



### Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from PARA'KITO.

### New MA board

**MEDICINES** Australia (MA) has announced a new board and officeholders, after the organisation hosted its annual general meeting in Sydney yesterday.

Boehringer Ingelheim Australia md Wes Cook has been re-elected as Medicines Australia chair, while Dr Anna Lavelle was re-endorsed as Independent Deputy Chair.

Other directors include GSK Australia vice president/gm Anne Belcher; Brad Edwards, gm of Shire Australia; Michala Fischer-Hansen, gm Oceania for Novo Nordisk; Janssen-Cilag md Bruce Goodwin; Takeda Pharmaceuticals Australia md James Jones; Pfizer Australia md Melissa McGregor; Kirsten O'Doherty, gm of AbbVie; Svend Petersen, md of Roche Products; and Bristol-Myers-Squibb Australia md Brent Pfeifferberger.

MA ceo Milton Catelin congratulated all new and returning board members, who were selected by their peers through a recently conducted members' ballot.

The new Board will serve until Oct 2019, with Catelin also paying tribute to the outgoing directors who "deserve enormous gratitude from the sector for their role in developing a Strategic Agreement with the Commonwealth that provides certainty for industry, incredible value for taxpayers and better access for Australians to innovative medicines".

## WA launches pharmacy review

**THE** Western Australian Government has launched a major review of community pharmacy ownership in the state, looking at the "adequacy of current WA ownership laws to protect the integrity of the sector".

A discussion paper released by Health Minister Roger Cook says the review is focused on trends in pharmacy ownership, and lessons from other states and territories.

Key issues relate to ownership of pharmacies in WA by non-practising pharmacists; ownership by pharmacists registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency but not resident in WA; and "consistency with respect to the number of pharmacies that can be owned in different jurisdictions".

Cook said "the traditional role of community pharmacies is changing and we want to make sure the government's regulatory role is keeping pace with the times," with Western Australia currently home to a total of 642 pharmacies.

Cook said the review would also look at the role that pharmacies can play in an integrated health care model in WA, and "what changes, if any, could the WA Government make to see the pharmacy role in the WA health



system protected".

The Victorian Pharmacy Authority has also been looking at the issue of pharmacy ownership, earlier this year updating its approach to "complex licence applications" (PD 01 Sep) which involve third party commercial arrangements such as franchise

agreements or arrangements with banner groups.

Submissions to the WA review of pharmacy ownership are being sought via a consultation page, with input required before close of business on Fri 08 Dec 2017.

See [health.wa.gov.au](http://health.wa.gov.au) for more.

### Guild appoints 2025 strategic adviser

**THE** Pharmacy Guild has announced the appointment of consulting group Pottinger as its strategic adviser for the Community Pharmacy 2025 (CP2025) project.

The initiative aims to produce a vision and a roadmap for a viable community pharmacy sector in Australia through to 2025 and beyond, the Guild said.

The project will also see the Guild undertake qualitative and quantitative market research of Guild members and patients, with progress to be updated on a special CP2025 page at [guild.org.au](http://guild.org.au).

### PARA'KITO offers

**PARA'KITO** is promoting special discounts for pharmacies stocking its range of mosquito repelling products - see **page four** for details.

### Pharmacy Board poll

**THE** professional behaviour of health practitioners in Australia is being examined as part of a survey conducted by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and national boards, including the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

The anonymous survey aims to find out how practitioners look for information about professional behaviour, such as through organisations, codes of conduct, professional indemnity insurers or even from colleagues.

The survey is now online until Wed 22 Nov 2017 - **CLICK HERE**.

### Abstracts sought

**NPS** MedicineWise is calling for abstracts for the 2018 Choosing Wisely National Meeting, said to be "your opportunity to be part of the national conversation about unnecessary healthcare in Australia".

Submissions, a maximum of 300 words, should highlight advances and learnings in supporting the Choosing Wisely Australia initiative.

The closing date for submissions is Wed 28 Feb 2018.

