

### New pharmacist leadership program

**PHARMACEUTICAL** Defence Limited and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia have partnered to produce a new Career Essentials Program which aims to “empower pharmacists to deliver their leadership skills”.

Training will be delivered via a range of online modules and workshops to assist pharmacy students, interns and pharmacists to develop their non-clinical skills.

Modules are grouped around focus areas including ‘Be work ready’, ‘Communicate effectively’, ‘Working together’ and ‘Leading the way’ with PSA national president Shane Jackson saying such skills are vital “because they enhance pharmacists’ ability to deliver quality health outcomes for patients”.

The Career Essentials Program is free and exclusive for PSA members - more at [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au).

### New framework phase-in

**PHARMACY** interns’ assessment based on the revised National Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists in Australia 2016 (PD 01 Jun 2017) has been timelined in a joint announcement from the Pharmacy Board of Australia and the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC).

Rather than being implemented immediately, current and future interns along with training providers and other stakeholders have been advised that all pharmacy intern written and oral examinations conducted from 01 Jan 2019, as part of the Board’s registration examination, will be based on the new revised competency standards.

Until that date, the 2010 competencies will continue to be the basis for all pharmacy intern examinations.



“This is to ensure natural justice and procedural fairness to all interns who start the internship process during 2018,” the announcement stated.

The APC is also providing separate advice to ITP providers, including that “all ITP and workplace-based assessments in 2018 can continue to be based on the 2010 competencies to allow for a 12-month transition to activities and assessments based on the 2016 competencies from next year.”

### PCI to acquire PPP

**PHILADELPHIA-BASED** pharmaceutical outsourcing services provider PCI Pharma Services (PCI) has announced it intends to acquire Melbourne-based clinical trial, manufacturing, packaging, storage and distribution company Pharmaceutical Packaging Professionals (PPP).

PCI said the arrangement would establish a presence for the company in Australia, viewed as pivotal to continued growth and expansion in the Asia Pacific region.

### Proteomics deal

**ASX-LISTED** clinical trials firm Proteomics International has announced a new strategic alliance with CPR Pharma Services, with a share swap deal which will see Proteomics acquire 10% of CPR.

The combined companies will offer a “unique R&D focused Contract Research Organisation capability” with project management, certified bioanalysis, trial monitoring, statistics and data management and development of new methods and diagnostic tests.

### Superbug spike

**REPORTED** cases of *neisseria gonorrhoeae* infection resistant to azithromycin have almost tripled according to a new report from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

The Commission’s National Alert System for Critical Antimicrobial Resistances (CARAlert) gave some alarming statistics with 47% of all reports in the six-month period Apr to Sep 2017 attributed to the highly resistant organism, a rise of 182% to 342 cases.

The report explained that at this stage *N. gonorrhoeae* is still susceptible to ceftriaxone.

**CLICK HERE** for the CARAlert.

### Join the team at Business Publishing Group

We are looking for a talented go getter to join our team of writers on a part-time basis to produce content for our portfolio of publications – *Travel Daily*, *Pharmacy Daily*, *travelBulletin*, *Cruise Weekly* and *Business Events News*.

You will be required to prepare, write and edit copy for the daily publications ensuring deadlines and quality standards are achieved. Your role will also involve conducting interviews and providing coverage of industry events for the generation of content.

We are looking for someone with a minimum of three years experience in journalism, PR or communications, a sound knowledge of Adobe InDesign and social media. Experience within the travel industry would be an advantage. This is a part-time role with a minimum of 20 hours per week, based at our Macquarie Park office, offering a competitive salary and flexible working hours.

A full job description is available on request. To apply email your confidential CV with cover letter to [jobs@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:jobs@traveldaily.com.au) before 21/02/2018.



