


“MedView Paperless enables our staff to spend more time with customers and provide a better level of service”

TONY SARENA - TerryWhite Chemmart Southland

APP2018 stand 127



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

New GBMA chair
THE pending departure of Allan Tillack from his current role as Sandoz general manager in Australia will also see him step down as chair of the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association. Tillack will move to a new regional leadership role within Novartis in the coming months, while at GBMA he will be replaced as chair by Mylan general manager Sylvain Vigneault. GBMA also recently appointed Marnie Peterson as its new chief executive officer (PD 28 Feb).

Provisional approval
THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has announced that Lartruvo (olaratumab) is the first medicine to be given the tick under the new “provisional approval pathway” which came into effect last month (PD 21 Mar). Lartruvo is an orphan drug indicated for soft tissue sarcoma, with the new pathway allowing sponsors to apply for time-limited provisional registration to give early access to promising medicines.

New Little Bodies
TODAY'S Pharmacy Daily features a full page from Little Bodies, promoting its new range of products for children with eczema. See page three for details.

Pharmacy staff underpaid

FURTHER details have emerged of a Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) investigation into three Sydney pharmacy proprietors penalised for underpaying a staff member by more than \$62,000 (PD 14 Feb). A statement issued this morning details the case against Nader Bastawrose, Amgad Samaan and Ashraf Youssef, who operate four pharmacies under the Save and Deliver brand. The trio were each fined \$15,000 for underpaying staff at Mt Druitt, Liverpool and Shellharbour, while pay slip and record-keeping laws were also contravened. The underpayments occurred

Merck milestone



MARKING 350 years of research and development, Australian employees of science and technology company Merck will this week join 52,000 global colleagues from 66 countries to celebrate in a live broadcast link-up. Merck was founded in Darmstadt, Germany in 1668 by the pharmacist Friedrich Jacob Merck. German Ambassador to Australia, Dr Anna Prinz, has congratulated the firm, saying “We see a lot of cooperation between Germany and Australia in the fields of research and university partnerships – especially in the health sector. “Soon, life expectancy will reach 100 and it’s important to make the outcomes of this research available.”

Hypertension dispute
THE American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association have come under heavy fire from scientists at the University of Sydney and Bond University over lowering of thresholds defining hypertension to 130/80 mmHg. The Australian researchers argue the new recommendations put stress onto marginally affected people by labelling them, increase the number of people exposed to drug side effects and increase the likelihood of insurance being affected by “pre-existing conditions” - [CLICK HERE](#).

despite the FWO having previously put the partners on notice to pay minimum rates, after investigating three prior allegations - and the staff were only repaid after the Ombudsman initiated legal action. The largest underpayment was for an Egyptian migrant with limited English who was paid \$12-\$14 per hour - versus statutory rates of between \$16 and \$43. The Ombudsman is making an example of the pharmacists, saying cases where business operators continue to underpay workers even after being put on notice are treated extremely seriously. “Such a blatant disregard for the rights and entitlements of workers cannot be tolerated... cases such as this one should drive home the point to employers that lawful minimum rates apply to all employees in Australia and are not negotiable,” the statement warned.

S8 codeine?
THE Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling will consider a proposal to further up-schedule medications such as Panadeine Forte to S8, in order to address “scheduling inconsistencies”. The suggestion would move codeine from S4 to S8 in divided preparations containing more than 12mg of codeine per dosage unit, or in undivided preparations containing over 0.25% of codeine.

PD TIPPING WINNERS

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Coffee on the agenda

IN WHAT looks like a medical backflip, new research has put coffee back on the menu for people with cardiac arrhythmias.

The study suggests that drinking up to three cups of coffee a day may even have protective effects for these patients - **CLICK HERE**.

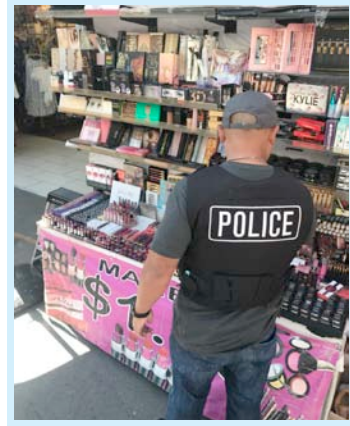
Dispensary Corner

BUYERS of counterfeit cosmetics may get a lot more than they bargained for, with US police finding more than US\$700,000 worth of fake make-up seized last week tested positive for faeces.

The Los Angeles Police Department posted photos of the illicit items (**below**) after raiding 21 locations in LA's Santee Alley fashion district, and said the products also had high levels of bacteria.

