

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus our regular Health & Beauty feature.

New APC Pres and VP

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has elected Associate Professor Sue Kirsas as President commencing 26 Feb, and Professor Iqbal Ramzan as Vice President, both for a two-year term.

Former APC vice president in 2017, a past SHPA president and director of pharmacy at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Kirsas is currently the director of pharmacy at Monash Health and Adjunct Associate Professor at Monash University Centre for Medication Use and Safety, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Ramzan has been an APC Councillor since 2015, has held senior roles with the University of Sydney and has been president of the Council of Pharmacy Schools, and chair of the Australian Pharmacy Leaders Forum.

The Council also bid a grateful farewell to outgoing president Professor Debra Rowett, who is leaving the APC after completing the maximum terms available.

Multiple cancer vax?

US SCIENTISTS say it may be possible to prime the body to protect and fight against multiple types of cancer using a vaccine made from inactivated induced pluripotent stem cells.

CLICK HERE for the research.

EBOS H1 earnings up 15.6%

ASX-LISTED marketer, wholesaler and distributor of healthcare, medical and pharmaceutical products EBOS, has announced a record interim unaudited net profit of \$76.7m for the six months to 31 Dec 2017, with EBITDA up 15.6% and net profit after tax up 11.5%.

Shareholders will find their earnings per share up 11.0% to 50.4 cents.

EBOS ceo Patrick Davies said in the ASX announcement, "Our record first half results are in line with our expectations and reflect a consistent positive momentum across both our Healthcare and Animal Care businesses.

"During the first half, we have fully transitioned HPS into the

Group, further expanding our leading position in the institutional Healthcare market."

Davies added that the diversified portfolio demonstrated organic growth and the Animal Health business "performed strongly".

"In Healthcare, the rebranding of TerryWhite and Chemmart pharmacies to TerryWhite Chemmart is now largely complete," he explained.

Other highlights were the acquisition in Oct of a 14.1% shareholding in MedAdvisor, the performance of consumer brand Red Seal and the launch of Black Hawk veterinary brand.

Davies said the strong start anticipates underlying EBITDA for FY2018 to grow approximately 10% over the prior year.

MHR hits 5.5 million

MY HEALTH Record Statistics published this week show that more than 5.5 million Australians have now registered to have a My Health Record, with over 18,000 new records being created every week.

Almost 17 million prescription and dispense records have been uploaded, and above 10,716 healthcare providers are connected, including GPs, hospitals, pharmacies, aged care residential services, allied health.

In addition, in excess of 4.5 million clinical documents have now been uploaded into the system, the site reports.

Only 1,467 pharmacies are on the system while 6,306 general practices have registered.

CW nets major partnership

AUSTRALIAN pharmacy discount retail group Chemist Warehouse has again linked with Beach Netball ("It's netball, but not as you know it")



feature ambassador and Commonwealth Games netballer Madi Robinson and her sister Kelsey Browne at the Melbourne tournament.

as a major partner and is gearing up to support the upcoming 2018 series across the country.

The competition runs in Port Melbourne Beach Victoria 24-25 Feb, Adelaide South Australia 24-25 Mar and Mandurah in Western Australia 07-08 Apr.

Described as a "festival of fun, fitness and wellness," the event will

US top 10 drugs

US PHARMACEUTICAL industry consultant company EvaluatePharma has published its predictions for 2018 top 10 drug sales in the country, with only minor changes in the rankings from 2017.

More than doubling the second placegetter, Abbvie's Humira (adalimumab) is estimated to take out the top spot at \$20.2b (up from around \$19b in 2017), followed by Celgene's Revlimid (lenalidomide) with \$9.2b.

Fourth to 10th spots are anticipated to each bring in a little over \$6b, starting with Regeneron/Bayer's Eylea, Roche's Avastin, Rituxin and Herceptin, followed by J&J's Remicade.

Merck & Co's Keytruda brings up ninth position and J&J/Bayer's Xarelto 10th - see more [HERE](#).

