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## APC seeks directors

**THE** Australian Pharmacy Council is calling for applications for a number of upcoming vacancies on its Council over the next nine months, including three positions for current Councillors who have completed their terms and are not eligible for reappointment.

"APC is calling for applications for persons with a commitment to assuring and advancing quality in pharmacy education, and the requisite qualifications and experience," the Council said.

One of the positions available is for a non-pharmacist health practitioner, with applications sought by midnight on Fri 07 Jul.

## Slimming Caps alert

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a formal warning that the product labelled 'Slimming Capsule - Reduce Fat' contains the banned substances sibutramine and phenolphthalein, both of which were withdrawn from sale in Australia because of cardiac toxicity and carcinogenesis risks.

The TGA says this product poses a risk to health and supply is illegal.



## Pharmacy palliative care \$200k

**NSW** Minister for Health Brad Hazzard this week announced a \$200,000 package for "community pharmacy initiatives to improve medication management for palliative care patients".

It's a small component of a total \$100 million investment in palliative care across NSW as part of the state budget, supporting action for people suffering terminal illness and their families.

"We want the community to have confidence and choice in their end-of-life care and this Budget is a giant leap towards that outcome."

"This package includes training for 300 nurses and allied health staff, 300 scholarships for rural and

regional staff to enhance palliative care skills and 30 additional nurses in hospitals, homes and nursing homes," Hazzard said.

The package was launched in the wake of a series of regional "palliative care roundtables" which have been held in response to complaints about a lack of services in country NSW.

Further details of the \$200k support for pharmacy are expected to be revealed in the coming weeks.

## Swisse self-reported

**SWISSE** has confirmed that it proactively identified an issue around counterfeit High-Strength Cranberry and self-reported the matter to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (**PD 13 Jun**).

The company has been working with the TGA since then on the issue, and last month rolled out a Product Authentication Mobile App to combat fake medicines, using "world class scanning technology" to help consumers verify authentic Swisse labels.

## CMs for prevention

**COMPLEMENTARY** Medicines Australia has welcomed the publication of a new report on *Preventive Health: How much does Australia spend and is it enough?* produced by La Trobe University's Department of Public Health.

CMA ceo Carl Gibson said there was a "real and immediate role" for smarter preventive health which included the use of complementary medicines for primary and secondary prevention of illness.

The report is online at [fare.org.au](http://fare.org.au).

## DDS award winners announced



**SIGMA** Healthcare's 145-strong Discount Drug Stores (DDS) brand announced its national supplier partner and store awards at its recent tenth national conference in New Caledonia.

Waikiki DDS (pictured above) took out the top gong of Pharmacy of the Year and Sanofi Consumer Healthcare was awarded Supplier of the Year as well as taking out the Professional Services Supplier

Award and the Natural Health Supplements Supplier Award.

Waikiki DDS pharmacist Penny Caine was also announced as the National Pharmacy Assistant of the Year award winner.

Others honoured included Peter Nguyen from Menai Discount Drug Stores, named Pharmacist of the Year and Sarah Richardson of Fernvale DDS, named Retail Manager of the Year.

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## Dispensary Corner

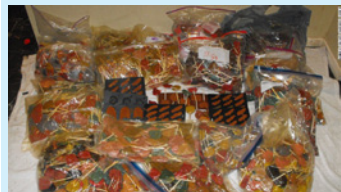
**LUCKY** it's not Halloween time.

Police investigating a burglary in Houston, Texas, this week have seized more than 300kg of methamphetamine-laced lollipops.

Said to have a street value of almost US\$1 million - and possibly for distribution to kids - the sweets were discovered after officers responded to a call by a neighbour who thought a nearby house was being robbed.

The police arrived and found a couple removing the lollipops from their home, according to the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

"They had so many narcotics in their vehicle they couldn't close the back hatch of their car," said a police spokesman.



**FORGET** fake tan - researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital in the USA have developed a drug which mimics the real thing.

So far only tested on skin samples and mice, the medication triggers chemical reactions in the body which mimic the effect of UV light, creating dark melanin.

Detailed in the journal *Cell Reports*, the scientists were also able to show the drug blocked UV light meaning as well as making the skin browner it could actually help protect against skin cancer.

The topical drug is from a class of medications called SIK Inhibitors - for Salt-Inducible Kinase - with possible future use as a key ingredient in sunscreen.

See [cell.com](http://cell.com) for the study.

## TGA launches meds app

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration is urging pharmacists to help promote a new 'MedSearch' smartphone app, which aims to provide users with up-to-date, easy to access Consumer Medicine Information and Product Information for registered prescription medicines.

A special downloadable poster has been produced for in-pharmacy display, promoting the app which was created as part of the TGA's Health IT Graduate Program.

"Prior to the launch of the MedSearch app, patients were expected to consult the leaflets found within the packaging of some medicines, speak with their healthcare professional, or search the TGA website for medicine information," the TGA said.

Now by offering CMI and PI documents through a mobile application, users can access information on the safe and effective use of their medicine anywhere, any time and save the



results for fast and simple future reference.

Health professionals will also benefit, the agency added, with PI immediately accessible through the app including adverse events, dosage instructions, indications and precautions.

Available on both the **APPLE** App Store and for **ANDROID** devices on Google Play, MedSearch allows access to PDF versions of current CMI

and PI documents for all items.

The pharmacy poster is now available at [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au), and for more information on Medsearch see [tga.gov.au/medsearch-app](http://tga.gov.au/medsearch-app).

## New MATES module

**THE** latest Veterans' Affairs Medicines Advice and Therapeutics Education Services (Veterans' MATES) module has been published online focusing on wound care, especially as it relates to ageing skin and the use of moisturisers.

Visit [veteransmates.com.au](http://veteransmates.com.au).

## Win with Milkman Shaving Co

This week Pharmacy Daily and Milkman Shaving Co are giving away each day a bottle of their Clear Shave Gel.

The boys at Milkman Grooming Co. have launched something that will change the shaving game and the faces of men across Australia - the new Milkman "Clear Shave Gel". Water-based not soap based, so it doesn't dry your skin, making it perfect for teens learning how to shave and those with sensitive skin. It allows for the blade to glide across your face with minimal resistance. It's peppermint and menthol fragrance serves to invigorate your sense of smell and touch with a soothing freshness on the skin, that keeps your face feeling cool before, during and after you shave. Good for 100 shaves. RRP \$25.00. **SEE MORE HERE.**

To win, be the first from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

How many shaves can you use the Clear Shave Gel for?



Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Nancy Yang from Good Price Pharmacy Warehouse.

## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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