

## Today's issue of PD

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

## SHPA expands Board

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has boosted the size of its Board of Directors, with the addition of David Brennan, David Butt and Lindsay Cane as new "expert appointments".

The positions were enabled by overwhelming member support last year of the new, contemporary SHPA constitution (**PD** 26 Sep 2017).

Professor Michael Dooley, who was re-elected as SHPA president in Dec, said the new board would bring broad strategic experience and expertise at a time of strong organisational growth and a rapidly evolving pharmacy landscape.

"Not only is membership reaching new heights, but our growing suite of complementary member-driven programs is ensuring SHPA is the essential professional partner of pharmacists and technicians committed to making a difference in the challenging and complex hospital setting," Dooley said.

Brennan is an experienced investment banking executive and company director, while Lindsay Cane is currently CEO of the Royal Far West which provides specialist medical care and allied health support services for children in remote NSW.

David Butt is a highly experienced health executive with his career including time as Federal Health Department deputy secretary - more on the board at [shpa.org.au](http://shpa.org.au).

## PSA Chemist Warehouse deal

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has announced the launch of tailored workforce training, with Chemist Warehouse the first national pharmacy group to appoint the organisation as its preferred training provider.

PSA national president Shane Jackson said providing ongoing professional development and practice support is a crucial part of PSA's role "as the national peak body for pharmacists in Australia".

"The training that we will deliver for Chemist Warehouse Group will support the ongoing professional development of its

14,000 pharmacy assistants and pharmacists nationwide," he said.

PSA has developed a new digital education hub to deliver the tailored training services.

It has the ability to host custom content from multiple sources, and will be rolled out in My Chemist and Chemist Warehouse stores nationally from this month.

Chemist Warehouse CEO Mario Verrocchi said he was delighted that PSA would be providing workforce education and training in more than 400 pharmacies.

"This will ensure ongoing skills development for our pharmacy staff who are delivering care to millions of Australians across the country," he said.

Jackson said PSA was also in discussions with other pharmacy groups about training requirements.

"We look forward to providing these additional training services to the pharmacy workforce across Australia and support them in delivering high quality patient-centred care," he said.

## NZ ticks some vaping

**A RECENT** District Court decision has ruled that vaping and heated tobacco products may be legally imported, sold and distributed in New Zealand.

The court case *Philip Morris v Ministry of Health* found all tobacco products - except chewing and dissolving types - could be lawfully sold under the Smoke-free Environments Act.

It is expected that the same regulatory controls that exist for smoked tobacco will now apply to heated tobacco products and vaping products manufactured from tobacco, including the ban on sales to minors and restrictions on advertising.

The NZ Ministry of Health has said it now plans to consider how best to apply risk-proportionate regulation to all tobacco and vaping products, and is developing standards for vaping products.

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## Go with the Flo

**TODAY'S** full-page ad (**page 4**) is brought to you by ENT Technologies (the makers of Flo) featuring Flo Travel, the first nasal spray in Australia containing proven ingredient Carrageenan (Red Seaweed Extract).

Carrageenan is known for its hygroscopic properties - it retains water and can quickly and effectively bond to nasal mucus.

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## Two pharmacists sued

**HEIRS** to legendary singing and music-writing star Prince have sued two pharmacists and a hospital claiming his death could have been prevented.

Six heirs to the star's fortune have accused two Walgreen's pharmacists for dispensing fentanyl which Prince then allegedly self-administered to overdose levels.

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## Health losing trust

**TRUST** in the consumer health subsector has fallen 14 percentage points in the last two years, according to the "Edelman trust barometer" released yesterday.

Almost a third (31%) of Australians blamed private health insurance for the high cost of healthcare, followed by pharmaceutical companies (21%) and Medicare (14%).

However overall healthcare was the second most trusted sector at 69%, behind education at 70%.

## SHPA-NAPSA flag student symposium

**THE** National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association and the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia have opened registrations for the upcoming SHPA-NAPSA Student Symposium 2018.

The event will take place in Melbourne on Fri 13 Jul, with a dynamic program to give an edge to proactive students and interns considering a career in hospital pharmacy.

