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Bickle to step down

KEN Bickle, who has been instrumental in the development and implementation of the National Return and Disposal of Unwanted Medicines Project (NatRUM), has announced he will step down from the organisation's board.

Bickle has been involved since the 1990s, actually managing the original Newcastle pilot which developed the basic protocols for the program and demonstrated its cost-effectiveness.

"His uncanny ability to provide the new ideas, sound advice and financial oversight have ensured the Project's successful growth, and will be greatly missed by all," said project manager Toni Riley.

★★★★★
star pharmacy
group

Pharmacist Part Time

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join our team as a part time Pharmacist at Star Discount Chemist Smithfield in Queensland. The role will suit a flexible, motivated self-sufficient Pharmacist who enjoys variety of duties and working with an experienced team in an established business.

Written applications will be accepted via "Apply now" or "Expr3ss" system via our web-site
www.starpharmacy.com.au.

National cancer register

THE Health Department has announced the appointment of Telstra Health to develop and operate a new National Cancer Screening Register.

The move follows a competitive tender process which kicked off last Aug, with the register to support the renewed National Cervical Cancer Screening Program and the expansion of the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program.

The 2015-16 Budget first flagged the commitment to establish a national register, and the department says it will now work with Telstra to set it up.

There will also be significant collaboration with the Department of Human Services and the state and territory governments which will see the transitioning of nine

separate cancer screening registers into a single National register.

The Health Department said the new register is expected to be operational to align with the start of the renewed National Cervical Cancer Screening Program on 01 May 2017, and will for the first time mean there is one record for each participant.

Health practitioners will be able to access the register to identify patients' screening eligibility and history, with systems expected to be integrated with GP desktops.

Telstra Health is a 50% shareholder in Fred IT Group alongside the Pharmacy Guild.

NICE new T2D drugs

PEOPLE living with type 2 diabetes (T2D) will now be eligible for three new therapy options under new guidelines released by the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).

The new ruling has the potential to improve glucose control in around 31,000 people, NICE has said, naming canagliflozin (Invokana), dapagliflozin (Forxiga) and empagliflozin (Jardiance) as improved treatment options.

In the UK, almost 3.5 million people have been diagnosed with diabetes and it's estimated that about 90% of adults with the condition have type 2 diabetes.

The new therapies will help those unable to take metformin, sulfonylurea or pioglitazone, a NICE statement explained.

Cold air asthma alert

NATIONAL Asthma Council Australia has issued a winter weather alert to parents of children with asthma.

Council chairman and respiratory physician Dr Jonathan Burdon said the changing weather patterns always see increases in doctor visits and hospital admissions for children with asthma.

Recommendations from the Council include seeing the GP to ensure an asthma action plan is in place, ensure children are taking their preventer every day, vaccinate against influenza, wash hands regularly and keep puffers handy.

Visit www.nationalasthma.org.au for more details.

CSL US approval

CSL has announced the US Food and Drug Administration approval of its AFSTYLA (Antihaemophilic Factor [Recombinant] Single Chain), which is a novel long-lasting recombinant factor VIII single-chain therapy for adults and children with haemophilia A made by its CSL Behring offshoot.

AFSTYLA is indicated for routine prophylaxis to prevent or reduce the frequency of bleeding episodes and for the perioperative management of bleeding.

The company said AFSTYLA is expected to become available in the US in the coming weeks, with chief scientific officer Andrew Cuthbertson saying he was looking forward to the positive impact it can have on patients with haemophilia A.

NZ free quit trial

NEW Zealander smokers in the Mid-Central District can now try a free week of nicotine replacement therapy, thanks to a partnership between the MidCentral Community Pharmacy Group and the Central Primary Health Organisation.

MidCentral Community Pharmacy Group chairwoman Clare Hynd said that of 186 people joining the program, there have already been 158 referrals to smoking cessation officers.

All 31 pharmacies throughout the region have signed up to take part in the initiative, training more than 100 pharmacy staff, with the goal of making New Zealand smoke-free by 2025.



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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - Gold Coast, QLD (Job# 200013010)
Iconic location, busy shopping centre pharmacy, professional services.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Yarra Valley & High Country, VIC (Job# 200013039)
Busy Pharmacy needs a capable Manager; offering an excellent salary.
- **Pharmacist** - Central Western NSW (Job# 200002710)
2nd Pharmacist busy fast paced environment-newly reg should apply.

