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PPA paying \$100 cash for new members

PROFESSIONAL Pharmacists Australia is offering intern pharmacists \$100 for referring new members to join the union group.

The offer is revealed in an update on the PPA website which highlights a new checklist for intern pharmacists as they make their transition to full registration.

The checklist reminds fledgling pharmacists they must complete a Pharmacy Board of Australia approved Intern Training Program, along with 1824 hours of supervised practice, the prescribed written and oral examinations and CPD requirements.

Interns must also obtain professional indemnity insurance.

More details on the checklist and the \$100 new member offer at professionalpharmacists.com.au.

CWH possible float?

CHEMIST Warehouse is "being touted by bankers as a medium-term float candidate," according to a story published last week in the *Australian Financial Review*.

A report in the newspaper's 'Street Talk' section suggests investors could be circling after a spate of regulatory filings which have established a number of new corporate entities under the Chemist Warehouse banner.

These include a new joint venture in Malaysia called Chemist Warehouse Berjaya Asia, with an initial outlet to open in 2017.

The report estimates the CWH group has annual sales of \$2.9b.

Pharmacist health survey

AUSTRALIAN pharmacists, interns and pharmacy students are invited to take part in a stress and wellbeing survey being conducted by The Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS), renowned Professor Colin Chapman and Master Research Australasia.

The research aims to capture a snapshot of what it's like to work in the pharmacy profession and pinpoint strategies that could be put in place to address mental and physical health issues faced.

PSS president John Coppock said the survey is being conducted for both the benefit of the pharmacy profession and ultimately the communities they serve.

"Help us to help you," he said.

"PSS is founded on the principle of pharmacists supporting pharmacists and the outcomes of this research will be used to ensure that as a profession we look after our own".

He reiterated that they need to hear from all sectors of pharmacy

all over Australia.

"Please take the time to complete this important survey so that we can know what your issues are and how best to help you," he continued.

The survey is both confidential and anonymous and has the support of all the major Australian pharmacy organisations.

The questions focus on how respondents cope with pressure, what sorts of barriers they encounter when seeking assistance and how well prepared they are to manage work-related stress.

The survey takes around 15 minutes to complete; [CLICK HERE](#) to take it.

National Cancer Screening Register

A **BILL** establishing the National Cancer Screening Register has passed through the Senate.

The new legislation allows for the creation of a national electronic infrastructure for the collection, storage, analysis and reporting of cancer screen program data for the National Cervical Screening Program and the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program.

It also authorises the collection, use and disclosure of information for the purposes of the register and creates an offence for the unauthorised disclosure of information as well as mandating reporting of screening information to the register.

Visit www.aph.gov.au for more.

Pharmacy students interim registration

PHARMACY students who will soon complete an approved program of study can go online immediately to apply for provisional registration before they graduate, the Pharmacy Board of Australia has announced.

In addition to making an online application for provisional registration, graduates must lodge a separate application for approval of supervised practice.

They cannot start supervised practice (internship) until both of these applications have been received and then approved by the Board, which can take place once the education provider has advised that the student is eligible to graduate.

The supervised practice during provisional registration is one of the requirements that must be met in order to be eligible for general registration as a pharmacist in Australia at the end of the internship period.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more details.

Medicine Addiction IMiA17 abstracts call

THE 4th International Medicine in Addiction Conference, IMiA17, will be held at the new Sydney International Convention Centre (ICC Sydney) from 24–26 Mar 2017.

IMiA17 is seeking abstracts on the themes of 'Comorbidity, Education, Neuroscience, Prevention, Policy and Treatment' with the closing date for abstracts 31 Oct 2016.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

ADT-dementia link

ANDROGEN deprivation therapy (ADT) which is commonly used to treat prostate cancer, may be associated with an increased risk of dementia, according to new research published in *JAMA Oncology*.

ADT reduces the levels of androgens which can stimulate the growth of prostate cancer cells, but is now under an associative cloud around neurocognitive dysfunction.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the abstract.

