

Fri 13th resignation

PRIME Minister Malcolm Turnbull has confirmed the resignation on Friday of Health Minister Sussan Ley (**PD** breaking news Fri), who on Monday last week had stepped aside pending an investigation into her travel expenses claims.

Senator Arthur Sinodinos, who was appointed to caretake the portfolio (**PD** 10 Jan), has been cited by a number of sources as the most likely replacement.

Sinodinos, aged 59, has been a Senate Liberal member for New South Wales since 2011, and is the Cabinet Secretary in the Turnbull Government.

China loves Blackmores

THE colossal Asian market is likely to lift Blackmores into the top five brands selling online in China, according to Credit Suisse financial analyst Ben Levin.

Ongoing growth in Blackmores' sales momentum appeared to have continued through Dec after a strong Nov, Levin is quoted as saying in *The Australian*.

"In fact, we have seen evidence that Blackmores is firmly in the top 10, if not skirting the top 5, vitamins brands, domestic and international, selling online in

China," he said in a client note.

Although Blackmores shares had been trading around 9% below their recent \$119 high, they added 4.5% last week.

Levin also said he expected Blackmores' inventory position for the first half of 2017 would improve as retailer/wholesale destocking subsided and sales improved.

While Australian sales were down 40% to \$68m last quarter, Blackmores' China business recorded a 220% jump in sales to \$31m, as reported in its quarterly results (**PD** 28 Oct 16).

As well as selling direct to Chinese consumers online, Blackmores is among products sold on Alibaba's T-Mall online marketplace in China by Chemist Warehouse, which set a sales record as the highest selling overseas merchant during the annual 'Singles Day' sales extravaganza (**PD** 14 Nov).

BLACKMORES

Course on the nose

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced the addition to the myCPD site of a new course examining the management of allergic rhinitis as it plays out in a community pharmacy setting.

The Guild Pharmacy Academy said it had developed the new online course as part of the popular Pharmacy Health Solutions which had been designed to help pharmacies engage with their patients and assist them in achieving a better health outcome.

Guild Victorian branch president and community pharmacist Anthony Tassone said, "In some patients, allergic rhinitis can have a significant impact on their ability to work, focus at school and go about their daily activities.

"Many are not aware of the treatment options available or what is most appropriate for them."

Tassone said community pharmacists could establish an ongoing relationship with the patient and assist them with the best medicines to resolve this common condition.

For more, visit myCPD.org.au.



Priceline Kooyong Classic

THE 2017 Priceline Pharmacy Kooyong Classic wrapped up last week, with women competing for the first time in 20 years.

In addition to the general public retreating to the on-site Priceline lounge, almost every player of the tournament stopped by to check their health score on the exclusive digital health stations and some of the female players even took up the option to have a freshen up with the beauty advisors.

"As a brand for women, we want to demonstrate that our support extends beyond offering the best products and services," said outgoing API ceo Stephen Roche.



"Being naming rights sponsors of the Kooyong Classic for the third year in a row enables us to help promote an active and healthy lifestyle and we are proud to be a part of this iconic Australian tournament."

Pictured are Priceline Sisterhood Foundation Patron Ita Buttrose and Priceline Sisters Sam Harris and Ada Nicodemou.

Omega-3 in pregnancy

CHILDREN'S risk of developing asthma can be reduced by as much as 32% if the mother keeps up fish oil (omega-3) to a sufficient level through the third trimester of their pregnancy, according to new double-blind follow-up research out of the Copenhagen Prospective Studies on Asthma in Childhood.

A total of 695 children were included in the trial, and 95.5% completed the 3-year, double-blind follow-up period.

Visit nejm.org to access the study.

SHPA online journal

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists (SHPA) says its new plans for the online publication the *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research (JPPR)* announced last year (**PD** 21 Nov) are taking shape and will see six editions this year.

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Dispensary Corner

IF YOU'RE allergic to the cold, the icy province of Saskatoon in Canada where the temperatures can drop to below -20 C would have to be one of the least practical places on earth for you to live.

For Marlyne Wight (pictured below) this scenario is reality.

For the past three decades she has lived with cold urticaria - a condition in which exposure to cold makes her skin itchy and red and her body swell up.

She says she receives a lot of scepticism about her condition despite having had it diagnosed by a dermatologist.

Even eating ice cream makes her lips swell.

While the tropics would be a much better climate for her, she stays in Canada to live close by her family.



JUNK food addicted raccoons in the US have been forced to move away from their sugary snacks.

The animals which were living in an Ormond neighbourhood in Destrehan, Louisiana, had to be relocated by St Charles Animal Control after they were being fed sugar laden treats such as marshmallows, donuts and cookies by those living in the area.

The chubby raccoons were weighing up to 18 kgs each.

Animal control staff have put out a warning not to feed them.

GuildCare finalists named

GUILD CARE has announced the 2017 GuildCare Pharmacy of the Year finalists as: Capital Chemist Wanniasa, ACT; Lanyon Pharmacy, ACT and Priceline Pharmacy Woden, ACT.



This is the first year GuildCare is announcing three finalists, instead of just one winner, in order to recognise the versatility of their partner pharmacies.

The accolade celebrates pharmacies that go beyond regular service delivery and each of this year's finalists have

not only provided professional service clinical interventions but have recorded regular professional service deliveries, within the GuildCare software platform.

The winner will be announced during the first day of the APP trade exhibition on 09 Mar.

FDA wins with patent

TWO scientists in the US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) Office of Vaccines Research and Review created a cost-effective step in the manufacture of a meningitis vaccine called MenAfriVac, earning the FDA a 2016 Patents for Humanity Award for Impact on Global Public Health, and leading to more than 235 million lives being protected by the vaccine.

Ondansetron trumped by chewing gum

LEADING antiemetic ondansetron may have met its match in efforts to stem the tides of nausea for women post-operatively, in the form of Wrigley's peppermint chewing gum.

Royal Melbourne Hospital lead researcher Dr Jai Darvall tested the two alternatives in 94 patients.

Of those in the gum group, 75% reported full resolution of their nausea while only 37% of the ondansetron group had relief.

The study was published in the *British Journal of Anaesthesia* and needs broader testing, Darvall said.

Win with Plunketts

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Plunketts are giving away an Aloe Vera prize pack every day including Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera gel, spray, moisturiser and sarong.

Aloe Vera is easily absorbed by your skin, soothing and cooling dry irritated skin. Australian made, Plunkett's Aloe Vera Gel and Spray contain 99% of the highest quality 100% certified organic Aloe. Nothing is closer to Aloe Vera straight from the plant, but Plunkett's is in a convenient tube.

Visit www.plunketts.com.au

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



Name one use for Plunkett's Aloe Vera?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is

Natasha McKay, SOUTHERNATURE Naturopath & Herbalist.



Choosing the right fish oil for you!

THERE is such a variety of fish oils available now it can become very overwhelming to choose the right fish oil for you.

One of the best ways to determine how to buy a fish oil supplement is to determine the efficacy and purity of the product.

A good place to start is Friend of the Sea, a non-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO), whose mission is conservation. Sustainability is the key to the future and choosing a fish oil which has been made from sustainably caught fish is aligned with preserving our marine habitat. Products that bear the Global Organisation of EPA and DHA Omega-3s (GOED) logo support optimal EPA and DHA Omega-3 intake which highlights quality and the 5 star IFOS (International Fish Oil Standards) logo independently tests fish oils for purity, potency and freshness.

The Good Manufacturing Practices logo (GMP) means the fish oil has been made to process and procedure guidelines which will support a high quality pharmaceutical supplement. For more information on quality, natural supplements, contact info@southernature.com.au.

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