

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has  
three pages of news and a full  
page from Pharmacy 4 Less.

## New ED for PSA



**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced the appointment of Bob Buckham to the role of executive director (ED) of Policy, Advocacy and Innovation.

Buckham (pictured) has been working as chief pharmacist advisor for the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand (PSNZ) where he led the delivery of professional, clinical and regulatory advice and support to NZ members across all sectors of the pharmacy profession.

He replaces Dr Alison Roberts, the University of Technology Sydney 2016 Innovative Pharmacist of the Year, who held the role since 2014 and has recently taken the role of ceo for the new A4ANZ aviation industry association (PD 03 Aug).

## Pharmacist-GP rift widens

**THERE** has been a further escalation in the war of words between pharmacy and doctor groups, with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners accusing the Pharmacy Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia of "undermining" collaborative efforts to reduce codeine related deaths.

In a statement issued on the weekend the RACGP said lobbying efforts by the Guild and PSA urging governments to implement a solution for emergency codeine supply (PD 22 Jun) ran counter to the work of the Nationally Coordinated Codeine Implementation Working Group.

The Guild and the PSA are both members of the body, and the RACGP has called on them to publicly support the TGA's decision to reschedule codeine-containing medications "or remove themselves from the working group immediately.

"It's time these pharmacy peak bodies committed to this much needed public safety initiative," said RACGP president Bastian Seidl.

"The consumption of these medications is currently running out of control, with over 16 million items being sold over the counter in pharmacies every year," he said.

The working group aims to develop information and resources for GPs, pharmacists and patients in the lead-up to the 01 Feb 2018 rescheduling of codeine.

The Guild responded yesterday, saying it had no intention of pulling out of the TGA codeine working group because "community pharmacists will be on the front line talking to people when these medicines are up-scheduled".

The Guild confirmed it would continue to press for a "common sense exception" to allow patients to continue to access the medicines without prescriptions, and also challenged the RACGP to address the issue of doctor shopping.

## Student finalists

**THREE** teams have progressed to the finals of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's 2017 National Student Business Plan Competition.

The finalists include the University of Tasmania's 'Isle Pharmacy'; 'New Life Pharmacy' which comprises entrants from James Cook University, Queensland University of Technology and the University of Australia; and 'PharmHealth Pharmacy' which features students from La Trobe University and Monash University.

The three teams will present their investor pitch 'live' at the Pharmacy Connect Conference next month in Sydney, with the winners announced at the Gala Dinner on Sat 02 Sep.



### Specialists in:

- Pharmacy Insurance
- Professional Indemnity Insurance

Tony Carollo & Susan Carollo - VIC/NSW/TAS/SA

Natasha Lawrance - WA

**FOR AN OBLIGATION FREE QUOTE CLICK HERE  
OR PHONE 1300-CAROLLO / 1300 227 655**

## Long-lasting PAIN RELIEF

ActiPatch uses electromagnetic pulse therapy to stimulate the nerves and provide long-lasting pain relief and anti-inflammatory action. **DRUG FREE!**



Available to order through your wholesaler

**DRUG  
FREE  
FIRST**  
Avoid Painkillers

CLICK HERE  
to find out more

## Fast, targeted PAIN RELIEF

PAINmate is a completely wire free, discreet and portable TENS device that provides fast, targeted pain relief by blocking nerve signals. **DRUG FREE!**

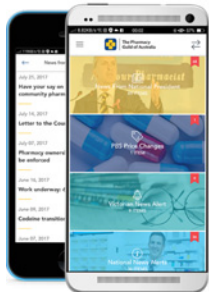


Available to order through your wholesaler

## Guild smartphone app

**THE** Pharmacy Guild has launched a new “member only” smartphone app, which has been developed in conjunction with the Guild’s Vic and WA branches.

Now available for download on the Apple iTunes and Google Play stores, the app provides Guild members with up-to-date alerts on news items and PBS price changes.



Existing myGuild login details can be used to access the app - for details see [guildmobileapp.com](http://guildmobileapp.com).

## US pharmacy giants sued for overcharging

**WALGREENS** and CVS, the two largest pharmacy groups in the USA, are facing class action lawsuits which allege they illegally inflated the price of generic drugs.

In both of the cases the retail giants are accused of not making patients aware that co-payments for the medications under their health insurance were actually higher than simply purchasing the medications outright.

In the US pharmacies use ‘pharmacy benefit managers’ to determine how much common drugs will cost for patients covered by different health insurers.

The lead plaintiff in the CVS lawsuit, Megan Schultz, paid \$165.68 for a prescription that would have only cost her \$92 out of pocket.

In the Walgreens case a patient paid \$22 for a drug which would have cost \$10 in cash.

