

Pharmacist struck off

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has cancelled the registration of a pharmacist/medical practitioner due to professional misconduct.

The Board referred Gyu Sung Lee to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal in Mar 2016, over his conduct as a registered pharmacist in 2013/14.

He was alleged to have misappropriated prescription pads from a hospital, produced false prescriptions and presented them to other pharmacists, and dishonestly obtained prescription medications for his own use.

Lee, who later also graduated with a medical degree, notified the Board after he was charged with theft and possession of drugs of dependence.

He pleaded guilty in a Magistrates' Court in late 2014 and was sentenced without conviction to a six month good behaviour bond.

Lee has not worked as a pharmacist since Mar 2014 and is now disqualified from reapplying for three years.

QCPP set for makeover

THE Quality Care Pharmacy Program will undergo significant changes later this year, with an "improved" scheme to debut effective from 01 Jul.

The enhanced QCPP Requirements will assess the 'AS85000 Quality Care Pharmacy Standard' "in a way which provides greater flexibility for your pharmacy business to innovate and grow," according to an update from the Pharmacy Guild this week.

QCPP requirements will change, but the Guild promised that preparing for assessment would be "business as usual," meaning accredited pharmacies would not need to make significant changes to the policies and procedures documented in their Operations Manual.

The new arrangements will see the QCPP's current 18 elements become five "domains" while the existing 'Red' checklists/templates and 'green' procedures and policies will be removed from QCPP

requirements - although they can still form part of the manual.

"Assessment will focus on quality outcomes and alignment with professional standards, guidelines and regulations," the Guild said.

Each QCPP Requirement will have its intent added to help ensure a clear definition, while the current 'Remedial actions' will be replaced with 'major non-conformances, minor non-conformances and observations'.

'Evidence required at assessment' will be replaced with 'evidence examples' under the new QCPP.

The Guild said the enhanced QCPP Requirements "will be less complex, more robust and provide greater continuity," with the changes aiming to promote flexibility, innovation and growth within pharmacy businesses.

The full details will be launched early next month, with the QCPP team to be introducing the enhancements to delegates at the APP2017 conference.

BioCeuticals earlybird

THE 5th BioCeuticals Research Symposium, to be held this year in Sydney 21-23 Apr, has opened earlybird registration until 10 Mar.

Australian and international speakers will work within the theme of The Age Of Personalised Medicine: Improved Clinical Insights for Better Patient Outcomes.

See bioceuticals.com.au for more.

EC guide from PSA

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has released new guidelines and professional resources for registered pharmacists on emergency contraception, after the rescheduling to pharmacist-only of ulipristal acetate (**PD Tue**).

PSA members can access the new *Guidelines for provision of emergency contraception* **HERE**.

New S3-specific packaging for ulipristal is being developed, but during the transition period packaging and labelling exemptions apply allowing the S4 packaging to be supplied by pharmacists as S3.



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Commonwealth Golf Club	Mon 29th May
Kingston Heath Golf Club	Tues 27th June

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For more info visit www.vcgc.com.au

FIP urges QUM data

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has published a new document laying out a vision for global collaboration to ensure high quality medicines information, which it says should form part of national medicines policies.

Medicines information: Strategic development is "the first time that the implementation of medicines information, which is key to the safe and effective use of medicines, has been explored at a global level," the Federation said.

Key outcomes of such a move would include medication safety and pharmacovigilance, rational prescribing and dispensing, and improved health literacy.

The document includes case studies from the UK, US and Finland where medicines information strategies exist, setting out a vision for collaboration and action to ensure high quality medicines information across the globe.

It also highlights the important contribution of pharmacists - to view the report see fip.org.

Prescriber out now

THE latest issue of NPS' official organ *Australian Prescriber* includes a discussion of both pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) as well as a summary article titled "Midazolam for status epilepticus".

In addition, there is a discussion by Dr James Falconer and Associate Professor Kathryn Steadman of the University of Queensland on compounded medicines (see p.3).

Antimicrobial resistance, medication charts in residential aged-care facilities and phosphate binders in chronic kidney disease patients are also developed in separate articles - visit nps.org.au.

Turnbull prevention push

COMPLEMENTARY

medicines Australia (CMA) said it has been "heartened" by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's comment made at the National Press

Club this week that the Australian Government would implement "in 2017, a new focus on preventive health."

"CMA has long called for a change in health focus from supporting an ailing and expensive illness model to a wellness model that empowers Australians to take a new approach to healthcare; an approach that promotes well-being," said CMA ceo Carl Gibson.

"Current health policy in Australia is still focused on the treatment of people after they become unwell, resulting in vast social and economic costs associated with chronic disease."

Gibson went on to argue that the illness model was costly in both dollars and in terms of the impact on productivity and quality of life.



"Preventive health is an essential move towards improving the cost-effectiveness of the Australian healthcare system and alleviating pressure on the Government's health budget."

"As the peak industry body in Australia for vitamins, minerals and supplements - known as complementary medicines - our members and industry associates are leaders in preventive health."

Gibson concluded his argument by highlighting that the use and further development of complementary medicines provided an opportunity to "counteract spiralling health care costs through more effective disease prevention and preventable chronic disease management".

Psoriasis Rx funded

INTERLEUKIN-17A inhibitor, Taltz (ixekizumab) from Lilly is now listed on the PBS as an authority required listing for the treatment of patients with severe chronic plaque psoriasis, providing another option for afflicted people.

CLICK HERE for Taltz PI.

