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## Today's issue of PD

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

## New SHPA committee

**THE** Queensland branch of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists (SHPA) has announced in the branch newsletter *The Tablet*, the appointment of three new members elected into the committee: Jess Eglington, Sally Porter and Paul Firman.

Existing committee member Jackie Costello, was also elected to continue for another term while the Branch Executive and observers will be discussed and announced in the new year.

Outgoing branch committee members Jess Lloyd, Emma Alder and Arna Lancashire were thanked for their 'tremendous contributions' by the executive.

Other announcements in the newsletter included those recently awarded Fellowship of the SHPA, awards presented at MM2015 and those Queensland pharmacists who have achieved Stages 2 and 3 Advance Practice Pharmacist credentials.

**CLICK HERE** for the newsletter.

## FSM appointment

**PUBLIC** health watchdogs Friends of Science in Medicine, has appointed Dr Ken Harvey to its executive team.

Dr Harvey is an adjunct associate professor in the School of Public Health and Preventative in Medicine at Monash University, and has contributed widely to the development of sensible drug policies throughout Asia and the Pacific, playing an important role in the establishment of the Therapeutic Guidelines resource.

## CWG 'exploits' loophole

**A SCATHING** opinion piece published by *Financial Review* columnist, Tony Boyd, has blasted Chemist Warehouse, alleging the mega discount pharmacy chain is "exploiting loopholes in restrictive government regulations" to "disrupt the \$13 billion retail pharmacy industry".

Currently, the law prohibits pharmacists from owning more than six pharmacies in any one state or territory; however Boyd comments that Chemist Warehouse has - like global technology platforms Uber and Airbnb - defiantly bypassed the laws, and "controls" about 300 pharmacies in the country, bringing in an annual revenue of \$2.7 billion.

"This is an impressive achievement considering it was done in defiance of the country's most powerful small business lobby, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia," writes Boyd.

"It appears to make a mockery of government regulation designed to protect the thousands of small businesses run by individual pharmacists".

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia posted the article on its Facebook page, inviting followers to weigh in on the subject.

The post gathered more than 100 shares, 200 likes and inspired a heated debate on the page.

## NHMRC warning

**THE** National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has issued guidance for consumers to beware of direct-to-consumer genetic tests.

**CLICK HERE** for the full release.

"Once corporations swallow the community pharmacy industry, it will only be a matter of time before service and standards of care are reduced," commented Brisbane-based Pharmacist, Tim Plunkett.

"The big losers will be small business owners, the community who receive primary

healthcare in pharmacist, and those in remote locations," he continued.

Union group Professional Pharmacists Australia has since joined the conversation, inviting employee pharmacists at Chemist Warehouse to "set real change in motion" by getting in contact to discuss their opinions on the controversial topic.

Chemist Warehouse Group told *Pharmacy Daily* it did not wish to comment.



## Point-of-care testing

**WITH** more than eight million Americans living with undiagnosed diabetes, and more than 35 million having uncontrolled blood pressure, pharmacists have the opportunity to play a critical role in patient care through the provision of point-of-care (POC) testing, according to an American Pharmacists Association report published in the official organ, the *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association*.

POC testing may also serve as a valuable tool for pharmacist-provided disease state management of patients diagnosed with chronic disease(s) said the article, emphasising the benefits to patients.

**CLICK HERE** for the full article.

## APP2016 Vegas party

**FOR** those who remember 2015 APP's Rio Carnivale themed Street Party, you will no doubt be looking forward to the APP2016 party event themed for a Viva Las Vegas, and hosted by APP chairman Kos Sclavos.

Along with Elvis impersonator Dean Vegas, glittering showgirls and cirque-de-soleil inspired acrobatics, Australia's own award-winning illusionist Cosentino will demonstrate impossible feats until local hit-making musicians 'The Potbelleez' take everyone to the dancefloor, Sclavos said.

"There will be so much happening, you won't have time to worry about anything else and that's why we make the Saturday night at APP so much fun," he added.

"We want you to enjoy yourself, spend time with old friends, create new ones and make unforgettable memories."

Earlybird discounts finish at the end of January while tickets for the Street Party are included in full registrations and additional tickets can be purchased on the APP website: [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com).

## Preventing errors

**A LARGE** scale study has been conducted on the use of 'Tall Man' lettering, to determine if the widely-adopted practice really can reduce 'wrong-drug errors'.

The study covered 1.6 million orders from 42 hospitals over nine years (2004-2012), and found that "there was very little evidence" for or against Tall Man lettering when it was first introduced in 2007, referencing that there were only four peer-reviewed published experiments, none of which whom included healthcare professionals.