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Qld Guild mental health award



THE Pharmacy Guild's Queensland Branch has taken out a not-for-profit award during last week's Queensland Mental

Health Week Achievement Awards ceremony in Brisbane.

The branch worked closely with four Primary Healthcare Networks to help provide education and training to staff at 100 pharmacies via the Partners in Recovery Pharmacy Integration Programs.

Aimed to improve collaborative care, the program links together pharmacies, pharmacy staff and mental health support providers in a bid to improve the knowledge, skills and attitude of pharmacy staff and better support people suffering from a mental illness.

Pictured above is the Guild Queensland team receiving their accolade.

Needle and syringe Guild Qld webinar

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is conducting a Qld QCP Pharmacy Needle and Syringe Program (PNSP) webinar on 11 Dec focusing on the value of the program to the community and the implementation of safe and valuable practices.

The webinar will cover how the PNSP will benefit the pharmacy, the formal requirements of a PNSP, resources available to guide implementation and refine processes as well as training opportunities for staff - **CLICK HERE**.



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Blooms new CoQ10

BLOOMS Health Products has announced the launch of Blooms Coenzyme Q10 (CoQ10) 150 AquaCelle Enhanced, which they describe as a "breakthrough product using Australian-first AquaCelle technology to enhance Coenzyme Q10 absorption by over 400%", based on a study being prepared for publication in *RDC Clinical*.

This unique lipid-based technology offers rapid delivery and bioavailability within the body, when compared with standard oil-based CoQ10 products currently in the market, the company says.

Blooms md Brett Ditchfield explains, "Levels of Coenzyme Q10 decrease in the body as we age."

This new product, presented in a vegetarian capsule, is "effective at replenishing these levels and also works as an antioxidant to help reduce oxidative stress as we age," he said.

Coffee-dementia link

CAFFEINE'S association with lower risk of dementia as published in *The Journals of Gerontology (PD 12 Oct)* has been described by leading Australian Gerontologist Henry Brodaty as an association only, not a causative relationship.

Writing for *The Conversation*, Brodaty identified key steps to reducing the risk of dementia as the Mediterranean diet (lots of vegetables and fruit and very little saturated fat), and staying physically fit and mentally active.

"Don't get too hung up on this kind of research," he said.

Amcal carers study

AMCAL has released the results of a research report commissioned in partnership with Carers Australia showing many of Australia's 2.8 million unpaid carers aren't looking after themselves.

As well as physical demands, carers are experiencing emotional and financial pressure, while 15% of respondents said they felt socially isolated due to being time-poor.

The report was released to mark National Carers Week which aims to highlight the "outstanding contribution unpaid carers make to Australia each and every day".

The replacement value of unpaid care in Australia is estimated at over \$60b annually.

Cannabis confusion

COMPANIES selling cannabis based products in the UK have been told to remove them from the market within 28 days, after a review by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) determined that they were medicinal products.

Campaigners for cannabis law reform (CLEAR) welcomed the recognition that cannabidiol (CBD) had medicinal properties but warned that the MHRA's action would deprive thousands of users of a product they relied on.

They said that while it was a good thing in the long run, it was impossible to obtain marketing authorisation in the timescale given and may never be possible given the high costs of clinical trials and lack of patent protection.

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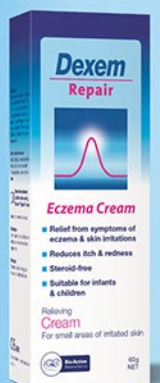
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New TGA proforma

SPONSORS of biological prescription medicines (including vaccines) requiring certification when requested by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) have a new proforma document to fill in and submit electronically as a single PDF.

The new certified product details form is at www.tga.gov.au.



Guild Update

Stress and wellbeing survey

PHARMACISTS and pharmacy staff are being urged to take part in a *Stress and Wellbeing Survey* being conducted on behalf of the Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS).

