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

Nanabis training

ASX-LISTED Medlab is expecting a total of around 500 attendees at a series of medical education seminars in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane this month, which it says are in keeping with the requirements of the TGA's Special Access Scheme for its Nanabis nanotechnology buccal absorption cannabis product.

Topics have included human trials of Nanabis at Sydney's Royal North Shore, as well as the product's role in pain management.

The first batch of Nanabis has been manufactured in Melbourne and validated analytical release for supply is expected this week.

Medlab md Dr Sean Hall said "Nanabis is an Australian-produced medicine made to Australian standards in an Australian facility".

Once the validated release of the manufactured Nanabis product is achieved, Medlab will be in a "position to supply a drug that conforms to Australian standards for Schedule 8 medicine," he said.

Hall said Nanabis' "Nanocelle" unique delivery system would be supported by trial data, "thus giving prescribers confidence in quality and efficacy".

Uber Health launches

RIDE-SHARING revolution Uber has launched a new "Uber Health" platform in the USA, which allows doctors and health facilities to provide rides for patients who might otherwise miss critical appointments.

The desktop program has been trialled for some months at about 100 practices and hospitals, with health professionals saying it has reduced costs compared to taxis and also allows users to track where their patients are en route.



Pharmacy practice advance

PHARMACY Development Australia has launched a new online portal designed to take pharmacists wanting to progress to higher levels of advanced practice.

The portal, titled *Advancing Practice*, is overseen by the Advancing Practice Advisory Board and credentials pharmacists in two stages, Advancing Practice and Advanced Practice Pharmacist.

The new pathway is designed to objectively measure "practitioners' influence on pharmacy practice and impact on medicines management and patient care," the site explains.

The first applications to submit pharmacists' portfolios have been lodged, with first round applications closing Thu 15 Mar.

Chair of the Advancing Practice Advisory Board, Associate Professor Ian Coombes, said "It is crucial that pharmacists across all care settings are supported to step up and meet the demands of an ageing population and more complex medicines management and thrive at the full scope of their practice."

Daclizumab review

THE European Medicines Agency says it is urgently reviewing multiple sclerosis medicine Zinbryta (daclizumab) after seven cases of serious inflammatory brain disorders in Germany and Spain.

Biogen Idec Limited, the company that markets Zinbryta, has also informed the EMA of its intention to voluntarily withdraw the drug's marketing authorisations and stop ongoing clinical studies with Zinbryta in the European Union.

Five types of diabetes

RESEARCHERS in Sweden and Finland have proposed five distinct types of adult-onset diabetes which may help to tailor medical treatment of the disease to match the different complications of the disease forms.

Authors identified one autoimmune type of diabetes and four distinct subtypes of type 2 diabetes, and investigated types of treatment given to each group.

CLICK HERE for the *Lancet* study.

"The need to install a rigorous framework through which to build a more highly skilled, flexible and adaptable pharmacy workforce has long been in focus for some of Australia's leading practitioners," Coombes elaborated.

"Over the last decade a number of collaborative bodies have built upon a growing body of research and drawn from international example to refine an Advanced Practice framework suitable for the Australian landscape."

International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) ceo and Advancing Practice Advisory Board member Dr Catherine Duggan said the return of a centralised credentialing process put Australia in-step with global pharmacy workforce development.

See advancingpractice.com.au.

EMA in Amsterdam

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) has accepted a revised offer by the Dutch Government to build tailor-made premises for the agency at a new permanent address in Amsterdam's business district, Zuidas.

Completion date is 15 Nov 2019.

Fish oil in pregnancy

TAKING a daily fish oil capsule during pregnancy and the first few months of breastfeeding may reduce a baby's risk of food allergy, according to a new research analysis out of Imperial College London.

The analysis examined 19 trials of fish oil supplements taken during pregnancy involving 15,000 people, revealing a 30% reduction in egg allergy risk by the age of one.

Dr Robert Boyle, lead author of the research said, "Our research suggests probiotic and fish oil supplements may reduce a child's risk of developing an allergic condition, and these findings need to be considered when guidelines for pregnant women are updated."

The researchers also found no evidence that avoiding foods such as nuts, dairy and eggs during pregnancy made any difference to a child's allergy risk.

See the *PLOS Medicine* article at journals.plos.org.