Walgreens issued a statement saying “the complain lacks merit and we will vigorously defend against the allegations,” according to news service *Bloomberg*.

## Oncology innovation

**ASX-LISTED** Race Oncology says it is on the verge of commercialising a cancer drug that was “developed and shelved by big pharma in the United States”.

The company is working on chemotherapy medication Bisantrene, with the aim of bringing it to market in countries that allow pre-FDA approved drugs on a compassionate basis.

Bisantrene is used to treat Acute Myeloid Leukaemia, and Race Oncology ceo Peter Molloy estimates at least US\$100 million was invested in the drug prior to it being “cast aside”.

Race Oncology has filed new patents on the drug, been granted USA Orphan Drug designation and is also exploring additional cancer uses for Bisantrene via a proposed joint venture with Swiss firm TargImmune Therapeutics to use the drug in combination with ‘targeted cancer therapy’ technology.

### AMH CHILDREN’S DOSING COMPANION 2017 RELEASE IS AVAILABLE NOW!

Designed for health care practitioners in hospital and community settings, the CDC brings evidence-based, peer-reviewed, up-to-date dosing information wherever you are. Available in hard copy or online.

To find out more go to [www.amh.net.au](http://www.amh.net.au)

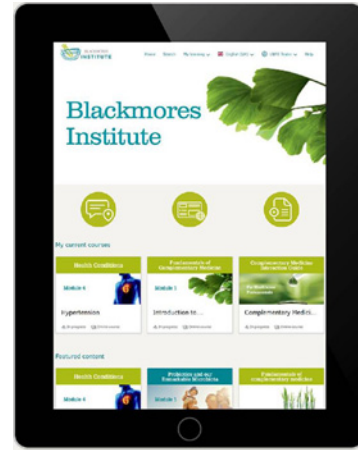
## Blackmores online CM courses

**BLACKMORES** has responded to healthcare and pharmacy professionals’ requests for practical, relevant education about complementary medicine (CM) by launching a state-of-the-art online learning platform.

Offering 40 evidence-based educational courses, condition sheets, ingredient monographs and videos, the site is presented in two learning areas: **Blackmores Institute Education** designed for Healthcare Professionals, and **Blackmores Education** which is aimed at retail pharmacy staff and students.

Blackmores Academy is a free educational service designed by a team of qualified pharmacists, nutritionists, herbalists and naturopaths, Blackmores said. “Complementary medicines are an integral part of modern healthcare so it is essential that pharmacy professionals have the opportunity to advance their natural health education and assistance in translating clinical evidence into everyday practical advice,” said the company’s executive director Marcus Blackmore.

Blackmores Institute director, Dr Lesley Braun said, “We know that frontline healthcare practitioners are keen to stay up-to-date with



complementary medicine so they feel confident discussing it with their customers.

“Blackmores Institute Education has been developed to optimise treatment outcomes by providing evidence-based information about natural health and

key ingredients as a standalone treatment or in conjunction with conventional therapies,” she said.

For Blackmores Institute Education for Healthcare Professionals, log in to [blackmoresinstitute.org](http://blackmoresinstitute.org), and for Blackmores Education, go to [education.blackmores.com.au](http://education.blackmores.com.au).

## NZ fake script alert

**PHARMACIES** in New Zealand have been warned to stay alert for “prescription fraud,” with several pharmacies in the Auckland region targeted in recent days.

According to NZ publication *Pharmacy Today* the scripts are written under the name of a local dentist or GP and are for small quantities of tramadol or codeine.

A woman has allegedly presented the prescriptions at the pharmacies in a distressed condition, wearing a head scarf and claiming to have breast cancer, while in some cases a child was sent in to pick up a script.

## Win with Dreambaby®

This week Pharmacy Daily and Dreambaby® are giving readers the chance to win each day an On-the-Go Denim-Look Strollerbuddy® bag.

These new on-trend bags from Dreambaby® in a choice of blue and grey have been designed with both form and function in mind. Attractive and versatile, they are made with handy mesh and fabric pockets plus storage for two drink holders/ bottles and much more. You will be able to fit all the essentials needed for life with little ones from nappies to bottles to wipes plus a change of clothes with room to spare!



The On-the-Go Dreambaby® Strollerbuddy® Bags are perfect for running mums as well as mums on the run! For more visit [www.dreambaby.com.au](http://www.dreambaby.com.au)

To win, be the first person from QLD to send the correct answer to the question below to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

How essential is additional storage when you are out and about with your little one?

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Toni Soffer from Woolloomooloo Pharmacy.*

## Portable Professional Services Platform

Access GuildCare NG anywhere, anytime from your Google Chrome browser

▶ Learn more



## FOLLOW US



Facebook



Twitter



LinkedIn



YouTube

Pharmacy Daily

## Dispensary Corner

**FORGET** zolpidem - a British low-cost airline is claiming to have made a major breakthrough for insomniacs, and particularly for the fairly limited cohort who find it easy to sleep on a plane.

