

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from Sigma.

Karumba flies rural pharmacy flag high



KARUMBA Pharmacy in Far North Queensland is the winner of the Pharmacy Guild's 2018 video competition for rural and remote pharmacies across Australia.

As part of the 'I Love Rural Pharmacy' theme of the Rural Pharmacy Forum at APP2018, rural and remote pharmacists and their staff were invited to submit a video about their work and experiences in their unique pharmacies.

The added theme this year of 'Come Work With Me' provided scope for contestants to highlight to the audience why they should consider working in rural and remote pharmacy.

United Chemists Tennant Creek, was selected as the People's Choice winner, with the top videos winning a prize of full registration to APP2019 or a year's subscription to GuildCare NG software for the pharmacy.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the videos.

King: pharmacy crucial role

SHADOW Minister for Health Catherine King has acknowledged the "crucial role" of pharmacy in Australia's health care system and highlighted the Labor Party's "commitment to partnering with you on the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead".

Speaking at APP2018, King went on to commend the Guild's Community Pharmacy 2025 project, saying the objectives will likely align with Labor's draft 2018 National Policy Platform.

King, who said she expects an



election within the next 12 months, summarised three key issues for pharmacy as confusion and concern around the upscheduling of codeine-containing products, the trend toward direct supply

of pharmaceuticals, and the digital health agenda and its impact on dispensing medicines, monitoring their use and the way pharmacies care for their customers.

King also promoted the Guild as the "strong and trusted voice" of pharmacy in Canberra.

Pharmacist prescribing by 2020

PHARMACEUTICAL Society of Australia national president Shane Jackson says he expects pharmacists in Australia to be prescribing within two years, with the only barrier being enabling of legislation in various jurisdictions.

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily* during last weekend's APP2018 conference on the Gold Coast, Jackson noted that prescribing is already "in scope" for pharmacist competencies, with the Pharmacy Board of Australia to host a forum next month on the topic (see separate story on [page 3](#)).

Jackson said pharmacist prescribing had the potential to significantly reduce pressure on the health system, with a collaborative model where pharmacists would continue medication in consultation with a patient's GP as long as key indicators remain stable.

MEANWHILE the PSA president also appeared on APP's "State of the Industry" panel on Fri morning, and noted it had been a long time since the PSA had had such an involvement with the Guild's major conference - indicative of closer collaboration and shared goals between the organisations.

During his presentation he highlighted the huge wave of young pharmacists coming through the system, with 63% of Australian pharmacists aged under 40.

He told *PD* it was vital to ensure

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young pharmacists have stimulating, rewarding roles that utilise their professional skills to the fullest.

"We have the youngest workforce of any health professional group across the country...with that comes the opportunity to fully utilise our pharmacist workforce for the future," he said.

Jackson said pharmacists practising in full scope should see them taking accountability and responsibility for medicines management.

He added that as this was recognised across the health workforce it should lead to a better remuneration framework.

"As a profession we need to get more money into the system," Jackson concluded.

Turmeric/curcumin-warfarin interaction

NEW Zealand regulator Medsafe has issued an alert around a drug-drug interaction observed with turmeric and warfarin.

A stabilised warfarin patient began taking a turmeric-containing product and within a few weeks the patient's INR increased to more than 10, a level at which there is a risk of serious bleeding.

Curcumin, an active ingredient in turmeric, is known to have anticoagulant activity.

Products containing turmeric/curcumin are marketed as dietary supplements for joint, digestive and cardiovascular support.

Medsafe said the warning does not apply to turmeric used in food.

CSO "dark clouds"

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals md Mark Hooper, chair of the National Pharmaceutical Services Association, has highlighted major risks to Australia's National Medicines Policy as full-line wholesalers continue to be threatened by unregulated exclusive distribution.

Speaking on the State of the Industry panel at APP on Fri, Hooper said the current model has become unsustainable due to PBS reform eroding margins year after year without a pricing floor.

He said with some manufacturers continuing to withdraw high value products from wholesalers in favour of direct distribution, this was creating a single source of supply for key medicines.

"This is unthinkable from a risk management perspective," he said.

"They are effectively cherry-picking; it's a version of short-line wholesaling with no benefit to patients or the government and creating more work for pharmacists," Hooper said.

He highlighted the distinction between "exclusive" and "direct" distribution.

"We don't have a problem with manufacturers offering a direct solution, but any medicine on the PBS should also be available through CSO wholesalers," he said.

Hooper also differed with comments by Health Minister Greg Hunt who had earlier claimed a solution to the exclusive supply issue was imminent.

"I worry that the government and the department are just focusing on 'we'll put DHL in the CSO,'" he said.

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APP2018 - the greatest show!

