

National Pharmacies celebrate wins

AT A function held at the Adelaide Convention Centre on Wed 01 Nov, National Pharmacies thanked the South Australian-based retail arm of pharmacy and optical businesses as they celebrated their dedicated teams at their annual internal awards night this week.



A total of 18 'Values' and 'Business Excellence' awards were presented on the night.

Pharmacy of the Year went to the team at Seaford Pharmacy (pictured) with md Tony Wojciechowski.

Sara Boey, Pharmacist in Charge at National Pharmacies North Adelaide took out the 'Achieving Excellence' award.

Advanced practice alliance

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA), the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have joined to announce the launch of an Advanced Practice Collaborative, a think tank designed to progress advanced pharmacy practice in Australia.

Representatives from the three pharmacy organisations will meet quarterly to "examine barriers and enablers to Advanced Practice, review and monitor progress and adoption, provide advocacy and leadership and provide a liaison point for the profession and develop an action plan for implementation of Advanced Practice in Australia", the joint statement said.

SHPA said it would establish a body to oversee assessments of the individual impact of pharmacists' experience and expertise for Advanced Practice recognition.



PSA will undertake their own scoping for Advanced Practice

assessment over the coming months as the new collaborative discusses strategies to drive a sustainable model.

Both PSA and SHPA would be responsible for implementing and maintaining the Advanced Practice Award standards and guidelines, the award assessment protocol and guidelines, the quality assurance process and guidelines for assessment agencies.

SHPA president Professor Michael Dooley said the timing is right to facilitate the return of an Advanced Practice process in Australia.

"It has been a strong year for all three organisations – at SHPA, our new partnership with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society [GB] means the Advanced Practice Collaborative can draw directly on international research and experience to hit the ground running," Dooley said.

PSA national president Dr Shane Jackson said he was delighted the three major pharmacy organisations were working together on practitioner development and identifying support structures required.

Guild national president George Tambassis also welcomed the new collaboration across the profession saying, "I look forward to progress on this front in the interests of the profession, and most importantly our patients."

CLICK HERE after 9.30 am AEST to access the website and register.

Pharmacy resilience

THE trend toward online shopping coincides with a decline in the presence of physical retail establishments, whereas pharmacies have mostly increased or maintained numbers, according to a study involving 19,000 interviewees, exploring the changes in shopping habits and environments conducted by Ipsos Global Advisor in 24 countries.

Consumers report seeing fewer traditional "Main Street" businesses, while they are increasingly resorting to digital and convenience-focused alternatives, and chain or franchise stores.

In Australia, the types of stores that are most markedly vanishing from local shopping areas are: bookstores (reportedly seen less often by 48% of Australians compared to 39% globally), newsstands (41%) and any type of independently-owned and operated (non-chain) stores (35%).

In contrast, Australians report seeing 75% more or just as many drugstores and pharmacies.

Codeine upscheduling

AS LONGSTANDING components in the pain management category, products containing codeine being upscheduled to prescription-only will impact on community pharmacies advising their patients.

Because careful planning will be required, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) have developed an online course module titled *Codeine rescheduling: Transforming your business*.

Visit myCPD.org.au for access.

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Dispensary Corner

BREATHE easy gents - there's good news out there for older men who enjoy sexual intercourse.

The classic movie scene of a senior male collapsing on his consort mid-stream, *in flagrante delicto*, as it were, is not based in scientific fact.

Sex and sudden cardiac arrest rarely happen together, according to research presented early this week at the 2017 American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions.

Of the 4,557 sudden cardiac arrests identified during the study, the researchers classified all those that occurred during or within an hour of sex as related to the act itself: 34 cases (32 being men) were found to fit the criteria.

This makes the odds of stunning sexual synthesis precipitating cruel cardiac calamity at 0.7% for men and 0.04% for women.



IF YOU have a spare lazy cool \$8 million lying around in your private Swiss bank account, you could buy a big piece of history - like really ancient history!

Aguttes auction house in France is putting the skeleton of a 3.4 metre high proboscidean pachyderm, aka woolly mammoth, under the hammer.



Ramsay rides ageing wave

LISTED hospitals and healthcare company Ramsay Health Care is seeing its business volume grow driven by the ageing population in Australia, md Craig McNally told investors at the company's annual general meeting yesterday.

McNally summarised the full year 2017 results as reported previously (**PD** 12,13 Sep), highlighting some company statistics.

The network now boasts 221 hospitals, 25,000 hospital beds, 39 emergency departments, more than 200 pharmacies, 14 healthcare and treatment facilities, 1,500 operating theatres, 4,000 mental health beds and 60,000 employees.

Almost 3.5 million patients have been admitted into Ramsay hospitals during the full year with more than 1.7 million procedures, 60,000 babies delivered and 2.2 million scripts dispensed by Ramsay Pharmacy.

McNally said that in Australia, the majority of the company's funding arrangements were negotiated with "satisfactory outcomes and

multiyear terms".

The company has been able to focus on affordability of health care in Australia with operational efficiencies continuing to drive margin improvements.

Again there was an emphasis on non-hospital earnings growth opportunities with the expansion of the Ramsay Pharmacy franchise.

Company chairman Michael Siddle used the opportunity to announce the appointment of David Thodey to the Ramsay Health Care Board as a non-executive director set for 28 Nov.

Thodey is described as a global technology and telecommunications executive with more than 30 years experience "creating brand and shareholder value" with extensive "innovation experience across a wide range of sectors".

He replaces Patrick Grier who stepped down at the conclusion of the AGM yesterday, as part of the "structured board renewal process," Siddle explained.

Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away a NS prize pack valued at \$30 each.

NS Working Hands...an intensive, non-greasy, non-slip hand treatment that absorbs instantly and leaves an invisible skin protection barrier that locks in the natural ingredients to restore dry, cracked, calloused and split hands. NS Working Hands leaves hands moisturised without the grease factor... so hands can get back to work, fast!

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

Fill in the blank: The skin protection barrier locks in and lasts even through hand washing.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Song Huan Eow from Scarborough Beach Pharmacy.



Drug label updates

THE topic of cancer drug labels and how they can be updated more quickly, as well as how the labeling system needs to be reformed was front and center at several panels of the Friends of Cancer Research's annual meeting in Washington, D.C. last week, Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society (RAPS) reports.

Old labelling, generic labels and labelling "frozen in time" were all on the agenda with the FDA explaining it can only update labels when trial data is submitted.

Combination products, common in oncology therapy, were also a major source of labelling concern.

Access the discussion at raps.org.



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.

19 Nov: Victorian Pharmacist Immunisation Training Program; PSA Boardroom, Level 1; register here: www.psa.org.au

5-8 Dec: APSA-ASCEPT 2017 Joint Scientific Meeting; Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre; to register visit: www.asceptasm.com

16-18 Mar: Annual Therapeutic Update 2018; Fairmont Resort Blue Mountains; registrations opening soon: www.psa.org.au

3-6 May: APP 2018; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; find out more and register at: www.appconference.com