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Managing GORD

GUILD Learning and Development is partnering with RB in the development of a QCPP Refresher Training online course titled 'The burning issue: Managing breakthrough symptoms of gastro-oesophageal reflux'.

This course reviews how common treatments for reflux work and when they should be used, as well as examining the non-drug management approaches that may help manage symptoms.

With many OTC medicines available to help treat the condition, the course also provides pharmacy assistants with advice on how to apply the 'Ask, Assess, Advise' protocol to help customers choose the best product for their individual circumstances, or identify patients who require referral to the pharmacist.

Visit myCPD.org.au for details.

Win with Dreambaby®

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Dreambaby® are giving readers the chance to win the latest from Dreambaby® valued at \$44.90.

Prize includes 'Herbert' the Turtle Room & Bath Thermometer - RRP: \$19.95. Made from BPA Free and Phthalate Safe durable waterproof material, Herbert gives fast and accurate temperature readings. You can also win Dreambaby®'s new non-slip super light-weight and simple-to-clean EZY-Potty - RRP\$24.95. www.dreambaby.com.au or call 02 9386 4000.

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

What does Dreambaby®'s Herbert the Turtle do?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Cathy Murphy from Arundel Chempro Chemist.



Gabapentinoid abuse up

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is actively looking into the potential misuse and abuse of gabapentinoids, a class of drugs that includes Pfizer's Neurontin (gabapentin) and Lyrica (pregabalin), which have been approved to treat a number of conditions such as postherpetic neuralgia, fibromyalgia and neuropathic pain.

The new focus is part of the FDA's measures to proactively identify emerging issues related to prescription drug abuse, especially the ongoing opioid overdose epidemic.

FDA commissioner Scott Gottlieb (pictured) speaking at a public workshop on strategies for the safe use and appropriate prescribing of opioids, said he was focused on reducing the number of patients who became addicted to prescription drugs by looking to new sources of abuse and stronger risk-management tools.

According to the latest data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), deaths from drug overdoses rose more than 20% from 2015 to 2016.

"Of the roughly 64,000 overdose deaths in the US in 2016, more than 42,000 were attributable to opioids, with 40% of those cases involving prescription opioids,"

Hunt urges PBAC

RESPONDING to interest from pharmaceutical companies and cancer patient advocacy groups, the Minister for Health Greg Hunt has requested that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) consider options for listing of pan-tumour indications for PDL1 cancer immunotherapies on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

The PBAC has set aside a Special Meeting on 17 Aug this year to consider this matter, and to enable adequate time to seek input from industry, clinicians and patient groups - email PBAC@health.gov.au to register interest.

Gottlieb said.

However, as the overdose epidemic has shifted from overprescribing of short-acting prescription opioids to cheaper and more dangerous alternatives, such as illicit fentanyl, Gottlieb said FDA was looking to the internet and social media to identify new problems before they spiral out of control.

Referencing

gabapentinoids, Gottlieb said that although "abuse does not appear to be widespread, the agency's preliminary data and scanning of social media shows that abuse of these drugs, either alone or in combination with opioids and other central nervous system (CNS) depressants, may be on the rise.

Gottlieb also said that a national e-prescribing system for controlled substances could help reduce prescription drug abuse and strengthen efforts to reduce the risk of certain prescription drugs.

Organ donation >10K

FEDERAL Minister for Aged Care and Indigenous Health Ken Wyatt has announced that the national organ donation program has saved more than 10,000 lives in 2017, and improved the lives of 1,675 Australians with a further 9,600 benefiting from eye and tissue transplants.

Instant online organ donor registration is now available at register.donatelife.gov.au.



Deprescribing data

THE National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has approved the recommendations made in the 'Evidence-based clinical practice guideline for deprescribing cholinesterase inhibitors and memantine' developed by the University of Sydney in partnership with the NHMRC Cognitive Decline Partnership Centre and the Bruyère Research Institute in Canada.

Access at clinicalguidelines.gov.au.

AFP Adelaide ice bust

MINISTER for Rural Health Bridget McKenzie has congratulated the Australian Federal Police, for their role in a major methamphetamine (ice) bust in Adelaide, South Australia.

