Today’s issue of PD Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from Flo.

ImErSe protocol out

THE protocol for one of the current Pharmacy Trial Program research projects currently under way as part of the 6CPA has been published this week in the BMJ Open journal.

The project aims to investigate the feasibility of a culturally appropriate Indigenous Medication Review Service (IMeRSe) in Australia, which would be delivered by community pharmacists in collaboration with Aboriginal health workers.

The abstract notes that the age-adjusted rate of potentially preventable hospitalisations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is almost five times the rate of other Australians, with Quality Use of Medicines playing a key role in alleviating these differences.

The full protocol is now available online at bmjopen.bmj.com.

FIP launches workforce hub

TWO Australians are among the leaders of a new Workforce Development Hub (WDH) launched overnight by the International Pharmaceutical Federation.

To be headed up by director Ian Bates, the WDH aims to bring together experts in workforce and education to provide evidence-based resources to support global pharmacy workforce and education development.

Bates said the WDH was the culmination of more than a decade of innovation, and would build on existing strategies to provide “practical, useful and impactful actions for national states and member organisations to use.

“Workforce transformation is the single biggest factor in advancing the professional impact of pharmacists in health care and medicines innovation,” he said.

The WDH team includes Dr Kirstie Galbraith from Monash University in Vic who will lead work on advanced practice and specialisation, as well as Dr Ian Larson, also from Monash, who heads up the WDH’s work on e-platforms and IT-based learning.

Others on the team include Claire Anderson from the UK’s Nottingham University (academic and institutional capacity); Mike Rouse from the US Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (quality assurance); Jill Boone from the University of Cincinnati (interprofessional education and collaborative practice); Toyin Tofade of Howard University in Washington DC (continuing professional development and continuing education); and Susan James from Canada’s Ontario College of Pharmacists (strategic platform for pharmacy technicians and support workforce).

Calls will also go out in 2019 to recruit new global leads and expert volunteers to support the WDH’s mission to transform the global workforce.

National Boards annual report release

THE Annual Report for the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the National Boards for the year 2017/18 has been published online.

The report gives an overview of Australia’s health professional workforce, which grew by 23,800 to more than 700,000 health practitioners across the 15 regulated professions.

Student registrations increased by almost 4,000 to 161,114 and the report also notes more than 740 accredited approved programs of study delivered by over 330 education providers.

During the year AHPRA received more notifications than in any other year since the National Scheme began, with a total of 7,276 which was an increase of 5.5%.

AHPRA completed 13 proceedings in Magistrates and Local Courts involving health practitioners, with all prosecutions resulting in findings of guilt.

See the full report at ahpra.gov.au.
Blackmores on China stage

BLACKMORES has been named as just one of four Australian companies to be inaugurated to the new China International Import Expo (CIIE) Enterprise Alliance. The Alliance was announced this week in Shanghai as a “premium platform aiming to promote information and resources sharing” among exhibitors at CIIE.

The huge event features a range of large US corporations, including Johnson & Johnson, General Electric, DuPont, L’Oreal, Samsung and Toyota.

Blackmores is the only VDS (Vitamins and Dietary Supplements) company on the 36-strong body, which will participate in regular roundtable discussions with the Chinese Government to foster international trade.

Blackmores Executive Director Marcus Blackmore and the company’s Asia Managing Director Peter Osborne attended an historic Alliance signing ceremony (pictured), with Blackmore saying participation was an “opportunity to foster our already strong working relationship with the Chinese Government”.

Blackmores has a significant presence at this year’s CIIE as a sponsor of the Australia Pavilion along with a purpose-built two level exhibition stand.

The company said it would work to support the vision of President Xi Jinping’s new Healthy China 2030 policy by “providing safe, high-quality products and education to Chinese consumers to help with their health needs”.

More MHR changes

HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt yesterday announced further legislative amendments to strengthen the safety and privacy of the My Health Record System.

