

Guild ITP closing

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced its Intern Training Program (ITP) is still open for early bird registration until 17 Jan.

All Guild interns receive free registration to APP2017 which is worth \$750, as well as free Pharmacy Connect Registration in Sydney.

The program costs delegates \$1,855 with flexible payment options - **CLICK HERE** for more.

Early bird rego open

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Victorian Branch has opened early bird registration for the largest annual Victorian pharmacy event, the Victorian Pharmacy Conference, to be held 29 - 30 Apr 2017 at Monash University, Parkville.

Visit psa.org.au for details.

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Children's sunscreen safe

THROWING its support behind the use of sunscreens for children, the Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) has clarified many of the issues surrounding the recent controversy of complaints against the Cancer Council's Peppa Pig Kids Sunscreen (**PD** 06 Jan).

"Sunscreens remain an important form of sun protection, along with protective clothing, hats, and sunglasses and, whenever possible, avoiding the sun during peak UV periods," ASMI said.

"A study published in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health* estimated that, in 2010, average sunscreen use over previous decades in Australia had prevented 1,730 cases of melanoma and 14,190 squamous cell carcinomas."

The concerns relate to a child whose mother said on Facebook she spent three days in hospital with her three-month old baby who had a bad reaction to the sunscreen when applied to his face and body.

The post drew a few similar complaints to which the Cancer Council Australia has responded.

Asthma drug funded

BOEHRINGER Ingelheim (BI) has welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that the first new class of inhaled medicine approved for the treatment of adult asthma in the past ten years will be added to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme effective 01 Feb (**PD** 19 Dec 16).

Spiriva Respimat (tiotropium bromide, 5mcg once daily) is indicated for add-on therapy for adult patients with severe asthma who remain symptomatic while receiving optimised asthma therapy of inhaled corticosteroids alongside a long-acting beta agonist (ICS / LABA combination therapy).

More than 2.3 million Australians have asthma and as many as 45% experience uncontrolled asthma symptoms.

Approximately 20% of Australians with asthma remain symptomatic despite good adherence to existing therapy, BI said.

Cancer Council Australia ceo Professor Sanchia Aranda said that reported reactions to its SPF 50+ Kids sunscreen were being investigated and that Cancer Council's sunscreen range remained safe and effective for the vast majority of users.

Aranda said Cancer Council sunscreens were closely regulated by the Australian Government's Therapeutic Goods Administration to help ensure they met the highest standards of safety and effectiveness.

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."

"Given the lifesaving benefits of sunscreen, we will continue to encourage its use while ensuring that any individual concerns about sunscreen use are promptly investigated."

ASMI says that the use of sunscreens should be avoided on babies under six months of age, should always be tested on a small patch of skin prior to wider use and label directions should be followed including the rate of re-application.

Ley steps aside

FEDERAL Health Minister Sussan Ley has stood aside without pay over the scandal surrounding her travel claims (**PD** Breaking News yesterday).

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has confirmed Ley has agreed to stand aside while the secretary of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet conducts an investigation into her travel claims.

"The secretary will thoroughly investigate the travel claims and the Minister has assured me that she will promptly provide all information and assistance sought by the secretary

for the purpose of this investigation," Turnbull said.

During the conduct of investigations, Senator Arthur Sinodinos

(pictured) will assume responsibility for the portfolio of Health, Aged Care and Sport.

The investigations relate to Gold Coast travel costs associated with ministerial business but where Ley and her partner also purchased an ocean-view apartment for \$795,000 in May 2015 (**PD** 09 Jan).

Other concerns relate to New Year's Eve travel for parties on the Gold Coast with Sarina Russo and the potential for this to spillover into other ministers' NYE travel.



Win with MOVICOL

This month, Pharmacy Daily and MOVICOL are giving readers the chance to win a pack of MOVICOL® Ready to Take (1 box of 10 sachets), a Keep Cup and an EOS Strawberry Lip Balm.



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

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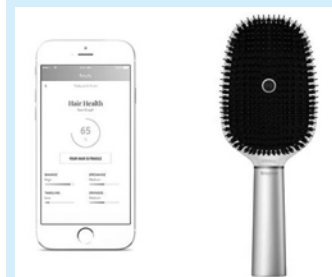
YOUR hairbrush can now communicate with you.