It's free for SHPA student members to attend, covering entry pathways, careers, lifelong learning and advanced practice options.

Register at [shpa.org.au](http://shpa.org.au).

## Opioid GP arraigned

**A REHABILITATION** medicine consultant from Taree has been found guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct by the Civil and Administrative Tribunal of New South Wales in relation to 11 complaints that he had prescribed buprenorphine, fentanyl, hydromorphone, morphine, oxycodone, tapentadol or naloxone for a number of patients in his care.

He was also found to have failed to keep comprehensive medical records in relation to assessments of some patients and lacked insight as to their drug-seeking behaviour.

Dr Rajen Ragavan pleaded guilty to many but not all of the charges brought by the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission.

Ragavan has been ordered to undertake training as well as submit to audits of his medical practice - [caselaw.nsw.gov.au](http://caselaw.nsw.gov.au).

## Calocurb report

**A DIETARY** supplement marketed to support weight loss and appetite control in New Zealand, Calocurb, has been reported to the NZ Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring for an association with an anaphylactic event requiring hospitalisation - [medsafe.govt.nz](http://medsafe.govt.nz).

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## Bundaberg Pharmacy Alliance boom

**PHARMACY** Alliance has added four more pharmacies to its network in Bundaberg Qld, boosting its presence in the city to seven fully Pharmacy Alliance-managed outlets.

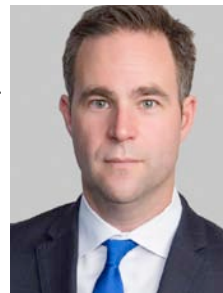
The additions were previously owned by Coral Coast Pharmacy Group, with future plans for the pharmacies to be branded Alliance Pharmacy.

Pharmacy Alliance pharmacist, co-founder and executive chairman Simon Reynolds (**pictured**) said, "Pharmacy Alliance's fully-managed pharmacy service provides member pharmacists with partnership opportunities in locations that are performing well and where we have identified great room for growth, and Bundaberg is one of those locations".

He said the acquisition of the four pharmacies would strengthen the Pharmacy Alliance brand in the area "and will allow us to introduce



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new services to meet the growing health needs of the Bundaberg community."

This brings the total number

of fully managed pharmacies by Pharmacy Alliance to 75 nationally.

The Alliance Pharmacy branded network has reached 120 pharmacies and there are now 600 Pharmacy Alliance members across the country.

Pharmacy Alliance says it provides its members with expert business support for procurement, merchandising, category management, marketing, IT, operations and HR.

## Sleep specialists flag pharmacy concern

**SIGMA** Healthcare's planned rollout of pharmacy-based sleep testing services (**PD** 03 Mar) has reportedly alarmed sleep specialists who have branded it a "great example of poor medical practice".

According to an *Australian Doctor* report, Professor Eastwood, president of the Australian Sleep Association, said sleep apnoea was "a serious medical condition that requires serious care from trained professionals."

"These tests require a higher level of knowledge to interpret... pharmacists and GPs are not qualified," Eastwood said.

Amcal and Guardian pharmacies plan to roll out the \$99 testing in partnership with Australian Pharmacy Sleep Services from next month, targeting the estimated 1.8 million undiagnosed Australians living with sleep apnoea.

## Antibiotic guide

**THE** Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare yesterday released the 2018 edition of *Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Health Care* (AMS Book Second Edition), providing hospitals with "world-leading guidance and support that will ensure patients receive appropriate antibiotic treatment".

The world leading evidence-based guidance aims to improve the appropriate use of antimicrobials via optimised choice, dose and duration of antibiotic prescribing - see [safetyandquality.gov.au](http://safetyandquality.gov.au).

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### Jobs of the Week

- Pharmacist Supervisor / Dept Head - NE Melb, VIC (Job# 200015478)**  
Manage an Aged Care team with the latest in packing technology & software.
- Pharmacist Manager - South Burnett Region, QLD (Job# 200015657)**  
Opportunity to be a valued part of the community. Excellent salary on offer!
- Pharmacist - Newcastle, NSW (Job# 200015623)**  
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## Dispensary Corner

**FOR** those who have always felt receiving urgent medical treatment can be quite stressful, your prayers have just been answered by an ambulance service in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Ambos in the area have recently been equipped with six different types of essential oils that can help treat pain, nausea or anxiety.

