

Tuesday 06 Sep 2016

PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Tommee Tippee
- Pharmacy Connect

Pharmacy Connect Fri

DELEGATES for this weekend's Pharmacy Connect conference are able to register on site for the event, taking place at Sydney's Four Points by Sheraton Hotel from Fri 09 to Sun 11 Sep.

More than 20 CPD credits are on offer for participants, with key topics aiming to help build pharmacy businesses by using new technologies, making the most of data and "igniting opportunities for growth in traditional pharmacy".

The conference opens at 8.30am on Fri with the Judy Liauw Address covering pharmacy ownership & location rules - info on **page five**.

Top Tommee Tippee

PHARMACIES are being urged to stock Tommee Tippee baby accessories in light of research revealing high levels of brand loyalty and the range commanding a 35% market share.

For more details see **page four**.

90 Review consultations

THE panel conducting the government's Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation has held more than 90 site visits and consultations across the country over the last five weeks.

According to an update from chairman Stephen King "we heard from consumers, pharmacists, wholesalers and other interested stakeholders in all capital cities, major regional centres such as Wagga Wagga, Cairns and Launceston, as well as remote areas including Fitzroy Crassing, Whyalla and Yarrabah".

Along with site visits, the panel engaged directly with more than 900 people who attended 15 public forums across Australia, with the process described as "both engaging and highly educative".

King also continued to encourage stakeholders to have their say on the 140 questions raised in the review Discussion Paper.

"As we have emphasised during the public forums, we do not expect you to write lengthy submissions answering all 140 questions, but we are interested in the issues important to you."

"This may mean you focus on a single issue that you are passionate

about or have some evidence to share, in the form of a one or two page submission to the Panel.

"We will equally consider all submissions received before the closing date of 23 September 2016," King said.

24 submissions have been made public so far, mostly from individuals with the only one from an industry body at this stage from the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

The Review's online survey (PD 26 Aug) is also now open until 30 Sep, while the consultation sessions culminate tomorrow night with the live national webcast broadcast live online from Canberra at 7pm AEST - to participate **CLICK HERE**.

Credentialing open

THE Australian Pharmacy Council is inviting pharmacists seeking to have their advancing practice formally recognised to register for the second round of the National Credentialing program.

Applications are due by the end of Sep, after which participants have six months to complete a portfolio which can be submitted in Jan or Apr next year - for more info see pharmacycouncil.org.au.

Certificate for Leave

Professional Services > Certificate for Leave

Pact Group buys APM

ASX-LISTED packaging specialist Pact Group yesterday announced an agreement to acquire Australian Pharmaceutical Manufacturers, described as one of the biggest providers of manufacturing and packaging services for nutraceuticals in Australia.

The \$90 million deal will be funded by a \$75 million loan and a share issue of \$15 million, and is expected to settle on 16 Sep.

APM's facility in Keysborough, Vic utilises the latest in technology to deliver tableting, encapsulation and packaging solutions, manufacturing in accordance with TGA licensing requirements.

"The acquisition of APM is strongly aligned with our growth strategy and is expected to add significant value to Pact," said Pact ceo Malcolm Bunday.

"APM operates in a very attractive sector which is experiencing robust growth in demand both domestically and in export markets," he said.

Bunday said the APM portfolio complemented Pact's existing business, with significant overlap in customer portfolios which will enable the group to expand its service offering and deepen customer relationships.



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Mundipharma deal

MUNDIPHARMA has announced an expansion of its consumer healthcare business, via a partnership giving it commercial rights to market Munir Sukhtian Group's portfolio of HiGeen treatments in over fifty countries across the Middle East, Africa and Pakistan for the next ten years.

The companies have an existing partnership in Jordan where Sukhtian Group has been Mundipharma's local distributor for some years.

The HiGeen range includes best selling hand sanitisers and other cosmeceuticals marketed via distributors in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

Zepatier registered

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has registered MSD's Zepatier (elbasvir/grazoprevir) with or without ribavirin, for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C virus genotype 1 and 4 infection in adults.