Registrations for the National Meeting will open in Dec, with the forum to be held as a satellite gathering to the National Medicines Symposium 2018.

See [nps.org.au/nms2018](http://nps.org.au/nms2018).

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## Guild seeks Digital Health Leaders

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia is seeking expressions of interest from pharmacists wanting to participate in the Pharmacists Digital Health Leaders Network.

One of several initiatives arising from the pact signed earlier this year with the Australian Digital Health Agency (PD 27 Jul 17), the Network will aim to provide expertise and leadership to the profession to promote the adoption of the My Health Record and integrate it into pharmacy practice.

Successful applicants will need to spend a day of training in Sydney on Wed 22 Nov and acknowledge the role involves day and evening workshops - see [guild.org.au](http://guild.org.au).

## Win with CoolXChange

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

Does CoolXChange require refrigeration?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Michele Herbert from GuildSuper.

## SHPA on PC review

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) says the Federal Government's new Productivity Commission report (PD yesterday) "disregards the pivotal and multidimensional roles played by pharmacists in clinical settings".

SHPA ceo Kristin Michaels said a suggestion in the report that Australia move to automated 'machine dispensing' supervised by 'less trained and qualified' individuals in the retail pharmacy sector "would be a simplistic approach that shows a lack of understanding of the complexity of patients' medicine needs."

"Patients need support when receiving medication, and this recommendation devalues the unique expertise pharmacists provide in protecting the community by ensuring optimal quality use of medicines," she said.

Any savings made through reducing access to health professionals would lead to reduced care and increased costs in cases of medicine-related hardship.

However SHPA welcomed the report's call to increase the role of pharmacists in clinical care.

"We agree pharmacists should play a remunerated collaborative role with other primary health professionals," Michaels added, with SHPA also in favour of calls to extend telehealth services to reduce patient travel.

## Soaring with Eagle

**PRACTITIONER** only natural medicines company Eagle has released Eagle Curcuvestin Complex, "precisely formulated with bioavailable curcumin (as Meriva) in combination with baical skullcap and acacia catechu extracts (as Univestin) to provide relief from mild osteoarthritis, together with anti-inflammatory and antioxidant support".

Eagle says clinical trials of the product, which is for practitioner dispensing only, show it may promote joint mobility and relieve the symptoms of mild osteoarthritis such as pain and inflammation.



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## Aust CM business explodes

**AUSTRALIAN** complementary medicines sales have more than doubled from \$2.3 billion to \$4.7 billion in just over three years according to Complementary Medicines Australia (CMA) ceo Carl Gibson, who yesterday unveiled the results of the 2017 Australian Complementary Medicines Industry Audit.

Gibson was speaking at the Complementary Medicines Australia Innovation Seminar and Supplier Expo yesterday, saying the result reflects the growing consumer demand for complementary medicine products, both here and internationally.

"Very few industries globally can boast a double digit compound annual growth rate," he said.

"This reflects the growth achievement across the entire industry supply chain and all supporting sectors from raw material suppliers to natural health practitioners."

Assistant Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, Craig Laundy, congratulated the industry on its impressive growth.

"The comprehensive audit clearly shows that the complementary medicines industry is in good health as Australians continue to invest in their wellbeing."

Gibson said the Australian CM industry provides an excellent case

study into the growth possibilities of the sector when supported by the government's National Innovation and Science Agenda, including "the strong focus on helping to drive investment in

research and development, the promotion of trade liberalisation and supporting Australian firms to be competitive on the global stage."

As well as the stunning growth in the industry, the audit showed the vitamin and dietary

supplements (VDS) category has doubled over the last 10 years.

There are 82 TGA licensed manufacturing sites in Australia, with the CM sector providing 12,700 direct high skilled jobs, along with 36,441 employees across 29 natural therapy modalities.

See more at [cmaustralia.org.au](http://cmaustralia.org.au).



