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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a front full page wrap from Zantac.

New look Zantac

NEW packaging has been released for Zantac, along with a new name for Zantac Extra which is now branded as Zantac Double Strength.

The formula remains unchanged - for details see the **cover page**.

Dooley re-elected

PROFESSOR Michael Dooley has been re-elected as president of the Society Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA).

Dooley, who is also Professor of Clinical Pharmacy at Monash University as well as being director of pharmacy at the Alfred Hospital, will be supported by Trudy Teasdale, assistant director of Pharmacy at Gold Coast Hospital, as well as SHPA vice president.

Dooley said he was excited about the many initiatives SHPA has underway into 2018, including Specialty Practice, Residency & Mentoring programs, Technician Role Redesign and the National Translational Research Collaborative.

He said strengthening SHPA's alliances would be an ongoing priority into 2018.

"While we have built a strong foundation on which to drive the ongoing expansion and emergence of new roles for hospital pharmacists, we look forward to fostering more partnerships within healthcare to ensure improvements in the safety and quality of medicines use leads to better patient care across all healthcare settings," Dooley said.

In particular SHPA is "excited about leading advancing practice and supporting the many pharmacists that have a major impact on patient outcomes through recognition of their practice with the new Advancing Practice program," he added.

Dooley said the new year would see SHPA continue to progress its vision for the future of pharmacy practitioner development.

CPS flags standardisation

THE Council of Pharmacy Schools Australia and New Zealand (CPS) has announced it will introduce a set of "standard priorities" to be implemented by all pharmacy schools over a five-year period, in order to ensure globally competitive performance in pharmacy education.

The move is one of several initiatives determined following the CPS annual general meeting earlier this month, which also saw a new executive team elected.

Professor Peter Little, head of the School of Pharmacy at the University of Queensland, is the organisation's new president, with Professor Debra Rowett from the University of South Australia elected as vice-president, while the group's treasurer is James Cook University's Associate Professor Michelle Bellingan.

The council represents eighteen pharmacy schools across Australia as well as two in New Zealand.

The new executive team will aim to raise the profile of CPS, "and increase the involvement of tertiary education providers in the future of the pharmacy profession both in Australia and internationally".

A new website and brand refresh is in the works, while CPS will increase its interaction with pharmacy organisations and stakeholders as well as explore advanced practice recognition.

Professor Little was previously Liaison Representative for CPS and Executive for Australian Pharmaceutical Sciences Australia (APSA), but will step down from both roles to focus on his CPS presidency.

"I am immensely proud to be elected president of CPS and am very much looking forward to engaging with APSA and other stakeholders such as the Pharmacy Guild, to continue the great work being done to advance the pharmacy profession," he said.

PBS spend up 11.3%

TOTAL Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) expenditure for both Section 85 and Section 100 for the 2016-2017 financial year was up 11.3% to \$12.1 billion, compared with \$10.8 billion for the previous year.

Most expenditure was for Section 85 drugs and the total volume of these scripts actually decreased by 4.0% to a total of 195.8 million, compared to 203.9 million for the 2015-16 financial year.

Section 85 expenditure amounted to \$8.7 billion which was 86.7% of the total cost of PBS prescriptions, while the remainder was patient contributions that amounted to \$1.3 billion.

Concessional cardholders dominated Section 85 script volume at \$6.5 billion, 74.7% of the total, marginally up in dollars, but down in percentage contribution.

Average dispensed price per prescription of Section 85 subsidised medicines increased to \$51.45 in 2016-17, compared to \$46.15 in 2015-16 while the average government cost of these scripts was \$44.58 for 2016-17, compared to \$39.45 for 2015-16.

Go to pbs.gov.au for the report.

Happy Christmas!

THIS is the final issue of *Pharmacy Daily* for 2017, as we take a break next week to celebrate Christmas and the New Year.

We would like to thank our readers across Australia and the world for your ongoing support - we very much value your input and feedback on the publication.

The first **PD** for 2018 will be published on Tue 02 Jan.

Scheduling consult

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is seeking feedback around some amendments to the Poisons Standard relating to eprinomectin, moxidectin, mefenitruconazole and more.

Go to tga.gov.au for details.

New VPA forms

THE Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) has updated its licence application forms (**PD** 13 Dec) which include the new VP-11 (for when the applicant is a registered pharmacist) and VP-12 (for company applicants).

The revised forms include requirements for additional documents relating to pharmacy commercial arrangements, along with 100 points of identification.

A communiqué from the VPA issued yesterday also details four Panel Hearings last month, highlighting issues such as re-use of medicines after dispensing, control of keys to pharmacists only, dispensary privacy, and storage and labelling of schedule 8 poisons.

Encourage sun care

THE Cancer Council Australia is calling upon pharmacists to reinforce to staff and customers five key preventers of skin cancer this summer.