**CLICK HERE** to read the study.



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## Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Chris Brycki, the Founder and CEO of Stockspot.**



### How to save an extra \$2,000 in 2016

AS WE enter the New Year, many of us, for better or worse, will attempt to make New Year's resolutions. Here are 3 simple ways you could increase your general wealth in 2016.

#### 1) Erase ATM fees

The ING DIRECT's Orange Everyday is one of the few accounts available where all of your ATM fees can be offset, in this case if you deposit at least \$1,000 each month. If you're making a withdrawal every week and getting charged \$2 per transaction, you could be saving \$100 per year.

Savings total: \$100

#### 2) Slash your investment fees

Our 2015 Stockspot Fat Cat Funds Report found that Australians pay over \$23.5 billion each year in super fees and this figure is set to increase. By switching from a Fat Cat fund charging 2% per year to a Fit Cat Fund charging 0.5%, an Australian with a \$100,000 super balance could save over \$1,500 p.a.

Savings total: \$1,600

#### 3) Reduce your personal lending rates

Banks traditionally put everyone in the same 'risk bucket', so people with excellent credit ratings get the same rates as those who don't. Peer-to-peer (P2P) lending businesses like RateSetter are challenging this by creating a marketplace for business loans. For many people, this could bring down their lending rate by about 4-6% per annum. On a \$10,000 loan, that's \$400 per year.

Savings total: \$2,000

Make 2016 your year to be financially savvy and save an extra \$2,000 over the year.

## Labelling triggers recalls

**STALLERGENES** Australia, in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), is recalling certain batches of Staloral and Phostal due to potential incorrect labelling which could lead to incorrect dosing, the TGA said.

The recall follows a directive from the French health authority, Agence Nationale de Sécurité du Médicament (ANSM), to temporarily suspend manufacturing and distribution of pharmaceutical products from the Stallergenes production plant in Antony (France), commencing 02 Dec 2015.

Staloral is a range of sublingual solutions and Phostal is a suspension for injection, both of which are for immune disorders.

Staloral is prescribed for a range of allergens and the affected

batch of Phostal is used to manage the European dust mite (*D.Pteronyssinus*).

ANSM identified the cause of the labelling glitch as the implementation of a new IT system on 13 Aug 2015, which also resulted in operational disruptions and supply shortages.

The TGA said that as of 16 Dec 2015, there have been no reports of adverse events in Australia or outside of France associated with this issue.

Affected products and batch numbers are listed on the TGA website at [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

## Brain inflammation

**BELIEVED** to be a cause of Alzheimer's Disease, brain inflammation which produces immune cells called microglia, has now been successfully blocked in mice in a University of Southampton study published in *Brain*.

**CLICK HERE** for the abstract.

## Chromium cancer

**CHROMIUM** nutritional supplements, as frequently taken by diabetes patients have now been embroiled in a controversy over their safety and efficacy with a new study implicating them as potentially causing cancer.

The Australian work "strongly" supports the hypothesis that the antidiabetic role of certain chromium containing compounds and their carcinogenicity arise from similar mechanisms.

**CLICK HERE** for the abstract.

## Win with Qsilica

This week Pharmacy Daily and Qsilica are giving away a prize pack each day including Remove Cleansing Gel and Rescue Paw Paw Ointment.

Treat your skin to two Award Winners from hair, skin and nail experts Qsilica! Qsilica Remove Makeup & Grime Cleansing Gel is a naturally derived foaming cleanser to gently remove impurities and leave your skin fresh and clean. Qsilica Rescue Paw Paw Ointment helps you say "good-bye dry" with a petrochemical free formula including Shea butter and soothing Calendula with fermented Paw Paw. Visit [www.qsilica.com](http://www.qsilica.com)

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

Which 2 extracts gently remove impurities in Qsilica Remove?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**IF YOUR** New Year's resolution is to shed a few extra kilos this year, look away now.

A Restaurant in Brooklyn US is taking fine dining to the next level, by introducing a donut that is encrusted with 24-karat gold flecks.

Available for US\$100 a pop (AU\$143), the Golden Cristal Ube Donut is described by the Manila Social Club as a luxury dessert "adorned with icing made with Cristal champagne, filled with an ube mousse and champagne jelly, and covered with 24K gold".

The novelty confectionery was first created as a limited edition special, but became so popular amongst New Yorkers the shop-owner decided to make it a permanent menu item.



**MEANWHILE**, a sushi boss in Japan has invested more than US\$117,000 (AU\$167,000) for a giant bluefin tuna at Tokyo's Tsukiji Fish Market last week.

The New Year auction is a Japanese tradition at Tsukiji, where bidders pay for the prestige and honour of buying the first fish of the year.

Weighing in at 200 kilograms, a single piece of the Japanese delicacy fetches up to several thousand yen at high-end Tokyo restaurants.



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