Medical director for Tri-State, Dr Chris Eberlein, said he noticed paramedics were often giving small doses of narcotics like fentanyl to patients who ended up not needing a prescription for pain medication.

"We started reviewing 'Why are they giving narcotics?' and really it came down to the fact that they didn't have many other things they could do in the ambulance ride," Eberlein said.

There is no word yet as to whether hot stone massages will be offered in the future.



**NUDE-NUTS** and desert-heads rejoice - researchers in the UK have discovered a potential new cure for baldness.

According to a report in *PLOS Biology*, the University of Manchester team have found a compound called WAY-316606 which reduces the activity of the SFRP1 protein, a growth regulator which affects hair follicles.

Human trials are still required, but lab tests found the drug significantly stimulated growth in samples from more than 40 male hair transplant patients.

## NSW palliative pharmacists

**THE** NSW Government has announced a \$200,000 investment during 2018/19 to improve the support provided by pharmacists to palliative care patients in the community.

Parliamentary Secretary for Regional and Rural Health Leslie Williams said the NSW Government was "committed to breaking down barriers in the health system so people get palliative care at the right time, in the right ways".

Williams noted that in 2015/16 there were about 83,000 palliative care-related prescriptions provided to almost 52,000 patients nationally.

"This funding will help us collect insights from community pharmacists and other experts regarding how patients can be better supported by improving access to palliative care medication and providing advice on medicines," Williams said.

The move was announced at a Clinical Excellence Commission

workshop in Sydney yesterday, which is seeing consultation with representatives from community pharmacy, public and private palliative care services, community nursing residential aged care, academics and consumers on ways to enhance medication management.

A further meeting with key stakeholders is planned for 05 Jun "to develop outcomes that ensure improvements will be put into practice," Williams said.

## SlimBody danger

**THE** TGA has warned that a product labelled SlimBody Advanced capsules contains the undeclared substance sibutramine, which was withdrawn in Oct 2010 after a study showed an increased risk of major cardiac events.



## 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.

[www.bellebotanique.com.au](http://www.bellebotanique.com.au)

To win, be the first person from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question below to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)



Formaldehyde is an air pollutant. Is it true that indoor concentration levels of Formaldehyde in the urban areas, are usually greater than outdoor levels?

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Rebecca Larcombe from Flinders Medical Centre*

## CW whistle-blowers

**CHEMIST** Warehouse is set to become the official partner of the AFL Umpires, effective from Round 8 of the 2018 season.

Fans will see the first glimpse of the new two-year partnership from this Sun during the Etihad Stadium match between North Melbourne and Richmond, where the Chemist Warehouse logo will adorn the umpires' uniforms.



## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**27 May-8 Jun:** 43rd PSA Offshore Refresher Conference; San Francisco; travel information and registrations at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**30 May - 1 Jun:** National Medicines Symposium (NMS) 2018; National Convention Centre, Canberra; registrations now open: [www.nps.org.au](http://www.nps.org.au)

**15 - 17 Jun:** ConPharm 2018; Sofitel Brisbane Central Hotel; for details and to register see: [www.aacp.com.au](http://www.aacp.com.au)

**27 - 29 Jul:** PSA18; The Hyatt Regency Sydney; earlybird registrations now open: go to [www.psa18.com](http://www.psa18.com)

**12 - 15 Aug:** Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2018; Mt Buller, Victoria; register your interest here: [www.medici.com.au](http://www.medici.com.au)

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Clinical References: 1) Eccles R, et al. (2010) *Efficacy of an antiviral Iota-Carrageenan nasal spray: a randomized double-blind, placebo-controlled exploratory study in volunteers with early symptoms of the common cold*. Resp. Research, 11:108. 2) Tano L et al. (2004) *A daily nasal spray with saline prevents symptoms of rhinitis*. Acta Otolaryngologica. Vol 124 (9) 1059-1062. 3) King D, et al. (2015) *Saline nasal irrigation for acute upper respiratory tract infection*. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Issue 4. Art. No: CD006821