The survey consists of an online questionnaire of pharmacists, intern pharmacists and pharmacy students working in any branch of the profession in Australia, and is being undertaken to help the PSS and other professional organisations respond to identified stressful issues and situations.

The voluntary and anonymous survey is available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5W9DGZY>

The survey does not seek to undertake an in-depth exploration of the causes of stress – a lot of this is already well known – but focuses on:

- How respondents cope with the pressures in today's challenging economic and regulatory environment
- What sorts of barriers they encounter when seeking assistance
- How well prepared they are to manage workplace related stress.

Sigma pharmacy warning

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals says it's concerned that the ongoing evolution of the pharmacy sector in Australia has meant "funding for the care side of pharmacy has been compromised".

In the company's submission to the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation, Sigma said "the ability to deliver the National Medicines Policy continues to be eroded by policy changes that cherry pick specific elements, resulting in unintended consequences elsewhere in the system".

Sigma warned that this will inevitably lead to "irreparable changes...that are not sustainable longer term".

As well as addressing specific questions raised by the review, Sigma has provided overarching comments including urging public clarification of the application of pharmacy ownership rules.

The company has also raised the issue of integration of hospital activities and community pharmacy service models, citing the current 'silo approach' which stops the PBS and Medicare from interacting to

fund the patient journey.

"Sigma supports the development of pharmacy arrangements that enable an integrated patient experience for medication management, driving improved patient health outcomes," the submission said, adding the govt's Health Care Homes initiative should be expanded to a "patient centric model that utilises not only the primary care provider but also the pharmacy network".

The full submission is available at www.health.gov.au.

Caps colour confusion

SLIGHTLY variant capsule colours have created confusion for busy pharmacists dispensing Fluoxetine and Tramadol in New Zealand, the NZ Pharmacy Council has warned.

In two health and disability commissioner cases this year, pharmacists were found to be at fault for succumbing to the trap, both products striped yellow and green with subtly different shades.

Capsules should be kept with their labelled packaging, a Council spokesperson said.

Dispensary Corner

THEY say the devil is in the detail, but now there are some pretty interesting details in the devil.

Researchers at the University of Sydney have uncovered a peptide in Tasmanian Devil milk that can cure golden staph infections.

Hang on, how would they think to look to the Tassie Devil's milk supply for something so powerful?

Well, PhD candidate and researcher on the project, Emma Peel, said scientists were interested in how young devils with such underdeveloped immune systems can survive so well in their mother's bacteria-filled pouches.

The fact that this peptide can kill some antibiotic resistant superbugs is a huge discovery.

The peptides were also found to be up to six times more effective in fighting fungal infections than common anti-fungal medication.

One resounding question still remains though...how do you milk a Tassie Devil?

"Very, very carefully," Peel says.



THE more selfies you snap, the happier you are, according to a new study from the University of California-Irvine.

Associate professor Mark Marino put it down to the fact that selfie takers are "engaging in the act of being happy".

Forty-one students who spent four weeks taking selfies and reporting their mood said it made them happier and more confident for the rest of the day.

WIN WITH SOUTHERNATURE

This week Pharmacy Daily and SOUTHERNATURE are giving away their Omega 3 Concentrate each day.

SOUTHERNATURE's Omega 3 Concentrate is Australia's only 5 Star Rated fish oil, receiving the highest rating for purity, potency and freshness from the only third party testing and certification program for fish oils, IFOS (International Fish Oil Standards). SOUTHERNATURE's Omega 3 Concentrate tests for a number of industry bench marks including fish oil stability, purity, potency, heavy metal levels and even radiation. SOUTHERNATURE's Omega 3 Concentrate is made only from Sardine and Anchovy oil to ensure premium amounts of EPA and DHA. For more info **CLICK HERE**.

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



How many logo product certifications of quality have SOUTHERNATURE gained for their highly rated fish oil products?

Hint: check out the image above

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Jim Brown from MedicalDirector.

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