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Today's issue of PD
Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from APP 2018.

Guild to push on NIP
THE Pharmacy Guild has confirmed it will continue to advocate to governments and health bureaucracies to allow access to National Immunisation Program stock for pharmacies providing vaccination services to be able to offer to eligible patients.
 Currently Victoria is the only jurisdiction to allow NIP access, with Guild president George Tambassis saying he believes all states and territories should follow Victoria's lead among reports confirming the 2018 flu season is "well and truly upon us".

Houses of asthma
AUSTRALIAN children are commonly exposed to damp housing and gas stove emissions, both of which are contributing to childhood asthma, according to new research published in the latest *Medical Journal of Australia*.
 UniQ researchers found 12% of childhood asthma is attributable to exposure to gas stoves, and 8% is linked to dampness - mja.com.au.

National RTPM proposed

AUSTRALIA'S federal, state and territory health ministers have jointly agreed to "progress national real-time prescription monitoring" (RTPM), with the update revealed in a communiqué from the Council of Australian Governments Health Council meeting in Sydney on Fri.
 The document confirmed the ministers wish to pursue a federated model for RTPM, "with jurisdictions committed to progressing development and adaptation of systems to connect to and interface with Commonwealth systems to achieve a national solution".
 The Pharmacy Guild welcomed the commitment, saying "with unanimous support across all states and territories, there is every reason to expect a national real time prescription monitoring system can be achieved as soon as possible so that lives can be saved."
 "The solution must be nationally consistent to be fit for purpose - namely to connect prescribers and dispensers in real time so that clinicians can be informed and make decisions to minimise the risk of drug abuse and death," said Guild president George Tambassis.
 He noted that the pharmacy profession had been calling for

such a system for many years "and we stand ready to assist in the implementation of a national system to address the scourge of prescription drug abuse".
MEANWHILE the health ministers also agreed to progress the development of a single national online application pathway to access unregistered medicinal cannabis products.
 The process would avoid duplication of decisions regarding clinical appropriateness, while maintaining separate approvals by states and territories necessary in managing appropriate access to Schedule 8 products.
 The COAG meeting also discussed a proposal to increase the minimum legal age of tobacco purchase to 21 years, and referred the plan to the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council.

FIP training focus
THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has announced that training and leadership development is a theme of the upcoming FIP World Congress set for 02-06 Sep in Glasgow, Scotland.
 Speakers will explore professional development tools, global competencies and lifelong learning, among other topics, while participants will be able to take away ideas to develop their own national workforce development strategies, FIP promised.
 The congress will also feature debates around key issues such as end-of-life communication.
 A separate leadership development program is on offer for young pharmacists and a congress workshop will highlight approaches necessary to build strong teams.
 Earlybird registration is available until 15 May - fip.org.

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 1. Faergemann et al. Journal of Cosmetics, Dermatological Sciences and Applications 2011, Vol:59-63.

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Dispensary Corner

VISITORS to Bull City Burger and Brewery in Durham, North Carolina in the USA are being offered a unique delicacy as part of an annual Exotic Meat Month.

The eatery has previously allowed patrons to taste alligator, iguana, pythons, turtles and insects, but this year has gone one creepy step further with a special Tarantula Challenge.

“Lucky” diners selected via a random draw can claim a \$30 spider burger, which features a beef patty topped with a tasty roasted tarantula.



YOU should always wash your hands when you go to the bathroom, right?

Of course - but when it comes to drying them, it may be better to just let it happen naturally.

A study published in *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* has found electric hand dryers may be putting more filth on your fingers, rather than drying them off.

The researchers exposed plates to 30 seconds blowing from a bathroom hand dryer, and found they accumulated between 18 and 60 bacterial colonies - in contrast to plates simply left in the bathroom for two minutes, which had less than one colony.

The authors found the dryer nozzles had minimal bacterial levels themselves, with more research required to figure out whether they were breeding grounds for disease, or just blew lots of contaminated hot air.

AHPRA consultation

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has published a consultation paper on a draft guideline for informing the Pharmacy Board about where pharmacists practice.

The move follows new legislation which amends section 132 of the National Law to require health practitioners to provide details of the “practice arrangements under which they are engaged”.

This means pharmacists, along with other health professionals, would need to disclose whether they were an employee, contractor, volunteer, partner in a partnership; self-employed or working in an honorary capacity; or part of a ‘service company’ arrangement’.

The legislation has also been amended to ensure that where health, conduct or performance action is being taken against a health practitioner, the Board is able to inform all places at which the person practices.

The draft guideline and consultation paper are online at pharmacyboard.gov.au, with the consultation closing on 25 May.



Digital health CRC

THE Federal Government has approved funding for a new Digital Health Cooperative Research Centre (DHCRC) promising to save the Australian health system \$1.8b and create at least 1,000 new jobs in the digital health sector.

Participants in the CRC include 40 commercial and government organisations operating across the health, aged care and disability sectors; 24 established and start-up technology, advisory and investment companies; and 16 Australian universities, with the initiative to be supported by both the Australian Digital Health Agency and the Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals industry growth centre (MTP Connect).

The Digital Health CRC will have at least \$111m in cash funding and \$118m of in-kind funding to invest over its seven-year term.

The DHCRC member organisations will develop and test digital health solutions for “real patients in real hospitals and health services,” as well as aiming to equip Australians to better manage their own health.

The venture seeks to create a “new digital workforce” and build the technology capacity of both clinicians and consumers.

A key focus of the DHCRC will be to reduce adverse drug reactions which are responsible for more than 400,000 GP visits a year and for 30% of elderly emergency hospital admissions.

“We believe that half the cost is avoidable,” said the organisation’s ceo-designate David Jonas.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD’s** weekly comment feature.

This week’s contribution is from **Dr Michael Osiecki**, Managing Director of **Bio Concepts**.



Do you want a probiotic with that?

ANTIBIOTIC use is associated with a range of gastrointestinal side effects such as *Candida* infections and antibiotic associated diarrhoea (AAD).

With an increased prevalence of antibiotic prescriptions and a staggering 35% of patients affected by AAD, there is a clear need for new approaches to prevent patient side effects and reduce the health costs experienced from these complications.

There is ever growing evidence confirming that taking probiotics such as *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GG between antibiotic courses can reduce the incidence of AAD by 50% in both adults and children. In addition, studies have shown that the use of either *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GG or *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (*Boulardii*), can prevent the growth of unwanted microbes and yeast such as *Candida* post antibiotic use. It is prudent to note that there are warnings in taking probiotics in patients that are immune compromised, however, studies exploring the prevention of AAD with probiotics have no side effects reported.

With significant clinical evidence indicating that probiotics can alleviate antibiotic side effects, it seems intuitive that a simple solution is staring us in the face. A safe, cost effective and scientifically informed option, that should always go hand in hand. Next time you’re prescribed an antibiotic, raise the question: do you want a probiotic with that?

Win with SkinB5

This week **Pharmacy Daily** & **SkinB5** are giving away each day the Acne Control Extra Strength Tablets.

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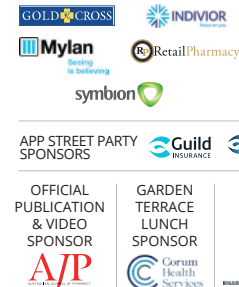
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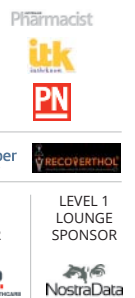
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