consumption is good for our cognitive function "irrespective of other dietary habits".

More frequent chocolate nibbling was "significantly associated" with better performance on cognitive testing, according to the recent Maine-Syracuse Longitudinal Study published in the *Appetite* journal.

We'll take any excuse for guilt-free chocolate indulgence.

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