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## Dispensary Corner

**IN WHAT** has been described as US President Donald Trump's Marilyn Monroe moment, a gust of wind has sent the world's plastic surgeons into a collective tizzy as wisps of Trump's hair recently parted to reveal what some suspect is a surgical scar. Some surgeons speculated the scar may have been the result of scalp reduction surgery, often referred to as alopecia reduction, aiming to hide a balding crown. Scalp-reduction surgery works by pulling sections of the scalp forward to fill in a bald spot. But perhaps we're all just overthinking this one, surely it's just a case of the peanut needing to be cleaned once a month?



**MOST** people love starting the day with a caffeine burst but according to a non-profit organisation called the Council for Education and Research on Toxics, they want coffee to come with a cancer warning. Back in 2010, the organisation filed a lawsuit against Starbucks (and many others) in the United States alleging the companies "failed to provide clear and reasonable warning" that drinking coffee exposed customers to a chemical called acrylamide. We're not doubting the claim but death by macchiato just doesn't sound right. A judge will rule later this year.

## Sigma seals Medibank deal

**SIGMA** Healthcare has launched a new three-year partnership with Medibank, with the pact to see the rollout of customer offers for private health insurance and for Amcal pharmacy customers.

The agreement, set to kick off in the first half of 2018, will also see pharmacy products and services offered to Medibank clients.

Medibank chief customer officer David Koczkar said he was excited about the deal's potential.

"Amcal is a leading pharmacy brand in Australia and a brand that has enormous recognition and trust with customers," he said.

"While we're excited to bring unique offers and rewards to Amcal and Medibank customers, it's the potential for us to collectively develop health and wellbeing programs for our customers that's a game-changer," Koczkar added.

Sigma gm merchandise & marketing, Sarah Pizey, said both organisations were aligned in their focus on supporting improved

community health outcomes.

"We both have a number of exciting customer health programs and significant health expertise, so joining forces makes a lot of sense."

"While the size of both brands means we can put together great customer offers and rewards, it also gives us the potential to make a real positive difference to the health of our customers," she said.

Amcal health programs currently cover diabetes, weight management, sleep studies, coeliac screening and more.

## GPs to join exchanges

**VICTORIA'S** new SafeScript real-time monitoring system (*PD* 09 Feb) will see more than 6,000 GPs across the state having to join the eRx or Medisecure prescription exchanges in order to prescribe S8 drugs and benzodiazepines, with *Australian Doctor* reporting less than half of all the GPs in Australia are currently participating in the exchanges.

## Diabetes Advantage

**ADVANTAGE** Pharmacy Group has partnered with Diabetes Victoria to roll out the *Life!* program in its Victorian pharmacies.

The *Life!* program is a lifestyle modification program to help participants reduce their risk of type 2 diabetes, funded by the Victorian State Government and managed by Diabetes Victoria.

Under the partnership, Advantage pharmacists will conduct structured screening and referral of high risk patients to the program.

## Guild Update

### Important survey

**THERE'S** an important Guild survey underway at the moment all about community pharmacy and our future through to 2025.

Pharmacy owners should by now have received an email from Orima/ORU Australia which contains a link to this survey as part of our CP2025 project.

Your input into this national market research will directly inform the Guild's vision and action plan for our sector through to 2025. It's our intention to share the results of the CP2025 strategic planning project with Guild Members at APP2018.

The survey is open until 16 February. Your details and responses are confidential. It shouldn't take more than 20 minutes and it ensures we hear from you about what you want for the future of community pharmacy.

## Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away a Aloe Vera prize pack valued at over \$50 each including Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera gel 150g, Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera gel 75g, Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera Spray 125ml, Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera Moisturiser 200ml and one Plunkett Aloe Vera towel.



99% Pure Aloe Vera is easily absorbed by your skin, soothing and cooling dry irritated skin. Australian made, Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera Gel and Spray contain 99% of the highest quality, certified organic aloe. Nothing is closer to Aloe Vera straight from the plant, but Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera is in a convenient tube.

Visit: [www.Plunketts.com.au](http://www.Plunketts.com.au).

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

What is the percentage of certified organic aloe vera in Plunkett's Aloe Vera?

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Aya Alaouie.*