

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, our regular Health & Beauty feature plus a full page from Pharmacy 4 Less.

APC appointments

THE Australian Pharmacy Council has announced the appointment of a new director as well as the reappointment of a current director to the APC Governing Council.

The councillors include **Leanne Wells**, ceo of the Consumers Health Forum of Australia who is also a director of PainAustralia and independent chair of Coordinare Community Advisory Council.

Gayle Ginnane continues as an APC Governing Councillor and chair of the Finance Audit and Risk Monitoring Committee.

APC president Sue Kirsas said she was delighted at the appointment of Councillors "who bring with them a commitment to strengthen and advance the quality of pharmacy education in Australia".

Both appointees, who are 'Community member' directors, will commence their three year terms in late May.

Kirsas also acknowledged the contribution of outgoing councillor **Monica Schlesinger** who did not seek reappointment.

Professor Nick Shaw has also completed the maximum nine years as a Councillor, but will continue to contribute as the ongoing chair of the APC Accreditation Committee.

PBS rebates to disappear

THE Federal Government last night confirmed changes to the way it pays for high-cost Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme medicines, with the move set to drive a "sharp reduction in the headline cost of the PBS," according to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

An update issued last night after Treasurer Scott Morrison's Budget speech said most rebates paid to the Government by medicine manufacturers will be gradually removed, with the measure to also help address pharmacy cash flow issues raised during the King Review (PD 03 May).

The reduction in PBS revenue amounts to \$5.4 billion from 2018-19 through to 2021-22, which the Guild said means the PBS has once

again been confirmed as the most fiscally sustainable component of the Australian health system.

Implementation details are yet to be finalised, with revenue rebates to be reduced from 01 Jul 2018 and an improved payment administration trial for certain high-cost medicines to commence from 01 Jul 2019.

The Guild said it would insist that the administration of these new arrangements was automated and seamless for community pharmacies, and that there was no reduction in dispensing remuneration including the Administration, Handling and Infrastructure (AHI) fee.

If the impact of this change is removed from the figures the headline cost of the PBS is estimated to decrease by 7.3% in real terms between 2018-19 and 2021-22, mainly reflecting ongoing medicine price cuts via the price disclosure process.

Including the high cost medicine measures the headline cost of the PBS will decline by a hefty 19.8%.

MHR uptake plan

THE My Health Record System is forecast to be implemented in 80% of community pharmacies during 2018-19, according to the Australian Digital Health Agency budget statements last night.

That means the pharmacies will connect and upload dispensed prescription records to the My Health Record, with the proportion forecast to increase to 90% in 2019-20, 95% in 2020-21 and 97% by 2021-22.

"By 2022 people will be able to request their medications online, and all prescribers and pharmacists will have access to electronic prescribing and dispensing, improving the safety of our systems," the budget papers state.

Pharmacy approval charges to increase

LAST night's Federal Budget papers confirmed that charges for applications for pharmacy approvals will come into force effective from 01 Jul 2019.

The "user pays" measure is intended to cover the full cost of the community pharmacy approval process, with the aim of raising about \$5 million over four years from applicants.

The fee will apply for pharmacists seeking approval to supply PBS medicines at new or relocated premises, and there will also be an application fee for a change of ownership of a pharmacy.

Administration of pharmacy approvals will shift from the Department of Human Services to the Department of Health, with the aim of allowing for a more consistent and streamlined process.

\$28m for e-scripts

ELECTRONIC prescribing software used by clinicians is set to be upgraded, with funding of \$28 million over five years provided in last night's Federal Budget.

The government said the measure would help support a national electronic prescribing system which would contribute to PBS efficiency, compliance, drug safety and data collection.

It also aims to create an electronic prescribing framework to provide an option for prescribers, pharmacists and their patients to have a fully electronic PBS prescription as an alternative to paper-based prescriptions.

Shingles vax reminder

PHARMACISTS are being urged to advise patients aged 70-79 that they are eligible to access shingles vaccine from their GP under the National Immunisation Program.

The most frequent debilitating complication of shingles is post herpetic neuralgia (PHN) - pain that continues after the rash has healed.

Zostavax is marketed in Australia by CSL offshoot Seqirus.

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FIP supply chain study

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has released a new report highlighting the importance of pharmacists in the medicines supply chain.

The pharmaceutical supply chain encompasses the full life cycle of a medicine, from raw material through to use by patients, with the report including nine country case studies as well as literature and survey data reviews to identify pharmacists as having expertise that is critical to supply chain integrity.

Inefficient pharmaceutical supply chains are partly to blame for a substantial proportion of the world still being without access to basic life-saving medicines, while the landscape is also challenged by substandard and falsified drugs leading FIP to examine the issue.

The report is available at fip.org.

SA Pharmacy Trial

DETAILS have been released of a new project to be conducted in South Australia and Tasmania under the Pharmacy Trial program.

Unveiled last Thu at APP2018 by Health Minister Greg Hunt (**PD** 03 May), the project is being funded by a \$2.58 million grant with the aim of addressing medicines-induced deterioration in the health of older people.

UniSA's Professor Libby Roughead said pharmacists will use a suite of validated tools to help them spot the signs of deterioration associated with inappropriate medicine use - often misattributed as simply symptoms of old age.

"Pharmacists are some of the best qualified people to know the full range of side effects of medications and to understand how some dosages or drugs should not be prescribed together and the range of symptoms that result," she said.

Pharmacists will record changes in cognition, sleep, grip strength and movement behaviour as indicators of medicine-induced deterioration, focusing on a comparison between the pharmacist service and the usual care provided to 500 patients in aged care facilities.

"Our goal is to discover a method to reduce medication-induced deterioration, as measured by change in older people's frailty score," Roughead added.