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Dispensary Corner

THE source of much workplace consternation over the years, the humble “smoko” break has been known to leave many non-smokers feeling jealous and angry over all the lost productivity by their smoke-sodden associates.

More than 40% of non-smokers believe they should get three to five extra days holiday per year as compensation according to a recent survey out of the US.

The results also showed that on average a smoker takes roughly six days of smoke breaks annually.

While it may be annoying for non-smokers to watch their carcinogen-scoffing colleagues hop out for the periodic sucking on the old cancer stick, perhaps they can take macabre solace in the fact they will have a significantly shorter life-span.

See full survey results [HERE](#).



TYPICALLY when the police go searching for people who are intoxicated, the latter is generally suspected of committing some sort of crime.

But not so for the Vancouver Police Department who are currently looking for volunteers to get inebriated on the public dime under the umbrella of better police training.

The brief is in to get citizens drunk in order to train new recruits on how to best conduct a comprehensive sobriety test.

While we applaud the novel approach used here, let’s not use this rationale for Class A drugs.

FDA flu warning

THE US Food and Drug Administration has issued a formal warning to consumers about unapproved products claiming to prevent, treat or cure influenza.

“This year’s severe flu season raises new concerns about the potential for consumers to be lured into buying unproven flu treatments, and even worse, buying counterfeit antivirals online from websites that appear to be legitimate online pharmacies,” the FDA said.

The agency noted that there were no legally marketed OTC drugs to prevent or cure the flu.

NZ health alliance

A COALITION of health groups in NZ representing pharmacy, doctors, nurses, allied health and more has formed a new Federation of Primary Health Care NZ, following a summit in Wellington last month.

The Federation will be led by former NZ Labour politician Dame Annette King as independent chair.

NSW cannabis action hailed by industry

THERE’S been widespread support for the newly streamlined application process for access to medicinal cannabis in NSW (PD breaking news Fri), which will see the state rely on a single clinical assessment by the TGA.

The move was announced on Fri by NSW Minister for Health Brad Hazzard and Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt, who said “this approach by NSW to cut red tape and remove barriers is a template for other states to follow.

“Strong safeguards remain in place to access medicinal cannabis but this move ends a duplication of regulatory requirements,” he said, with NSW to now have one of the quickest pipelines to appropriate medical access for cannabis.

The Medical Cannabis Council hailed the move, but warned that many doctors were still hesitant to prescribe medicinal cannabis “as they believe it to be a medication of last resort”.

However the change will vastly reduce the amount of paperwork required, said the Council’s general manager Blaise Bratter.

Cannabis Access ceo Giles Craig said the move would make life easier for patients and doctors.

He said the very tight regulatory regime to date had meant that many needy patients had sought to self-medicate.



Welcome to PD’s weekly comment feature.

This week’s contributor is **Greg Aspelung**, Owner, [gaps.solutions](#).



King cat amongst the pharmacy pigeons

FRED Raven opened the first pharmacy brokerage house over 30 years ago. He was my mentor. Sadly, no longer with us, he would become extremely frustrated by the lack of vision by buyers. Pharmacy was a forever changing landscape. He believed, no matter what, pharmacies would always make money. And he was right. Certainly, the bottom line has been eroded substantially over the years, but there are still many very profitable businesses.

Demand for pharmacy businesses remains strong, despite the myriad of ongoing challenges. 2017 was pharmacy’s own annus horribilis - the contentious King Review, Price Disclosure still eroding profits, and the upscheduling of codeine. One bright spot was the passing of a new law providing long term survival of Location Rules, despite stiff opposition with some doctors calling for the axing the rules.

Buyers need to be aware, though, they may face challenges with funding. Lenders are taking a tougher stance. Buyer’s now need a 25% - 30% deposit. Valuations, on the instruction of lenders, are tougher when it comes to high priced low value drugs and nursing homes business.

I am sure 2017 events are beyond anything Fred would have imagined. But, he was right, pharmacy businesses still make money.

Win with Hope’s Relief

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Hope’s Relief are giving away a prize pack including Hope’s Relief Premium Eczema Cream 60g, Hope’s Relief Body Wash with Cocoa Butter, Shea and Goats Milk 250ml, Hope’s Relief Moisturising Lotion 145g and Hope’s Relief Bamboo Tote Bag valued at \$55.



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