## NPS on pain combos

**NPS** MedicineWise has issued an educational update on pain management, examining evidence suggesting paracetamol/ibuprofen combinations available as a single pill can be offered as an alternative to codeine-based analgesics for short term pain management.

NPS has also released the eighth episode in its new series of podcasts based on *Australian Prescriber* articles - [nps.org.au](http://nps.org.au).



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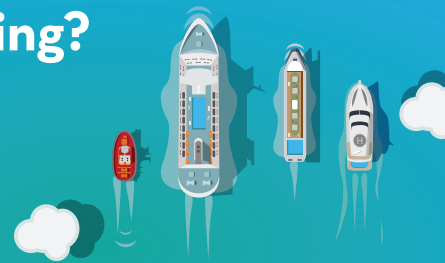
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## Dispensary Corner

**WE ALL** know by now that smoking is bad for you, but one man has tried to turn the unhealthy habit into something constructive.

Taylor Lane from California has created a surfboard from more than 10,000 cigarette butts for his winning entry in the annual 'Creators & Innovators Upcycle Contest' held in San Juan, USA.

The board "gives you an awkward feeling, that something so pretty is so icky at the same time," said one impressed visitor.

Other entries included an Aussie who submitted a surf board made from an old bathroom door.

As ingenious as the new 'cigarette butt surf board' is, users of the craft say the fact it needs to tow along a giant ashtray is a major drawback of the design.



**BEING** a researcher doesn't usually totally suck, although this innovation comes pretty close.

Scientists from the School of Robotic Design at London's Royal College of Art have come up with a new "robotic anchoring module" inspired by an octopus.

A report in the *Journal of the Royal Society* presents the "sensorised mechanism for attachment to the environment" - also known as a big electronic sucker - which can be integrated into robots to enhance their ability to manipulate objects.

It's fitted with fibre optic sensors allowing it to measure its location and giving it a 'sense of touch'.

## Monash gong for George

**PHARMACY** Guild national president George Tambassis was last night honoured with a Monash University Distinguished Alumni Award.

Tambassis graduated from the Victorian College of Pharmacy in 1986 and has had a long-time involvement in Australian community pharmacy.

He is a partner in five Victorian pharmacies and has served on the state's Pharmacy Guild Branch Committee since 2005.

Dean of the Monash Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor Bill Charman, said "George exemplifies the leadership and innovation traits we value in our alumni.

"He thinks deeply about the future of the profession, and has made an outsized contribution to ensuring that it continues to be able to serve communities here and abroad," Charman said.

As well as his service to the profession through the Guild, Tambassis has been a community pharmacy innovator, owning one of the first 24-hour pharmacies in metropolitan Melbourne.

## Pregnancy update

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has added four new items to its Prescribing Medicines in Pregnancy database.

The additions include gabapentin (pregnancy category B3), daratumumab (category C), guanfacine hydrochloride (category B3) and pralatrexate (category D) - see [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).



His pharmacy was also one of the first to offer enhanced services including contemporary wound care management, weight loss, mental health and harm minimisation programs.

"George takes a national and international view to all he does, and has worked hard to link the Australian pharmacy profession with its international counterparts," the Professor added.

The annual Monash awards celebrate the outstanding achievements and exceptional qualities of the university's former students worldwide, and are bestowed on a single alumnus of each faculty each year.

## Surprise visits

**THE** inspection regime for Australia's residential aged care facilities is set for a major shake-up, with the current system of announced accreditation visits to be replaced with "unannounced audits", according to Aged Care Minister Ken Wyatt.

The move is an outcome of the Review of National Aged Care Quality Regulatory Processes, which was made public yesterday.



## 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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### EDITORIAL

**Editor in Chief and Publisher** – Bruce Piper  
**Managing Editor** – Jon Murrie  
**Reporter** – Mal Smith

**Contributors** – Jasmine O'Donoghue, Matt Bell, Adam Bishop  
[info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan and Melanie Tchakmadjian  
[advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper  
[accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd  
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia  
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia  
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

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