Zepatier is a once daily tablet taken for 12 weeks, with MSD offering patients the opportunity to receive treatment with the drug via a Product Familiarisation Program prior to a potential PBS listing.

MSD md Riad El-Dada said the company is continuing to work with the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee in order to provide access to the drug with an anticipated PBS listing by 01 Dec.

Pharmacists key, urges RPS

BRITAIN'S Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) has reaffirmed the importance of pharmacist care for patients, with president Martin Astbury telling attendees at the RPS annual conference last weekend that "a pharmacy without a pharmacist is a shop".

Astbury said despite the ongoing evolution of technology and legislation, any progress should not lead to the removal of pharmacists from high street chemists.

"Can we replace the community pharmacy network with an Amazon-style operation?" he asked.

"Certainly, but the value of having an expert health professional on the high street will be lost... that's not making the best use of technology or the profession."

The UK pharmacy sector is in flux,

with proposed reforms potentially threatening current arrangements.

"The RPS believes that legislation should make it compulsory for a pharmacist to be present whenever a community pharmacy is open...I don't want to see community pharmacy relegated to a drug store," Astbury added.

Interestingly, he also suggested some of the rhetoric about professional services should also focus on existing pharmacy roles.

"It disappoints me enormously when I hear leaders of our profession, although attempting to talk up the new clinical roles that we all believe in, talking down the supply role that we do...they're talking down the fact that we dispense one billion prescriptions safely each year," he said.

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Chemmart catalogue coup

CHEMMART is celebrating after taking out the Health and Wellbeing category at the Catalogue Awards last week.

The award was recognition of the brand's 24-page 'Funny Tummies' digestive health catalogue, with other finalists including Woolworths, Hairhouse Warehouse, Malouf Pharmacies and Chemist Warehouse.

Chemmart executive director



Duncan Phillips said "we know that our catalogues are key to driving customers to Chemmart pharmacies and this award is proof they are still some of the most innovative in the retail market."

"For us, catalogues aren't just about promoting products - they're another way to communicate our health and wellbeing proposition".

Pictured from left are graphic designer Nicole Gauci; Chemmart marketing manager Darren Gunton; Mary Di Carlo, graphic designer; and campaign coordinator Ahlea Lancaster.

B Vitamin research

A NEW study out of Swinburne University has revealed the role of vitamins and minerals for optimal physiological and neurological functioning.

Leader of the research, Professor Andrew Scholey spoke at the Vitafoods Asia 2016 conference in Hong Kong last week to present information on the findings.

His results, determined by mapping brain activity in subjects, showed those taking supplements containing B vitamins resulted in a "measurable improvement in levels of stress, mild psychiatric symptoms and mood" compared to those on the placebo.

2015 stats available

THE Health Department has released the Australian Statistics on Medicines (ASM) for 2015, representing estimates of the aggregate community use of prescription medicines in Australia.

Produced by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Division, publication of the data is said to facilitate international comparisons of drug use profiles and encourages global collaboration on drug utilisation research, particularly in relation to enhancing the quality of use of medicines and health outcomes.

The figures show that in 2015 there were 214 million scripts subsidised on the PBS or RPBS, and the top ten drugs used were atorvastatin, perindopril, rosuvastatin, amlodipine, paracetamol, irbesartan, candesartan, ramipril, telmisartan and colchicine - see pbs.gov.au.

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AHPRA probes medical chaperones

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has released the terms of reference for an independent review on the use of chaperones to protect patients.

AHPRA is seeking submissions on the review, with AHPRA ceo Martin Fletcher saying the outcome will inform the ways in which the Medical Board of Australia and AHPRA can "strengthen the approach to protecting patients".



Guild Update

Manage stock ahead of 1 October

THE 1 October PBS Price Disclosure reductions represent the first Price Disclosure cycle that will incorporate the removal of originator brands from the calculation. As the originator is less likely to offer the same level of trading term discount as generics, the exclusion of the originator results in a lower average price for the drug and therefore a more substantial price reduction.

