

Vale Donna Staunton

THE Australian pharmaceutical sector is mourning Donna Staunton, executive director of the National Pharmaceutical Services Association, who died last Fri.

Highly respected, Staunton was also chair of the Medicines Partnership of Australia and founder of The Strategic Counsel, with a tribute describing her “perfect style, boundless energy and a friend and mentor to many”

She will be honoured at a service at 10.30am this Wed 10 Jan at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 463 Oxford St Paddington NSW.

Scottish pharmacies enlisted for quit

THE Scottish Government has commenced a new smoking cessation program through pharmacies under the brand “Quit Your Way - with our support”.



Posters displaying the logo will be on display in every Scottish pharmacy resulting from research by national health board NHS Health Scotland which found that having a single identity for smoking cessation services across the country improved user uptake.

The Scottish stop smoking helpline Smokeline has already rebranded as Quit Your Way Scotland and is run by NHS 24 available both on the phone and through webchat.

The government has made having a ‘smoke-free generation’, with smoking rates of just 5% by 2034, a key policy pledge.

Pharmacy diabetes trial details

THE first article describing the protocol for Australia’s Pharmacy Diabetes Screening Trial was published in *BMJ Open* late last month, detailing the “pragmatic cluster-randomised controlled trial to compare three screening methods for undiagnosed type 2 diabetes in Australian community pharmacy”.

Co-authored by pharmacists from the University of Sydney and Deakin University, the paper describes the trial conducted in 363 community pharmacies across metropolitan, regional and remote areas of Australia.

The trial formally launched just over a year ago (*PD* 16 Nov 2016) as a key feature of the Pharmacy

Trial Program under the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Both clinical and economic hypotheses are being tested, including the cost-effectiveness impact of additional HbA1c testing undertaken in the pharmacies.

Eligible participating pharmacies receive per-patient payments, via a payment file in GuildCare NG, for each component of the screening service they complete, plus a \$750 bonus on successful completion.

Approval has been obtained from the Department of Human Services to obtain screening participants’ Medicare Benefit Scheme items relating to claimed fees for health service provision during the trial, with the results to be published on the 6CPA website as well as in peer-reviewed journals.

A comparative analysis will establish whether an elevated AUSDRISK score combined with an elevated POC test result is more clinically- and cost-effective than the AUSDRISK score alone at detecting type 2 diabetes in the community. See bmjopen.bmj.com.

SAS guidance update

HEALTH professionals have been given updated guidance on sourcing unapproved products via the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Special Access Scheme (SAS) in a new posting.

Category A is a pathway which health practitioners can use on behalf of a prescribing medical practitioner for patients who are terminally ill.

Category B enables health practitioners to access an unapproved good without an established history of use and is therefore inaccessible through SAS Category C.

SAS Category C allows health practitioners to supply goods that are deemed to have an established history of use, without prior approval - see tga.gov.au.

Paracetamol & fertility

TAKING paracetamol during pregnancy may impair the future fertility of female offspring, according to a review published in endocrineconnections.com.

The rodent study is not considered conclusive for humans using paracetamol in small doses.

Today’s issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news.

Opioid errors hit palliative patients

RESEARCHERS from the Universities of South Australia and NSW have reported on a study finding errors in palliative care involving opioids are almost three times higher than previously reported in other health settings.

Debra Rowett from UniSA’s School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences said the study looked at opioid errors in three inpatient palliative care services in metropolitan NSW over a two year period.

More than half the errors involved patients receiving a lower dose of pain relief than ordered, requiring clinical intervention in about a third of cases.

The majority of patients were aged in their 70s and had cancer.

Rowett said the study, published today in *BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care*, was an important first step in quantifying and identifying opioid errors, with the high rate of issues found likely reflecting the higher volume of opioids such as morphine being used for patients to manage pain in the last stages of their lives.

Of 55 opioid errors identified, most involved morphine doses (35%) while the remainder related to administration errors.

The researchers noted that medication errors posed one of the greatest risks to patient safety, particularly in the case of opioids which are high-risk medicines.

“The risk is amplified in patients who are older, have multiple health issues and are taking numerous medications,” they wrote.

For more info on the study contact carly.gibson@unisa.edu.au.

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Dispensary Corner

EVERYONE would like to win the lottery, and in South Carolina, USA, courtesy of a festive season technical glitch, everyone who entered, did.