Fake brands containing the yucky stuff included MAC, Urban Decay and Kylie Jenner's Kylie Cosmetics, with an LAPD spokesman saying the packaging looks legitimate but the prices are way too low.

"If you're getting something that's 50% off, 75%, it tells you that it's bad," the officer said.



New PBS cancer listings

THE government has announced several new cancer medicines to be subsidised via the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, with health minister Greg Hunt saying the move shows the Coalition's commitment to the PBS is "rock solid".

The additions include Keytruda for classical Hodgkin's lymphoma, and Opdivo for locally advanced and metastatic stages of non-small cell lung cancer and renal cell cancer.

Yervoy is being made available for the treatment of malignant melanoma, while Giotrif is being subsidised for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer.

Other listings include anti-convulsant Briviact which provides a new option for patients with epilepsy, while intestinal anti-inflammatory agent Colazide will now be available with a larger maximum quantity on prescription.

Also listed is Neocate Syneo, a medicinal food for infants with life-altering food intolerances.

The PBS listings become effective 01 May, with Hunt noting that under the Coalition all drugs recommended by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee are being funded.

Early bird \$ closing

EARLYBIRD registration closes next week for the upcoming International Life Long Learning in Pharmacy 2018 conference.

Over 100 registrations were received last week and there are just 150 spots left for the event taking place in Brisbane 06-09 Jul.

Themes range from mentoring and coaching to technology in education - see the program and other details at llpharm2018.com.

Pneumonia vax

NEW research to be presented at this week's International Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases (ISPPD) conference in Melbourne highlights the impact of herd immunity from infant pneumococcal conjugate vaccine programs, which have helped protect older adults from invasive pneumococcal disease.

Adults aged 65+ years are eligible for a free Pneumovax 23 vaccine funded under the NIP.

Win with SkinB5

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

Utilising the power of vitamin B5, SkinB5's innovative Natural Acne Treatment System combines supplements and skincare to eliminate and treat the underlying causes of Acne from the INSIDE OUT. See www.skinb5.com for more.

To win, be the first person from QLD to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



What is the key vitamin that all SkinB5 Acne Control products contain?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

Guild Update

Counting down to APP2018

APP2018 is nearly upon us, and there are a few reasons why the conference this year will be even more special than usual.

For one thing, it's on in May, rather than the usual March – thanks to the Commonwealth Games. Also, this year marks the 90th anniversary of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

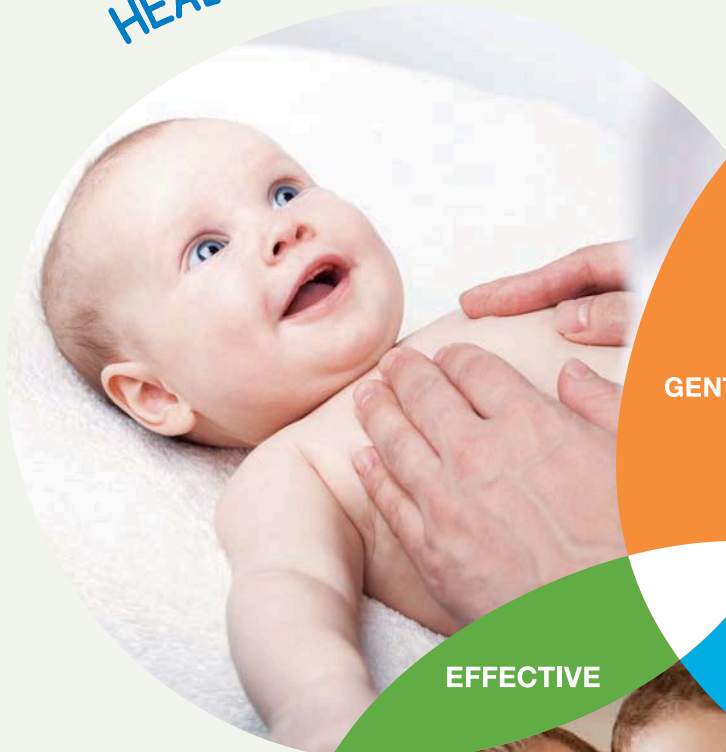
There's some positive innovation and change in this year's APP program – including a revamped opening plenary session. The Guild will take the opportunity to also brief Members on a range of Guild initiatives, including our watershed project Community Pharmacy 2025 which is currently in the market sifting through widespread opinions on what our future can or should look like.

There'll also be the naming and crowning of the Guild Pharmacy of the Year for 2018 – always an entertaining and moving presentation with some of the best managed and most creative pharmacies in Australia strutting their stuff.

APP is the best event on the Australian community pharmacy calendar. We hope to see you there.

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