It comes as L’Oreal has released the first ‘smart’ hairbrush which analyses your hair type and recommends products accordingly.

Sensors can tell the texture of the hair and there’s even a microphone that listens to the sound of the hair brushing, listening out for frizziness, dryness and breakage.

Everything the brush records about your mane will then be sent to an app on your phone via wi-fi or bluetooth.

Turns out the hairbrush is also a saleswoman, telling its owners which L’Oreal products they need to purchase for glossy, smooth locks.



WHAT, that’s not legal here?” That was the response of an Arizona man arrested for possessing marijuana.

The 54-year-old allegedly told police he thought the state had already legalised the drug.

Possessing any amount of the drug remains a crime in the state after voters narrowly rejected the Proposition 205 vote to legalise it by 52% to 48%.

The man’s ignorance of the law and recent voting outcome wasn’t enough to get him off his charges though.

MedAdvisor growth surge

AUSTRALIAN listed online medication management company MedAdvisor has made yet another strategic acquisition bringing in a network of 100,000 patients who can be introduced to the company’s tools to manage their medication and prescription history.

MedAdvisor has acquired the assets of OzDocsOnline, the online doctor-patient communication platform and a subsidiary of Point of Care Diagnostics, for a total cash outlay of A\$150,000.

As well as the additional network of patients, the move adds new services to the company’s offerings, including online consultations, appointment bookings and communication of test results.

Around 100 new clinics and more than 300 GPs are to be exposed to more than 100,000 patients, while patients will also gain more ready access to repeat prescriptions, specialist referrals, pathology results, secure e-messaging service and e-consultations.

The deal is expected to settle

AMA says NSPs needed in prisons

THE Australian Medical (AMA) Association is calling for needle and syringe programs (NSPs) to be introduced in prisons to help cut down the spread of Blood Borne Viruses (BBV).

The AMA has launched its Position Statement on Blood Borne Viruses 2017 cementing its support for NSPs as a “frontline approach to preventing BBVs”.

AMA said prison-based NSP trials had been shown to reduce the risk of staff needle-stick injuries and increase inmates’ ability to access drug treatment.

CLICK HERE to access the AMA’s position statement.

on 31 Jan and integration of the two organisations is planned for completion by Aug this year.

Some elements will take a little longer to tie in but full integration with GP Link and GP Connect (Healthnotes) is set for Q1 2018.

The new arrangements follow a string of growth-promoting links MedAdvisor has made, including Patient Engagement Programs (PEPs) with nine of Australia’s largest pharmaceutical companies engaged including Novartis, Bristol-Myers Squibb, GSK, AstraZeneca and Pfizer (*PD* 09 Dec 16), all designed to maintain growth for the ongoing income stream, the company said.

NZ pharmacists find information gap

DESPITE widespread communications about the state-funded whooping cough vaccination program in New Zealand, many women who did not have the vaccine had not been alerted to it during their pregnancy, according to a *Fairfax* report.

Pharmacists conducting research discovered the information shortfall about the program which has been in place since 2013, with vaccination free through GPs, public hospitals and some pharmacies.

As well as not being told about the disease, some mothers failed to have the vaccine over concerns about safety and other misinformation.

Babies are not given a whooping cough vaccine until they are six weeks old but if they contract the bacterial disease in those first weeks, the result can be fatal.

NZ child hospital admission rates for the disease are around three-fold higher than in Australia and the United States.

PBAC November recommendations

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) as published its latest list of funding recommendations including positive, rejected and deferred decisions for the PBS funding of drugs.

Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) findings were also considered - visit pbs.gov.au.

Guild Update

Calendar change for APP 2018

APP 2018 will be held in May as a one-off change necessitated by the Commonwealth Games being held on the Gold Coast earlier that year.

The dates for APP2018 are 3 - 6 May 2018.

However, the dates for this year’s APP remain unchanged and the event is being held 9-12 March 2017.

The change in dates for next year has been necessary because in early 2018 APP’s traditional home - the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre - will become the media centre for The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018).

The Games will be held 4 - 18 April 2018 which has resulted in the need to push back the dates for APP2018.

The Pharmacy Guild will have first access back to the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre when the venue is handed back by the Games Organising Committee.

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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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