

Rollover your CPD

WITH 2016 behind us, the College of Pharmacy recommends members rollover their 2015/16 CPD Learning Plan into a 2016/17 Learning Plan.

To download a PDF of the guide for rolling over your CPD Learning Plan, visit www.acp.edu.au.

Guild intern offer

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is encouraging intern pharmacists to enrol in the Guild Intern Training Program by 17 Jan, in order to be in the running to win a 2017 Australian Medicines Handbook resource package worth \$345.

Manager of the program, Tim Roberts, said the earlybird bonus was one of many benefits of the Guild scheme which also includes free registration to the APP conference and Pharmacy Connect for all Guild interns.

The program is available nationwide with workshops hosted in all states and territories, with enrolments officially closing on 31 Jan - see internpharmacist.com.au.

PSA Vic conference

REGISTRATIONS are now open for the Victorian Pharmacy Conference, scheduled for 29-30 Apr at Melbourne's Monash University in Parkville, themed Knowledge, People, Innovation.

For details see psa.org.au/vpc17.

Dispensing war of words

PHARMACY Guild National President George Tambassis has today responded to an article in the *Australian Financial Review*, defending the Guild's ongoing push to recoup \$82 million in pharmacy remuneration which has been unpaid due to lower than expected prescription volumes (PD 01 Dec).

Yesterday Terry Barnes, the co-author of the 1999 National Competition Policy Review of Pharmacy Regulation report, launched a broadside in the *AFR* against the Pharmacy Guild which he described as "the most disciplined and cashed-up lobby group in the country."

"It makes the Australian Medical Association look like a Brownie troop," he added, going on to detail the "bitter stoush" between the Guild and the government over the dispensing shortfall.

Barnes claimed the Guild's request for the extra compensation means "the normal rules of business don't apply to pharmacists...a typical small business faced with less-than-expected sales would write down profits, tighten its belt and lay off employees."

"The Guild believes pharmacies deserve protection because they're special," he wrote.

Rather than conceding to the Guild demand, Barnes urged health minister Sussan Ley to "remind pharmacists of the generous gravy

train they ride, and call the Guild's bluff in the public interest".

The response from Tambassis describes pharmacies as a "true partnership with the public," saying he welcomes the opportunity to air the issue of the volume shortfall.

He detailed the risk share arrangements in the 6CPA, citing the level of certainty provided for the government and pharmacies.

Tambassis slammed Barnes' expertise, saying his "supporting role in a review of pharmacy some 17 years ago hardly makes him an expert on the current landscape of community pharmacies, including the impact of almost a decade of PBS reforms on their viability".

The Guild president claimed the \$82m shortfall equated to a bottom line impact of \$15,000 for the average community pharmacy.

Eisai acquires rights to weight loss drug

US PHARMACEUTICAL company Eisai has announced it has bought the global marketing and distribution rights for chronic weight management treatment Belviq and Belviq XR (lorcaserin HCl) from Arena Pharmaceuticals.

Lorcaserin is a serotonin agonist targeting receptors in the brain that generate a sense of satiety.

The agreement will see Arena able to earn \$26m in potential and regulatory milestones, including \$25 million upon global net sales reaching \$250 million in any 12 month period.

French vit D fail

FRENCH health authorities have acted to suspend the sale of a vitamin D supplement after the death of a 10-day old baby who died hours after being given it.

Health Minister Marisol Touraine said children were not in danger by taking vitamin D supplements in general, but "only Uvesterol D administered with a pipette is involved".

Uvesterol D is not available in Australia or the UK.

Dabigatran foil blister

BOEHRINGER Ingelheim's Pradaxa (dabigatran) should always be kept in its original foil blister pack, not loaded into Webster packs or other dosage aids due to the possibility of product degeneration, according to a review article in NPS' *Australian Prescriber*.

The article looks at the issues surrounding the long term use of anticoagulants, including the novel oral anticoagulants (NOACs), namely Pradaxa, Xarelto (rivaroxaban from Bayer) and Eliquis (apixaban from Pfizer).

Pharmacy handling of these products is important, the article says, referencing drug-drug interactions and storage, and provides a table comparing warfarin with the NOACs.

The article offers CPD points for pharmacists and can be included in a pharmacist's CPD plan for either one Group 1 credit or, on successful completion of the assessment activity, two Group 2 credits.

Visit learn.nps.org.au for more information.

Win with Aveeno

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Aveeno are giving away each day Daily Moisturising Lotion and Dermexa Moisturising Cream.

Aveeno Dermexa Moisturising Cream is specifically formulated to soothe and hydrate even the most sensitive skin, and is clinically proven suitable for eczema prone skin. Aveeno Daily Moisturising Lotion contains Active Naturals Colloidal Oatmeal, which is a specially milled, finely ground oat formula that allows the lotion to lock in moisture while replenishing the skin's own moisture levels.