The Holiday Cash Add-A-Play game generates trees on a tic-tac-toe grid and pays up to US\$500 (AU\$638) when someone gets three in a line.

Lottery officials say that, for two hours on Monday, trees were being printed in all nine grids (**pictured**), giving all players who paid US\$1 the maximum prize.

In all, US\$19.6 million (AU\$25.1m) was won.

Initially the lottery officials attempted to block all winnings, but under threat of class action, relented and set aside the money.



AND now to men's health - yes it's about sex - medics were asked by *IOL News* what were the most horrendous intimacy-related injuries they had encountered.

Frightening and fumbling, they range from genital burns resulting from post spicy-meal oral action, rectal foreign bodies (such as a pink softball, or a large potato!?), a fractured penis from a severely amorous encounter and the apparently "common" problem of a penis ring needing removal from the base of a swollen penis.

There were others but in the interests of mental health, **PD** chooses not to divulge.

Walgreens sales up

AMERICAN pharmacy giant Walgreens has reported a strong quarter, with its retail division posting sales of US\$22.5 billion for the three months to 31 Dec - up 9%.

Weakness in grocery lines was offset by growth in beauty and health-and-wellness categories, while prescription volumes surged.

Chief operating officer Alex Gourley warned, however, that drug-price deflation was inevitable with increased sales of generics.

Pfizer drops neuro drug research

PFIZER has announced the cessation of R&D programs focused on early stage drugs for neuroscience, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

About 300 US jobs will be impacted by the change which follows a review of operations to ensure the company is "in the strongest possible position to support scientific discovery and development," with funds redirected to areas where Pfizer has "strong scientific leadership".

Integrate primary care - CHF

THE Consumers Health Forum (CHF) has called upon the Federal Government to fund integrated primary care, delivered in the community and providing services that avoid the need for more costly hospitalisation, among a series of measures presented in the group's 2018 federal budget submission.

"Developments in health care management are showing that team-based, consumer-centred care for people with chronic and complex conditions like diabetes and cardiovascular disease, result not only in better health outcomes but more satisfied patients and clinical staff and potentially lower overall costs," the document reads.

CHF also highlighted the need to ensure health consumers are well informed and have a central role in the design and implementation of health care reforms and research.

Another recommendation was to enhance the use of technology, including the internet, to empower consumers into a "stronger role" to manage their own health, aligning with trends in other industries such as banking, travel and telecommunications.

The submission also sought a longer term view on preventive health, with reference to obesity and a levy on sugary drinks, citing the World Health Organisation's recommendation and the policies of around a dozen countries.

See chf.org.au for the submission.



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

This week's contributor is Eleni



Yiasedis, Consultant dermatologist specialist and Mohs micrographic surgeon.

The importance of the three-step process

ACNE is one of the most prevalent skin conditions affecting more than 85% of teenagers. Tackling oily to acne prone skin may look like a daunting task, but it all begins with an effective skincare routine, and these routines don't have to be complicated to get the best results.

For teens suffering from oily or acne prone skin, it's important that they take the necessary steps towards managing and treating their skin to keep future breakouts at bay. Some steps that teens can take is actively engaging in the 3-step process- cleansing, treating and moisturising each day. These 3 steps are a simple regime to help teenagers manage oily or acne prone skin.

Many teens need to understand that each step has a role in achieving clear skin. Cleansing as your first step gently removes surface dirt, oil, bacteria and other debris from the surface of the skin and helps to prepare the skin for treatment. A treatment as your second step targets acne-causing bacteria and unblocks pores, and a moisturiser will then ensure excess oils are controlled throughout the day without blocking your pores.

The three-step process is a simple regime to help teenagers manage oily or acne prone skin.

WIN WITH BENZAC

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Benzac are giving away a prize pack each day including Benzac Daily Facial Foam Cleanser, Manicare Compact Mirror and Benzac Excess Oil Control Moisturiser.

Benzac Daily Facial Foam Cleanser is specially designed for acne prone skin, removes impurities and helps unblock pores without drying the skin. The newest addition to the Benzac range, Benzac Excess Oil Control Moisturiser is a clinically proven moisturiser with active ingredients specially designed for acne prone skin. Excess Oil Control is non-comedogenic and also acts as a primer with a mattifying effect, prepping the skin for makeup.



To win, be the first from NSW or ACT to send the correct answer to the question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Which product is mattifying?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.