Slip on a shirt, slop on generous quantities of sunscreen, slap on a hat, seek shade and slide on the sunnies to minimise exposure to UV radiation - tips, myths, and other resources at cancer.org.au.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - Grampians Region, VIC (Job# 200015126)
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- **Pharmacist Manager** - Brisbane Northern Suburbs (Job# 200015140)
Complete pharmacy management role, focusing on Professional Services.
- **Pharmacist In Charge** - Central Western, NSW (Job# 200015181)
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Pharmacy Daily




Dispensary Corner

COULD a baby be just one year younger than its mother?

Apparently it has happened.

An Eastern Tennessee mother has given birth to an embryo that was donated by a US family and it has become the first child for a woman who would herself have been only one when the baby was conceived.

Emma Wren Gibson (**below**), a healthy baby girl, was thawed in Mar and transferred to mum Tina Gibson's uterus.

The faith-based National Embryo Donation Center provided the fertilised embryo, which doctors there refer to as "snow babies" because of how long they are kept frozen.



SANTA Claus's image has undergone transformation from the hugely obese pipe-smoking beer-swilling 1900s model to the slightly more svelte milk and cookies-nibbling 2000s version.

The milk he drinks is said to be good for bone-building, said scientists at Rowan University, but his weight is still a concern in terms of hypertension, hypercholesterolaemia and type 2 diabetes.

Authors of a stern rebuke encouraged him to shun at least some of those sweet treats left for him and join his reindeer in attacking the carrots.

Other factors in his longevity were identified as marriage, high activity and pet ownership.

RACGP stirs WA location rules

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has called for increased competition and patient choice, in its submission to the Western Australian Government Review of Community Pharmacy Ownership.

The RACGP said it does not support the current pharmacy ownership rules and urges the Western Australian Government to consider why these regulations apply exclusively to pharmacy.

RACGP Western Australia chair Dr Tim Koh said general practice and pharmacy, while interconnected on paper, have a history of being segregated industries, which is detrimental to patients.

"General practice and pharmacy are intrinsically linked through their respective roles in prescribing and dispensing medicines for patients," Dr Koh said.

"Yet, in Australia, GPs and

pharmacists generally work in silos.

"Better integration of pharmacists into GP-led teams could bring benefits to patients as well as the healthcare team itself," he said.

Koh said claims that pharmacy location and ownership rules promote access to PBS medicines and encourage sustainability of the community pharmacy sector "are questionable".

The most recent report from the King Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation outlined options relating to pharmacy location and ownership rules, Koh said.

However despite the location rules recommendations from the review, Health Minister Greg Hunt instead moved to legislate the suspension of the existing sunset clause on pharmacy location rules (**PD 10 May 2017**) to "provide pharmacy owners with ongoing confidence that approval to supply pharmaceutical benefits at particular premises will continue to be regulated" according to the government's 2017 Budget papers.

XR paracetamol ban

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) has suspended marketing of modified- or prolonged-release products containing paracetamol, around concerns of complexities in managing overdoses.

The recommendation was made by the agency's experts in medicines safety, the Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee, which highlighted that the advantages of a longer-acting product did not outweigh the complications of managing an overdose of the medicine.

The treatment procedures for immediate-release products were not necessarily appropriate for modified-release paracetamol.

Not knowing which paracetamol form is involved in an overdose incident increases risks around the crisis management, the EMA said.

Pharmacies walking

COMMUNITY pharmacies increasingly are joining the Heart Foundation Walking program as a means to build community health while boosting engagement with their customers.

Heart Foundation Walking (HFW) says it is Australia's largest free walking program.

With 1,195 walking groups around the country, the program offers a fun, social and accessible way for people to start exercising regularly and be more healthy, while for organisations such as pharmacies as the focus of a group, powerful relationships are developed.

See walking.heartfoundation.org.au.

UK 2017 drug shorts

ONGOING drug shortages cost Britain's National Health Service (NHS) £38m (AU\$66.2m) last month as more emergency price increases were agreed to boost stocks, according to an analysis by the Evidence-Based Medicine DataLab at the University of Oxford.

There were a record 91 emergency price rises agreed in November, as the NHS continued to experience supply problems that are estimated to have cost the service more than £200m since April 2017.



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.

3-10 Jan: Dental & Medical Ski Conference; Aspen, USA; for more info and to register see: www.cpdconferencing.com.au

4-5 Feb: Pharmacy Ownership Ready Conference; Gold Coast, QLD; register your interest here: www.medicri.com.au

16-18 Mar: Annual Therapeutic Update 2018; Fairmont Resort, Blue Mountains; for details and registrations visit: www.psa.org.au

3-6 May: APP 2018; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; find out more and register at: www.appconference.com

30 May - 1 Jun: National Medicines Symposium (NMS) 2018; National Convention Centre, Canberra; registrations now open: www.nps.org.au

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