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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.

28-29 May: Medication Management in Geriatric Care Seminar; Rydges Sydney Central; for more info visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

29 May: PSA WA Annual Seminar 2016; Pan Pacific Perth Hotel; more info at: www.psa.org.au

4-5 Jun: Critical Care Foundation Seminar; Crowne Plaza Melbourne; details at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

7-9 Jun: 15th National Immunisation Conference; Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre; details at: www.phaa.net.au

17-19 Jun: ConPharm 2016; Hilton, Adelaide; more info at: www.aacp.com.au

11-12 Jul: 11th Asia Pacific Diabetes Conference and Expo; Brisbane; visit: www.conferenceseries.com

14-16 Jul: 5th Global Pharmacists Annual Meeting; Brisbane; details at: www.conferenceseries.com

22-24 Jul: Foundation Clinical Pharmacy Practice Seminar; InterContinental Adelaide Hotel; for more info visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

29-31 Jul: PSA16; Four Points by Sheraton Darling Harbour Sydney; more info at: www.psa.org.au

13-14 Aug: Infectious Diseases Seminar; InterContinental Adelaide Hotel; for more info visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

Sigma execs sentenced

ELMO de Alwis, the charismatic former chief executive officer of Sigma Pharmaceuticals, has avoided jail time after being given a suspended sentence for falsifying the company's accounts.

De Alwis and his chief financial officer Mark Smith were sentenced in the Victorian county court yesterday, with the pair being fined \$25,000 each and sentenced to a 12 month prison term on charges of giving false information to the company's directors and auditors.

However the custodial part of the sentence was suspended, with both men placed on a 3 1/2 year good behaviour bond instead.

The charges related to Sigma's half-year and full-year company accounts for 2009/10, which saw revenues and pre-tax profit inflated by almost \$10 million.

The case heard the pair had arranged for Sigma to purchase wholesale drugs at inflated prices, with the additional payments returned to Sigma and recorded in its books as revenue.

Sigma later undertook a major write-down which was the subject of a class action from some shareholders claiming they had been misled.

De Alwis and Smith also pleaded guilty to misleading the Sigma board, with Justice Richard Smith saying "no desire to reach performance targets can justify misleading directors and auditors of a company".

Cathie Armour from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission said de Alwis and Smith had "demonstrated complete disregard for their obligations."

"The ceo and cfo are responsible for ensuring that the published financial results of listed companies are true and accurate and do not mislead the market," she said.

MiSeqDx approval

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved the Australian registration of Illumina's MiSeqDx system, which is an instrument offering a variety of assays and kits enabling clinical laboratories to "create and deploy next-generation sequencing-based molecular diagnostic testing".

The instrument is now cleared for clinical use in the US, Canada, Argentina, Europe, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines as well as Australia.



DISPENSARY CORNER

BUDDING pharmacist.

Natalie Zielinski, a grade 5 student at The Academy of Charter Schools in Westminster USA, for her writing assignment wrote an application to join a graduate pharmacy school.

The precocious proactive, who always wanted to become a pharmacist, was surprised to have the CU Skaggs School of Pharmacy on the Anschutz Campus in nearby Aurora not only respond to her application, but also send out a delegation.

A group of pharmacy students visited Natalie in her school to present her with a pharmacy coat, a medallion and a badge that says "Future Pharmacist".

Assuming Natalie follows through, she will graduate in 2031, reports local media.



WITH social drinking among work colleagues the norm in Seoul, South Korea, the occasional morning after problem is potentially a huge market opportunity, spawning many hangover cures.

One enterprising company has jumped into the space with the first hangover-fighting ice cream.

Launched through a chain of convenience stores, the alcohol poisoning treatment product is called Gyeondyo-bar, which translates into "Hang in there".

The hangover remedy business is worth an estimated 150 billion won (AU\$175 million) annually in South Korea and Seoul has Asia's highest rate of per-capita alcohol consumption, *Reuters* reports.

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 **FACEBOOK** for more information.

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

Name one place where you can buy Carmex.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Diana Feeley from Clifford Hallam Healthcare.