A new 10-hour 'Jet Sounds' album released by easyJet simply consists of the continuous drone of an aircraft engine, with the airline claiming to have consulted a sleep expert to create the new recording.

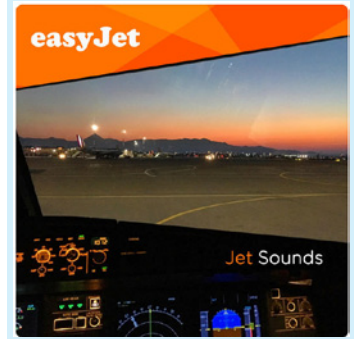
"The soft, repetitive ambient drone of white noise can drown out sounds, gently settle the brain and aid the on-set of sleep," said Dr Sandra Wheatley.

"The low throb of a powerful jet engine is ideal for this".

The album was recorded at 39,000 feet en route from Gatwick to Nice and features "the sublime harmonics of a pair of CFM56 twin-spool high bypass turbofan engines," the carrier enthused in a press release.

All ten hours of white noise are now streaming on Spotify and YouTube, and also available for download for \$16.99 on iTunes and the Google Play store.

All proceeds from easyJet's 'Jet Sounds' EP (pictured) will go to the UK-based Children's Sleep Charity.



## NAPSA raises \$30k for charity



**THE** National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) this year raised more than \$30,000 over the two months of its annual Charity Cup fundraising drive.

The total was in fact \$30,117.81, with a giant novelty cheque (pictured) handed over last month at the NAPSA Annual Dinner to non-profit charity LIVIN, which has a mission to help eradicate the stigma around mental illness.

Outgoing NAPSA Pharmacy Awareness chair Vasiliios Sotiropoulos said he was immensely proud of each branch's efforts to hit the fundraising goal.

The overall winner of the 2017 Charity Cup was the Darwin-based Top End Pharmacy Students' Association (TEPSA) which raised \$17.80 per member.

The innovation award went to the Western Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (WAPSA) which ran some unique events including a Harry Potter-themed quiz night to raise funds.

The biggest contributions in the 2017 NAPSA Charity Cup came from the Sydney University Pharmacy Students' Association (SUPA) with \$6,822.45 and WAPSA with a total of \$6,107.97.

### New orphan drugs

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has added three new medications to its list of designated orphan drugs.

The additions include lenvanitib capsules from Eisai Australia for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma; Emerge Health Australia's Disanit (nitisinone) for the treatment of patients with confirmed diagnosis of hereditary tyrosinemia type 1 (HT-1); and momelotinib dihydrochloride monohydrate from Gilead Sciences, indicated for the treatment of myelofibrosis.

### US contamination

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has issued a consumer-level warning about liquid drug and dietary supplement products manufactured by Florida-based PharmaTech LLC.

Brands covered include Rugby Laboratories, Leader Brands and Major Pharmaceuticals, with the FDA warning of potential contamination with the bacteria *Burkholderia cepacia* (*B.cepacia*) and the risk for severe patient infection as a result.

### NYC cigarette ban

**PHARMACIES** in the US city of New York will be prohibited from selling cigarettes, under new regulations brought in last week by the New York City Council.

The bill also raises the minimum price of a pack of cigarettes to US\$13 from its current \$10.50.

## Guild Update

### The search for champions

**THE** search for Australia's best pharmacies is on again with applications sought for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Pharmacy of the Year Award 2018. The Guild Pharmacy of the Year 2018 is an initiative of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, sponsored by principal sponsor Care Pharmaceuticals and major sponsor the Quality Care Pharmacy Program.

The national competition recognises community pharmacy businesses that achieve excellence in providing consumers the best care, medication, advice and professional services.

Pharmacy Guild Members can enter in the three categories: Excellence in Business Management, Excellence in Community Engagement and Excellence in Professional Services.

The competition is open to all Guild Member community pharmacy businesses.

Entries for the competition are set to close 29 September 2017.

Further competition details, including how to enter, are available on the Guild website under News and Events.

**PHARMACY 4 LESS**  
**DISCOUNT CHEMIST**

**MEET US AT**



**1<sup>ST</sup> - 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017**  
**HILTON HOTEL SYDNEY**

**See Feras Karem for a confidential discussion  
or call 0414 653 803**

**JOIN**

**Australia's Fastest Growing  
Pharmacy Group**

- **Low Monthly Franchise Fee**
- **Best Value Catalogue Program**
- **Highest Level Of PBS Discounts**
- **Competitive Private Prescription Pricing**

**Call today for more information  
Feras Karem: 0414 653 803**

**Click to Enquire**