\$40m funding cut for NPS and NatRUM

THE Federal Government has forecast savings of \$40m over four years from 2018-19 by reducing the funding to NPS MedicineWise and the National Return of Unwanted Medicines (NatRUM) project.

The budget papers state the organisations will have the "certainty of a new four-year funding agreement in return for more efficient delivery of their services," with the cuts amounting to about a 25% reduction.

The papers say there will still be free access to information to support the safe use of medicines, tests and health services, and access to collection points to return expired and unwanted medicines.

GuildCare Pharmacy of the Year

PRICELINE Pharmacy in Menai, NSW has been named the 2018 GuildCare Pharmacy of the Year.

The award was announced last Thu during the APP2018 welcome reception, with GuildLink ceo Ross Gallagher and Pharmacy Guild of Australia national president George Tambassis presenting the award to Quinn On, the pharmacy's owner (**right**).

Priceline Pharmacy Menai was recognised for maximising its efforts and revenue opportunities on professional services beyond 6CPA programs on the GuildCare NG platform, winning an iPad and a 12 month subscription to GuildCare and myPharmacyLink.

The runner up was Cooleman Court Pharmacy from the ACT (**PD** yesterday) while Strathdale Pharmacy from Vic came in third.

Other leading GuildCare pharmacies included Barden's Amcal Pharmacy from the NT, Pharmacy 777 Langford WA, Golden Grove Chemmart Pharmacy SA, Gold Coast Super Clinic Pharmacy Qld and Chemmart Sorell, Tas.



Conflicts of interest

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has redefined its requirements around potential conflict of interest disclosure for members, chairs and secretaries of TGA statutory advisory committees and their subcommittees.

If there is any known conflict of interest or apparent/perceived conflict, any decisions or advice from the affected group can be open to challenge.

Legislative provisions, obligations for members relating to pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests and those of immediate family, are laid out on the TGA website- tga.gov.au.

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



Formaldehyde is an air pollutant. Is it true that indoor concentration levels of Formaldehyde are greater than outdoor levels?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, KP Lau from Pialba Wizard Pharmacy

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Dispensary Corner

WANT to live a long long life?

Take up chess - yes really. A comprehensive study of chess Grandmasters and Olympic athletes who achieved at least one medal has found that while the sports science literature has often featured the link between longevity and elite competitors in physical sports, a similar association exists with a "mind sport," namely top-level chess.

Authors concluded, "Not only does the game of life continue after the checkmate, but excelling in mind sports like chess means one is likely to play the game for longer".



COULD a burger a day keep the doctor away?

Probably not, let's face it, but it seems to have worked so far for retired US prison guard Don Gorske who recently celebrated the scarfing of his landmark 30,000th McDonald's Big Mac.

Nearly 46 years after having his first taste of that iconic special sauce, Gorske claims to have eaten at least one Big Mac almost every day since 17 May 1972.

Despite nutritionists calling the diet "burgercide", he has somehow managed to maintain normal cholesterol and blood pressure.

Interestingly, he rarely takes up the offer to "get fries with that" or chug one of Macca's jumbo-sized soft drinks - some pretty healthy food for thought there.

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

Dermal Therapy Soap Free Wash

Dermal Therapy **Soap Free Wash** is a mild and effective soap-free formula that thoroughly cleanses without stripping the skin of its essential oils. Designed for dry, sensitive, itchy or flaking skin it is formulated with ingredients known for their immediate hydrating ability. Dermal Therapy Soap Free Wash is free from sulfates, parabens, synthetics, artificial colours and fragrances. Dermatologically tested and shown to be suitable for all skin types, this product can be used on children from two years of age, and is now available in 250mL and 1L.



Stockist: 1300 555 597
RRP: \$9.95
Website: www.dermaltherapy.com.au

Glucology Diabetic Copper Socks

While there are many diabetic support socks on the market, only **Glucology Diabetic Copper Socks** are interwoven with copper that can destroy bacteria and fungi. A revolutionary breakthrough in diabetic-support wearables, they are scientifically proven to kill 99.9% of odour causing bacteria & fungi, can improve skin appearance and draw moisture away from the skin, are made using hypo-allergenic, non-binding, material and have extra padding in the heel & toes to protect sensitive areas, all thanks to Australian-patented copper-infusion technology.



Stockist: 02 8398 7520 or sales@ibdmedical.com.au
RRP: \$19.90
Website: www.ibdmedical.com.au

Little Bodies Eczema Relief Cream

New to the baby and skin care categories, **Little Bodies Eczema Relief Cream** is a clinically tested and steroid free eczema cream developed specifically for children from newborn to 12 years. It is currently the only product on the market using 5% colloidal oatmeal, which is the clinically proven concentration needed for its efficacy. It is also fortified with aloe vera, peppermint oil and, *calendula officinalis*. Being a steroid free product, this cream is able to be used continuously with no harmful effects and can be used to control flare-ups and for the symptomatic relief of itch and inflammation.



Stockist: Pharmabroker
RRP: \$14.99
Website: www.littlebodies.com.au

Gloop - to help down those medicines

Gloop Medication Lubricant is a slippery gel that makes tablets, vitamins and powders easier to swallow and assists patients by avoiding the need to crush or alter their tablets. Gloop has no known drug interactions and no (or minimal) impact on absorption of medications. Gloop is now available in 500mL pump packs in the following flavours - Orange Original, Strawberry/Banana Original, Cherry Sugar Free, and Vanilla Forte. **Gloop Original** is a 'moderately thick' viscosity while **Gloop Forte** is 'extremely thick' and intended for those with more severe swallowing difficulties.



Stockist: 1300 892 806
RRP: \$39.95
Website: www.gloop.com.au

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