

New Merck ANZ md



MERCK has announced the appointment of Leah Goodman (pictured) to the role of general manager Australia and managing director, Merck Biopharma for Australia and New Zealand.

Goodman joins Merck from Sanofi, where she has held a range of key positions including general manager roles in Japan, Malaysia and Singapore as well as most recently as head of the company's JPAC region for diabetes and cardiovascular business.

Vax poll pro pharmacists

ALMOST two thirds of Australians believe pharmacists should be allowed to administer common vaccinations currently only offered by GPs, according to new research released this morning by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

A nationwide poll conducted by YouGov Galaxy found 64% of respondents supported pharmacists administering common vaccines, with 62% citing greater convenience as a key benefit of such a move.

PSA national president Shane Jackson said legislative changes at state and territory levels would allow for vaccination against diseases such as meningococcal and whooping cough, along with routine travel vaccinations.

"Pharmacists are highly accessible and ideally placed to take on increased responsibility for vaccination," he said.

Jackson said PSA analysis had revealed that in the last four months about 250,000 Australians

had received flu jabs via a pharmacy.

"That's almost 100 flu vaccinations occurring every hour in pharmacies across the country... clearly this represents a better protected and subsequently healthier Australia, and is evidence enough that enhanced access to vaccination results in strong uptake," he said.

Jackson said PSA's new research confirmed that Australians clearly understood that pharmacists had the skill and training to do more than they currently did.

"Common-sense should see legislative changes that allow pharmacists to administer a number of commonly used vaccines," he added.

Of the 1,023 respondents, 60% believed the cost of a pharmacist administering a vaccine should be covered by Medicare, while a further 24% were of the view that private health insurance should cover some of the cost.

Guild slams short-sighted doctors

THE Pharmacy Guild has expressed alarm at the negative attitude of the Australian Medical Association (AMA) to the expansion of pharmacist vaccination in Victoria (**PD** yesterday), describing it as "short-sighted opposition".

Anthony Tassone, president of the Victorian branch of the Pharmacy Guild, said "the fact is that immunisation is within the scope of pharmacists, as determined by the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

"It's not appropriate for the AMA to dictate or direct what another autonomous profession's practice should be; that is up to regulatory boards, policy makers and the public," he said.

Tassone said in recent years Australia had been catching up with other countries where pharmacist vaccination was a safe and beneficial part of health systems.

"It's just common sense and good health policy for Australia to be making better use of skilled pharmacists," he said.



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Dispensary Corner

COMPOUNDING of a somewhat different kind went on in California last week, when almost 1,000 people gathered for a communal slime-making event.

The Community Friendship Day activity in the city of Carson (pictured) saw participants use ingredients such as glue and liquid starch, along with a range of colourings and lots of glitter to make the icky stuff as part of a Guinness World Record attempt.

Strict standards were required to be adhered to, with Guinness stipulating that in order to qualify for the record all the slime had to be made within the same 10-minute window, and the product had to be able to stretch, be moulded and hold a shape.



EMERGENCY services in Germany have rescued a man who called 000 because he was being chased by a baby squirrel.

A patrol car was dispatched in the city of Karlsruhe to help the man who said he was unable to get away from the tiny rodent - but the dramatic chase ended when the exhausted creature simply lay down and fell asleep.

"It often happens that squirrels which have lost their mothers look for a replacement and then focus their efforts on one person," a police spokesman said.

The squirrel has now been taken to an animal shelter where it is said to be doing well.

Prostate check urged

MIDDLE-AGED Australian men are being encouraged to have their prostate checked in a new campaign sponsored by GSK.

This week an *MJA Insight* article highlights the consequences of the nation's most common prostate condition, Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH).

According to author, Clinical Associate Professor of Urology at Macquarie University, Bill Lynch, an enlarged prostate can cause difficulty in passing urine, cause urinary infections, damage to the kidneys or bladder and may eventually require surgery.

"BPH is a progressive, non-cancerous disease that tends to strike ageing men," said Lynch.

"Fifty per cent of men aged in their 50s will experience BPH, increasing to 80 per cent of men aged in their 80s.

Pharmacists can encourage middle-aged men to source more information and check the severity of symptoms online at disappearingdave.com.au.

New stroke guidelines

STROKE Foundation and Cochrane Australia are about to pilot 'living stroke guidelines', accelerating access to world-class, evidence-based treatments.

Health Minister Greg Hunt announced the \$1.5m Medical Research Future Fund trial on Fri.



Stroke Foundation ceo Sharon McGowan said the world-first Living Guidelines for Stroke Management would deliver a "near real-time, closed-loop evidence system in which global evidence and local data are continually integrated with clinical expertise".

The new guidelines will draw on latest synthesis technologies developed by Cochrane and partners, including artificial intelligence, the Cochrane Crowd citizen science community, and the Covidence and MAGICapp software platforms, to trigger rapid updates of guidelines whenever there is an important change in evidence.

FDA generic tick

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved several strengths of potassium chloride oral solution, as the first items to receive a Competitive Generic Therapy (CGT) designation.

The new pathway was created to expedite the development and review of generic versions of pharmaceutical products that lack competition.

Guild Update

Gender equality debate

GENDER equality will be on the table at this year's Pharmacy Connect, with the 1972 slogan and now re-emerging empowerment statement "the future is female" being debated by two teams of influential industry panellists.

Following the success of the Great Debate at APP earlier this year, the debate will argue not only whether equality will be achieved in the future, but how.

The debate will be a light-hearted exploration of the issue, in the style of a high school or university debate, but with a very topical edge.

The 'Judy Liauw Address: The Great Debate - the future is female' session will be held on Friday 7 September from 4.00pm to 4.45pm.

For a full program and to register for Pharmacy Connect, visit www.pharmacyconnect.com.au.

Win with Dreambaby®

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Dreambaby® are giving readers the chance win the new Dreambaby® Aqua Range designed to help with toilet training valued at \$54.95.

Prize comprises The EZY-POTTY which comes with an ergonomic contoured backrest for added comfort and support, is easy-to clean, non-slip and lightweight and designed to make the first stage of potty-training a cinch. Also included in the prize is the EZY-TOILET TRAINER SEAT which cleverly fits snugly onto your regular toilet seat to make it smaller and reassuring for little ones and lastly, the DREAMBABY® 2-UP STEP STOOL which provides height challenged help with toilet training, brushing teeth or simply looking in the mirror! www.dreambaby.com.au or call 02 9386 4000.

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

What does the Dreambaby® Aqua Range comprise of?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Alison Chu.