Very generous Guild

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia donated almost \$240,000 to political parties over the last twelve months, according to new figures revealed in Canberra yesterday.

The payments went to major parties at federal and state levels.

Other health groups making large contributions included peak pharmaceutical body Medicines Australia, which donated over \$80,000 in total to the Labor and Liberal party in the lead-up to last year's federal election.

The Electoral Commission figures also indicate that Epic Pharmacy Management donated \$25,000 to the Qld Liberal National Party.

Advertising for Vit D

VITAMIN D will be included in Appendix H of the Australian medicines schedule, allowing for the direct to consumer advertising, under a recommendation from the TGA's Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling (ACMS).

The committee concluded that "access for high-risk consumers to a once-weekly dose of Vitamin D from a pharmacist for effective ongoing supplementation is likely to be beneficial and safe".

The recommended implementation date for the change is 01 Jun, with the ACMS saying that the compliance benefits, low-risk nature of the product and safeguards inherent in Schedule 3 "mean the benefits of advertising the availability of this product exceed any potential risks".

Other recommendations from the committee's Nov meeting included an amended Schedule 2 entry for paracetamol and caffeine combinations, while the listings for cetirizine hydrochloride were both amended for S2 and S4.

New S4 entries are being created for tianeptine, olaparib, ceritinib, brivaracetam, guanfacine and follitropin delta, with a consultation period on the changes now open for input until 16 Feb - tga.gov.au.

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Dispensary Corner

BRITAIN'S National Health Service is generating so much internet traffic that Google is mistaking it for a cyber attack.

The UK *Register* cited an NHS email this week which confirmed that "Google is intermittently blocking access due to the amount of traffic from NHS Trusts nationally...this is causing Google to think it is suffering from a cyber attack".

Staff are being advised to use alternative search engines to Google's Chrome in order to avoid the problem.

The issue follows an email blunder late last year in which a test message was inadvertently sent to all 850,000 people with an NHS email account.

About 80 of those hit 'reply all' when they asked to be removed from the list, overall generating about 500 million emails and swamping the NHS IT system.

A MAN who was arrested for jogging naked through the massive Microsoft campus in Seattle, USA has told officers he was just trying to build up his immunity to cold weather.

The nude exerciser was spotted by a female security officer who saw him running through the area at about 3.30am.

"After seeing nude buttocks illuminated by a street light, she and another officer contacted the jogger, who was wearing nothing but black Skecher sneakers," according to a Facebook update from the Redmond Police Department.

The man was not charged since there were no victims, but was advised that nude jogging could be considered indecent exposure.

Compounding alive & well

THE art and science of compounding medicines is alive and well in Australia, according to a new article in the latest issue of *Australian Prescriber*.

Dr James Falconer and Associate Professor Kathryn Steadman of the University of Queensland explain that some people might have very specific needs when it comes to medicines, such as needing an individualised dose that can't be purchased ready-made, or a medicine that can be delivered via a feeding tube.

"All pharmacists have training to prepare simple compounded products that might include different types of creams, liquids, tablets or powders, and these can be made in any community pharmacy or hospital," said Falconer.

"However there are other more complicated types of compounded medicines such as injectable preparations, products with a safety hazard, modified-release dosage forms, and some eye



medicines.

"To prepare these, pharmacists require further postgraduate training, as well as specialised facilities and equipment.

"There are specialist compounding pharmacies in most major towns and cities around Australia."

The article emphasises that while all the components of the medicine including the active and non-active ingredients are subject to quality standards, the final medicine itself is exempt from assessment by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, and there is no assessment of the final product.

Stability of the end product therefore becomes an important consideration, the authors state.

"To minimise the risk of a compounded medicine degrading before use, it will usually have a short-term expiry date compared to a mass-produced medicine.

"For example, the expiry date on most oral or topical products will be 28 days, while injectable medicines are likely to have a 24-hour expiry."

Win with wotnot

This week Pharmacy Daily and Wotnot are giving readers the chance to win a prize pack each day including Wotnot SPF30 Family Sunscreen- 150gm, Wotnot biodegradable travel wipes and a Wotnot tote bag - perfect for a beach day.

Wotnot products are GMO free and are also free from sulphates, petrochemicals, parabens, artificial preservatives and fragrances - 100% wots good, 0% wots not! Wotnot formulas are so close to nature we know your family will love them as much as you do. See more at www.wotnot.com.au

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



Are Wotnot product tested on animals?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Elise Mahony from Flinders Medical Centre.



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.

17 Feb: Foundation Seminar in Clinical Medication Management; Pullman Melbourne Albert Park; for details and to register: www.shpa.org.au

3-5 Mar: Annual Therapeutic Update 2017; Crowne Plaza Terrigal; register here: www.psa.org.au

8 Mar: AACP Accredited Pharmacists' Forum: Quality Use of Medicines in the Management of Chronic Medical Conditions; Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre; more info at: www.aacp.com.au

9-12 Mar: APP 2017; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; for details visit: www.appconference.com

31 Mar: Foundation Seminar in Clinical Pharmacy Practice; Sydney, NSW; registrations opening soon: www.shpa.org.au

29-30 Apr: Victorian Pharmacy Conference 2017; Monash University, Parkville; register here: www.psa.org.au

16-18 Jun: ConPharm 2017; Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart; find out more: www.aacp.com.au

28-30 Jul: PSA17; Hyatt Regency, Darling Harbour, Sydney; for details see: www.psa17.com

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