THE Australian pharmacy industry kicked up its heels on Sat night, with a fabulously decadent P.T. Barnum-style "Cirque Noir" party at the Star Casino on the Gold Coast. The event wrapped up a huge few days of networking, education, policy discussion and professional development, while delegates also provided plenty of input to help frame the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement. Next year APP returns to its traditional Mar timeslot, with APP2019 set to be bigger and better than ever.

Lots more APP pics at facebook.com/pharmacydaily.

Pharmacy Daily

Monday 07 May 2018





Dispensary Corner

WELL the results are finally in - it *IS* safe to tuck into the organ that connects the developing foetus to the uterine wall - what a relief!

At least that's the verdict of a study conducted by researchers at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and Oregon State University, which recently gave the green light on placenta consumption in the journal *Birth*.

"Our findings were surprising given the recent guidelines recommending against placenta consumption," said Daniel Benyshek, Professor of Anthropology at UNLV.

"These new findings give us little reason to caution against human maternal placentophagy out of fear of health risks to the baby," he added.

Although the study has done much to allay health fears, the report has been heavily criticised for not being more forceful enough in disparaging the serving of placenta stir-fry to unsuspecting dinner guests.



THE health risks to children regarding open windows in apartment buildings are well documented, and thankfully the family of a three-year old girl in Stamford, Connecticut, has been given a second chance to learn after her five-storey fall last week was broken by freshly laid mulch.

It may just pay to have a green thumb!

GSK unveils "shelf of the future"

GSK Consumer Healthcare's new approach to pain management (*PD* 28 Apr) was formally launched at APP2018, with claims it could drive a 10% uplift in the category for pharmacies in the next five years.

The 'Shelf of the Future' initiative brings six different sub-categories from across the store into a single pain relief section - expanding the category to include holistic solutions, health devices, systemic and topical medications.

The fixture is also tailored to guide pain relief selection based on individual needs and life stage.

GSK has created the initiative based on unique shopper research and insights gathered from a wide set of locally commissioned qualitative & quantitative sources.

"By providing education, advice and clear guidance at shelf, pharmacy professionals can improve pain management and deliver better outcomes for their patients," the company said.

ASMI self-care alliance

THE Australian Self-Medication Industry is set to team up with an alliance of self-care advocates to lobby the government to "make self-care an intrinsic part of Australia's national health policy".

ASMI chairman Lindsay Forrest told APP delegates that "self-care provides value to the health care system... but it is yet to be fully harnessed as a component of public policy in Australia".

He said ASMI would continue to advocate for S3 advertising changes and a "switch agenda", participating alongside the Guild in TGA working groups to implement a new scheduling framework policy to bring Australia in line with NZ, Canada and parts of the USA.

Pharmacist Rx forum

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia is hosting a national forum on pharmacist prescribing in Melbourne on 26 Jun 2018.

The forum will bring invited stakeholders together to explore pharmacist prescribing as a means of improving access to medicines to meet public need, the Board said.

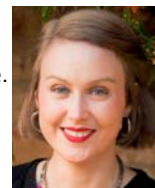
The program will include an overview of work completed to date along with discussion of public need and public safety issues, legislative considerations, stakeholder engagement and education and training.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature.

This week's contribution is from **Centine Snoswell**, Pharmacist, PhD Candidate, University of Queensland.



Justifying your new service

BOTH community and hospital pharmacy are experiencing budgetary constraints.

At the same time, pharmacists are striving to innovate, diversify practice, and deliver new services. The best way to generate evidence for a new service is to plan your justification from the beginning.

Research principles can help.

As a researcher you want to measure the impact of an intervention, answering the question "What impact did this intervention have?"

Impact should be measured by identifying the measurable outcomes from your new service; whether that's reducing readmissions to your ward, or increasing your intervention claims in community.

Identify a measurable outcome that can be collected before implementation (your baseline), and during your service trial.

The aim is not just to show that your service was good (measurable outcome), but that it made a difference (compared to baseline).

If you trial a service and there is no difference from baseline (which can be statistically tested) then either it was ineffective, or you should reconsider the measurable outcome you selected.

Having an idea is no longer enough to create change. When the budget is tight, you need to be able to show that your new service will have a measurable impact.

Win with Bellé Botanique

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Belle Botanique are giving readers the chance to win a L'elixir Rose Radiance Mist/Spray valued at \$64.50 each.

Developed by an expert in formulation-science, L'elixir Rose Radiance Mist provides optimum protection for the skin against indoor and outdoor pollutants whilst gently hydrating and uplifting with its natural fragrance.

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



Belle Botanique uses a South American herb, which has been widely researched for its immune boosting properties. What is the name of the herb?



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