As part of the National Ice Action Strategy, law enforcement authorities, led by the AFP, have halted the distribution of more than 300 kilograms of ice, which "had the potential to impact regional communities".

"Regional communities are often the hardest hit when it comes to ice abuse and addiction," McKenzie said.

"That's why we are tackling the supply of methamphetamine through increased international cooperation, better intelligence sharing and stronger controls over precursor chemicals to prevent ice from reaching our shores."

"This latest seizure clearly demonstrates that the Coalition's targeted investments are putting a major dent into the ice epidemic in regional communities."



Dispensary Corner

THE people of the United Kingdom were feeling significantly lighter this week after a major chicken shortage shut down KFC stores across the country.

The paltry amount of poultry led to the closing of 900 of the Colonel's outlets, leaving many chicken addicts dialing 999 and demanding to the know the chain's 11 secret herbs & spices.

A spokesperson for KFC apologised to disgruntled customers, claiming the reason for the shortage to be a "teething issue" - boy, we didn't think teeth were apart of the secret recipe, might lay off the popcorn chicken for a while & ramp up the veggies.



SCIENTISTS speaking at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) claim to have identified the traits that make some people live longer, healthier lives than others.

Speakers at the event claim to have identified a particular neuron that could influence brain health and hence affect lifespan.

Post-mortem analysis of the brains of 10 "superagers" revealed they possess a higher density of Von Economo neurons (VENs) than the average, an area of the brain believed to be key for all things memory related.

Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy. Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Summer Waves After Shave

Milkman Grooming Co brings its newly released **Summer Waves After Shave** to market. Especially designed to suit sensitive skin, Summer Waves After Shave dodges one of the biggest problems that bug regular shavers - alcohol astringency. Although great for skin-toning, alcohol-based after shaves can aggravate this sensitivity by drying the skin out. The solution is a serum containing witch hazel to tone the skin, allantoin to help with recovery, and aloe vera with vitamin E to soothe, at the same time moisturising and protecting the skin.



Stockist: email ben@milkmanaustralia.com
RRP: \$40.00
Website: www.milkmanaustralia.com

Daily Leave-In Conditioner

John Frieda Frizz Ease **Daily Nourishment Leave-In Conditioner** is a leave-in spray treatment that strengthens and visibly repairs hair. This fortifying and conditioning formula instantly detangles while nourishing dry, damaged hair. With a protective blend of vitamins A, E, C and green tea extract, the formula helps safeguard hair from damage caused by heat styling and sun exposure leaving hair silky-smooth with improved strength and shine. This leave-in conditioning spray can be used daily and for best results, apply to wet hair, concentrating on end sections where hair is driest.



Stockist: 1800 468 318
RRP: \$16.99 - 200mL
Website: www.johnfrieda.com

Dreambaby's new Ezy-Potty



Dreambaby launches its new **Ezy-Potty**. Designed to make the first stage of potty-training even easier, it is comfort- and support-designed with an ergonomic contoured backrest while for practical considerations, the top half is easy to remove and clean.

Dreambaby's Ezy-Potty features non-slip pads for use on all surfaces and the product is lightweight for easy transportation or relocation in the house. Ezy-Potty is the latest extension to Dreambaby's potty range, all designed to keep baby secure, safe and happy in the bathroom.

Stockist: 02 9386 4000
RRP: \$24.95
Website: www.dreambaby.com.au

Body Butter – Citrus Revival



Olive Oil Skincare **Body Butter – Citrus Revival** is a body butter

that deeply hydrates the skin, leaving it soft and silky smooth. The light yet creamy texture melts into the skin to lock in moisture and revive, nourish and repair the skin. Infused with shea and olive butters, citrus essential oils, macadamia nut oil and camellia seed oil, the formula is naturally rich in vitamins A, K and E, and will visibly nourish and soothe the skin. Sister products are **Orchard Essence** and **Violet Leaf**, each bringing their own special fragrance and characteristics to match your individuality.

Stockist: 02 9476 3844
RRP: from \$19.99 - 75g
Website: www.oliveoilskincare.com.au