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

What else is great about Daily Moisturising Lotion?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Michael Venn from Gambier Village Pharmacy.



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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - South Coast, WA (Job# 200013400)
Beautiful location close to Perth - Flexible roster - f/time or p/time options.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Geelong, VIC (Job# 200013520)
Looking for the opportunity to be a manager in a forward thinking pharmacy?
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Sydney, NSW (Job# 200013618)
If change is what you need then this has your name on it!

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Dispensary Corner

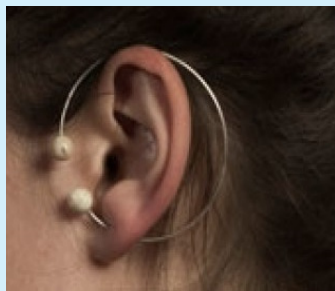
HUMAN teeth are being used in jewellery design in place of ivory.

The idea is the brainchild of Dutch designer Lucie Majerus who believes it isn't ethical to "almost extinguish" elephants for the sake of their ivory.

"Why don't we value other teeth as well?" she questioned.

When her wisdom teeth were removed she kept them and came up with the idea of the Human Ivory Jewellery Collection which includes earrings (pictured), cuff links, brooches and rings.

Majerus said she was surprised to find that most people didn't seem creeped out by the idea of wearing human teeth.



NAIL clippers, lipstick and toothbrushes - what do all these items have in common? No it's not just that they're all every day bathroom items...it's that they have all been found lodged inside the human body.

Health Boards across New Zealand have reported on foreign bodies detected by their x-ray machines with mind boggling discoveries such as "nail clippers in bladder" and "lipstick tube in anus and rectum".

Other odd items that somehow made their way into the body also included air rifles, cauliflower, toothbrushes & mattress springs.

Council defends Peppa spray

CANCER Council Australia has come out strongly defending its Peppa Pig-branded sunscreen as a widely used long-standing product which has sold more than 250,000 bottles with very few complaints registered, most of which related to the pump spray, not the product itself.

Nevertheless an unspecified number of complaints were posted on Facebook following an update by mother Jessie Swan who spent three days in hospital with her three-month old Thomas who had a bad reaction to the sunscreen when applied to his face and body, reports *News Limited*.

A Cancer Council spokesperson said, "Yesterday we were saddened to learn via Facebook that a young child had a negative experience with our SPF50+ Kids Sunscreen.

"We take any concern raised about our products very seriously and have been in direct contact with the boy's mother, Jessie, to



investigate this further. "Sunscreens in Australia are strictly regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration," the Council said adding that all Cancer Council products are fully compliant.

"Additionally, all products formulated for sensitive skin, including our SPF50+ Kids Sunscreen, are dermatologically tested to ensure that they pass the Repeat Insult Patch Test (RIPT), a recognised formal skin sensitivity test for topically applied products.

"If you have sensitive skin, doing a personal patch test is even more important," the spokesperson said.

Ross River virus reaches Victoria

IN WHAT has been described as an "explosion" of the dreaded mosquito-borne auto-immune Ross River disease, more than 300 people have been diagnosed with the condition in Victoria during the 2016



calendar year, *Fairfax* reports. Victoria's chief health officer Professor Charles Guest said this was nearly a 50% jump from the previous year and probably "an underestimate", given that many were not diagnosed and therefore not reported to the department.

While the virus is rare in Melbourne, it is not uncommon in rural and regional areas he said.

Guest advised using "mosquito repellent containing picaridin or DEET, wearing loose fitting clothing when outside and ensuring accommodation is mosquito proof."

Bowel screen >50s

THE National Bowel Cancer Screening Program kit will again be sent out to all people turning 50 this year free of charge, as the scheme renews its warnings to Australians about increased risk.

In a dramatic comparison, the Queensland Health Department said, "An Australian is statistically more likely to experience bowel cancer than win the lottery.

"And bowel cancer is considerably less fun."

Odds of getting bowel cancer are around one in twenty and the Faecal Occult Blood Test is also sold through pharmacies for those outside the free program.

Hep C drug now PBS

EFFECTIVE this week the long anticipated hepatitis C treatment for genotypes 1 and 4 (*PD* 16 Dec 16) has been PBS listed, bringing enthusiastic welcoming comments from Hepatitis Australia.

The combination of elbasvir and grazoprevir (brand name Zepatier from MSD) was funded effective 01 Jan and marks an important day for a small but significant proportion of the 227,000 people with the condition, Hepatitis Australia said.



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; Melbourne, VIC; for details and to register see: 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

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: Level 2, Suite 1 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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Publisher/Editor in chief: Bruce Piper

Managing Editor: Jon Murrie

Reporter: Mal Smith

Contributors: Nathalie Craig, Jasmine O'Donoghue, Bonnie Tai

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Melanie Tchakmadjian advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Editorial: info@pharmacydaily.com.au

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