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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a full page from **Pharmacy 4 Less** inviting pharmacists to "build a better business".

TGA fake drug alert

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a safety advisory relating to an FDA warning that a counterfeit version of the American approved product BICNU (carmustine for injection) 100mg had been discovered in some countries outside of the USA.

The fake BICNU has a grey coloured flip top, unlike the US and Australian approved product which have a blue top, and the TGA is asking hospital pharmacies, compounders and health practitioners to be vigilant.

NPS MedicineWise winners

WINNERS of the biennial National MedicineWise Awards have been announced as part of the ninth National Medicines Symposium last week in Canberra.

Initiatives honoured spanned topics from smoking cessation to symptoms of dementia, endometriosis, men's health, chronic respiratory conditions, non-drug interventions and medicine use improvement activities, NPS MedicineWise said.

NPS ceo Dr Lynn Weekes thanked the entrants and winners for their efforts in improving the Australian healthcare landscape.

"It is a privilege to recognise these excellent contributions to quality use of medicines, medical tests and health technologies," Weekes said.

"The recipients of the 2016 National Medicinewise Awards have demonstrated outstanding work to improve health outcomes for Australians.

"It is inspiring to see the awards



cover such diverse projects that incorporate men's health, women's health, chronic disease, indigenous health, medicines in dementia and non-medicine interventions."

SHPA Federal Councillor Lisa Pont (pictured) was the winner of the 'Excellence in health professional programs: <\$100,000 budget' category, in

recognition of her leadership of the De-Prescribing Project Team from the Australian Institute of Health Innovation at Macquarie University in the project *Managing the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia in residential aged care*.

Other winning projects included the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' *Handbook of Non-Drug Interventions (HANDI)* which won for Excellence in e-health resources, while Millie Nakatsuka from Rockhampton Base Hospital won the People's Choice poster award.

About 350 people attended the two-day Symposium, with abstracts from key presentations now online at www.nps.org.au/nms2016.

The next National Medicines Symposium is scheduled to be held in 2018.

RB - ACCC wants \$6m

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has confirmed the filing of a Notice of Appeal regarding the \$1.7 million fine levied against Reckitt Benckiser for contravening the Australian Consumer Law (PD breaking news yesterday).

Last month the Federal Court ordered Reckitt Benckiser to pay the penalty for engaging in "misleading or deceptive conduct by making representations on its website and product packaging that Nurofen Specific Pain products were each formulated to specifically treat a particular type of pain, when this was not the case."

The ACCC however had requested of the court that RB be fined at least \$6 million to send a strong

deterrence message, taking into account the long-standing and widespread nature of the conduct, and the substantial sales and profit made from selling the products.

"The ACCC will submit to the Full Court of the Federal Court that \$1.7 million in penalties imposed on a company the size of Reckitt Benckiser does not act as an adequate deterrent and might be viewed as simply a cost of doing business," ACCC Chairman Rod Sims said yesterday.

"This is particularly the case when the judge found that Reckitt Benckiser had made many millions in profits from sales of 5.9 million units of these products at around 8,500 outlets during the relevant period...It is disappointing a fine of \$1.7 million was imposed for a company this size," Sims said.



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Dispensary reminder

PHARMACY inspections have revealed a number of breaches of legislation and/or non-compliance with guidelines in relation to appropriate dispensary access and utilisation, the Victorian Pharmacy Authority has stated in its May 2016 Communiqué.

No panel hearings were heard in May, but the Authority expressed concern that non-dispensary staff members are frequently observed carrying out activities in the dispensary contrary to guidelines.

Pharmacists are reminded that under the Pharmacy Regulation Act 2010 there can be no access to the dispensary of a pharmacy except under the direct supervision of a registered pharmacist, the Communiqué said.



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Guild Update

Community pharmacy worthy of support

THE Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement was signed on the premise that the tried and tested community pharmacy model would be maintained.

In coming weeks, pharmacies are expecting political leaders to reaffirm their commitment to the ownership and location rules and to delivering the Agreement in full, including the significant funding for community pharmacy based services which are vital to the transformation of pharmacies.