As always, Guild members are advised to carefully manage stock holdings of affected products in the lead up to the reduction. As 1 October is a Saturday, for some pharmacies this may affect their ability to receive deliveries immediately following the reduction. The Guild recommends that members discuss with their wholesaler/supplier about pre-1 October ordering, pricing arrangements and access to deliveries.

SHPA Residency release

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists has announced that from next week it will open applications for sites wanting to be accredited in the first phase of an SHPA Residency Program in 2017.

The move follows yesterday's formal launch of the scheme at a symposium in Sydney which was attended by directors of pharmacy and clinical educators from more than 50 hospitals across Australia.

The symposium featured a range of speakers presenting on other residency and experiential training programs around the world including the USA, Canada, the UK and Singapore - including Janet Silvester, vice president of Accreditation at the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

"We are very encouraged by the

number of people who are planning to implement residencies in 2017, and look forward to working with the profession on this," said SHPA president Michael Dooley.

As well as looking at international programs, delegates at the event heard from SHPA Steering Committee members about key principles of the SHPA Residency Program and results from the Society's baseline survey of experiential training in Australian hospital pharmacies.

The SHPA also released its Accreditation Standards for pharmacy residency programs, which establish formal criteria for the training schemes.

The SHPA Residency Program aims to create a national program with a consistent set of competencies for residents to attain, while at the same time retaining flexibility and a 'local flavour' for each site.

Residency Program Steering Committee Chair, Peter Fowler, said following the symposium "whilst we have a lot to learn, SHPA knows it's on the right track to make a genuine difference to the lives of pharmacists and their patients with our residency program".

New MATES module

THE Veterans Medicines Advice and Therapeutics Education Services project has released a new training topic covering dementia and changes in behaviour.

The material includes information for patients and health professionals - see veteransmates.net.au.

WIN WITH SOS SKIN RESCUE

This week Pharmacy Daily and SOS Skin Rescue are giving readers each day the chance to win a family pack including four SOS Skin Rescue Creams and four SOS Lip Balms.

Introducing your family's new must haves: SOS Skin Rescue Cream and SOS Lip Balm. Made in Italy by Farmaceutici Dottor Ciccarelli, since 1821, these protective, healing and soothing products are now in Australia. SOS Skin Rescue has the power to soothe skin irritation and rashes, burns, bites, dry skin and more. SOS Lip Balm provides powerful soothing to dry and chapped lips.

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

What is the mixture of natural active principles in SOS Skin Rescue and Lip Balm called?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



Dispensary Corner

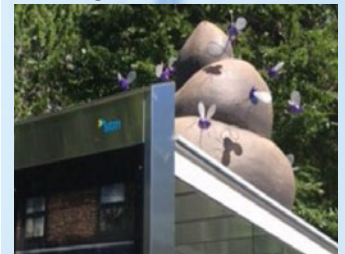
HERE'S a novel way to remind pet owners to clean up their animal's droppings: erecting a giant dog poo sculpture buzzing with oversized flies (pictured below) on top of a city bus stop.

Yes, this is legitimate.

It is part of Montreal's major cleanliness campaign that also includes billboards, performances and videos.

Member of the city's executive committee Anie Samson told media that the attention-grabbing sculpture was supposed to be "punchy" and show people what happens when you don't take responsibility for your litter.

Public opinion on the new artwork may be divided but the opposition leaders in the Canadian city say it "pushes the limits of good taste".



ONE weary shopper decided she needed an ambulance to transfer her home to her foot spa.

The sore footed 32-year-old told the emergency operator: "I've been on my feet all day & now my feet are hurting me so much that I can't walk - they're burning".

"I've got two miles to walk home and I'm not going to make it in this condition," she continued.

When the operator said "if there is a medical reason you cannot walk you we will be dropping you at your nearest emergency department", reiterating they were not a taxi service.

"How will I get home from there?" the clueless caller replied.

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