Eleven months into the Agreement, not a single service has been delivered to a single patient through the Pharmacy Trial Program and this situation must be rectified as a matter of urgency.

It is pleasing that the Leader of the Nationals, Barnaby Joyce, has already made a strong written election commitment to his Party's ongoing support of community pharmacies.

The Nationals have been consistent supporters of pharmacies, recognising their critical role in regional communities as health professionals, small businesses, and providers of local jobs and community investment.

Community pharmacies, their committed staff and loyal patients around Australia look forward to other Party leaders doing likewise in the coming days and weeks.

UK closures 'catastrophic'

THE potential closures of up to one in four community pharmacies in the UK will place an "untenable burden on local GPs," according to Pharmacy Voice, which is campaigning against proposed massive cuts to pharmacy funding.

A statement issued overnight cites a new report called 'Dispensing Health Equality' which includes research showing that, if faced by a closure, more than one in four people who would normally seek advice from their local pharmacy on common ailments would instead make an appointment with a GP.

The document argues that such an uplift in GP appointments will put impossible pressure on the health system, particularly in areas which find it difficult to attract GPs in the first place.

The government is consulting on plans to reduce pharmacy spending by as much as £170 million, saying

the average community pharmacy in England receives about £220,000 in National Health Service funding annually.

Too many chemists are located too close to each other, with 40% in clusters of three or more within a ten minute walk of each other, the government argues, with a public consultation on the proposals closing today.

The Pharmacy Voice paper highlights the key role community pharmacy is playing in addressing health inequalities, sharing a number of case studies from across the country of people whose "lives and health would be affected by the withdrawal of a key health service" - see pharmacyvoice.com.

Kirsa on APC Council

THE Australian Pharmacy Council has announced the appointment of SHPA President and Director of Pharmacy at Monash Health, Sue Kirsa, as a member of its Governing Council.

Retiring from the APC council are former President John Low from Queensland and John Jackson of Victoria, both of whom served the organisation for six years.

Teva orphan addition

DEUTETRABENAZINE from Teva Pharma Australia, for the treatment of chorea associated with Huntington's disease has been added to the TGA's designated orphan drugs list.



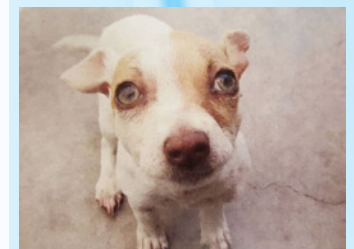
DISPENSARY CORNER

HONG Kong residents are being invited to improve their health by relaxing in a new spa facility where an array of thermal pools are warmed by the incineration treatment of raw sewage.

The new T.Park facility in the enclave's north-west is an "unlikely combination of sludge processing and spa pools," according to the *BBC*.

Set to open to the public late next month, the waste treatment facility is located next to the West New Territories Landfill, and as well as the relaxing pools will feature interactive guided tours.

T.Park currently processes about 1,200 tonnes of sludge every day, which is the output of the city's 11 sewage treatment plants.



POLICE in Los Angeles have placed a poor puppy into rehab, after it was found to have heroin and methamphetamine in its system.

The dog, named Bubba (pictured), was picked up during the arrest of 40-year-old Joshua West from a hotel room littered with used needles, illegal drugs and drug paraphernalia.

According to a Facebook post by the Tustin Police Department, the terrier mix puppy was showing signs of being under the influence, and was placed into the hands of Orange County Animal Care where he was treated and is now "doing excellent" (sic).

Based on Bubba's toxicology results, additional charges of animal cruelty are being filed against his former owners.

WIN WITH CARMEX

This week Pharmacy Daily and Carmex are giving readers the chance to win a Carmex prize pack including a Click Stick, Jar, Tube, Moisture Plus in Sheer and Jasmine Green Tea, valued at \$31.95.

Carmex lip balms are an Australian favourite and are an essential part of any beauty routine. The range features SPF15 plus cooling and soothing properties that lips crave. Visit the **FACEBOOK** for more information.

To win, be the first from QLD to send the correct answer to the following question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What is the famous sensation that you feel when using Carmex?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Garry Anderson.



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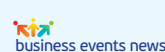
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