Measures include increased penalties for improper use of a My Health Record, strengthened provisions to safeguard against domestic violence, protections for employees and a ban on health information or de-identified data being released to health insurers.

AHPRA ad audit

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has confirmed that early next year it will undertake a pilot audit to check health practitioner compliance with advertising requirements.

Random audits of advertising compliance will “advance a risk-based approach to enforcing the National Law’s advertising requirements,” the Pharmacy Board of Australia said.

The pilot audit will involve the National Boards for dental and chiropractic practitioners, covering a random sample of those who renewed registration this year.

Qld work skills

ENROLMENTS are now open for training courses run by the Queensland Branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, which is providing a six week program for people interested in pursuing a career in community pharmacy.

Fully subsidised under the Queensland Government’s Community Work Skills Program, the SIR20116 Certificate II in Community Pharmacy includes 8 days of unpaid vocational placement in a community pharmacy. Courses are scheduled in Townsville, Ipswich, Brisbane, Cairns and Mackay - for more information see guild.org.au/cws.

SHPA Vic policy push

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has identified a number of key policy priorities in the lead-up to the Vic state election on 24 Nov.

Politicians from all sides are being urged to implement changes that will improve hospital pharmacy service provision and patient care.

Key issues highlighted include continued support for the implementation of electronic medication management (eMM) systems for Vic public hospitals, as well as investment in opioid stewardship services in all state hospitals with surgical facilities to address the opioid crisis.

SHPA is also urging support for further workforce innovation in clinical pharmacy, as well as the provision of clinical pharmacy services across seven days and in emergency departments.

Pharmacists in medicines should also be recognised by involvement in health care reform in the state, SHPA said.

CEO Kristin Michaels particularly highlighted the fragmented implementation of eMMs.

“Rolling out partial coverage, or running parallel online and paper-based medical records limits the ability of an integrated eMM system to reduce prescribing and dispensing errors,” she said.

More detail at shpa.org.au.
Pharmacist murder trial

A DOCTOR in Adelaide has pleaded not guilty to the attempted murder of a pharmacist last year, after the GP was reported to AHPRA for inappropriate prescribing. 69-year-old Brian Holder allegedly went to the Terry White Chemists outlet where Port Lincoln pharmacist Kelly Akehurst worked, concealing a knife in his pocket while carrying a bunch of flowers. At the time he was a doctor at the Reynella Medical Centre in Morphett Vale, and earlier in 2017 Akehurst had reported him to AHPRA after dispensing multiple identical prescriptions he had issued for large amounts of medications containing codeine and benzodiazepines.

An investigation by the agency saw restrictions placed on Holder, which became effective on 06 Oct. According to prosecutor Patrick Hill, the doctor then travelled to Port Lincoln where he planned to confront the pharmacist. He entered the pharmacy with the flowers and the knife, and asked to see Akehurst.

When she approached him rather than giving her the flowers, he allegedly took the knife from his jacket pocket and started stabbing Akehurst who sustained deep lacerations as she attempted to defend herself. She managed to break free and run to the front entrance, while her attacker fled the pharmacy and drove to a hotel where he attempted to kill himself.

Holder testified that he “vaguely remembered” stabbing the pharmacist, and had only planned to confront, rather than kill her. He said he “felt a little bit angry” at Akehurst for reporting him, but “understood why she had done it”. However police said his actions showed clear premeditation, with Holder having left behind a suicide note and also mailed life insurance papers to his wife.

The trial is being heard in Port Augusta without a jury by Justice Ann Vanstone, who will hand down her decision at a later date.

Win with Cetaphil

This week Pharmacy Daily & Cetaphil are giving away each day the Cetaphil Sun SPF50+ Ultra-Light Lotion and Cetaphil Sun SPF50+ Kids Liposomal Lotion valued at $35.

Cetaphil, one of the leading brands in the therapeutic skin care category, provides the highest UV SPF (50+) for sensitive skin. Designed for sensitive and oily skin, Cetaphil Sun SPF50+ Ultra-Light Lotion nourishes with Vitamin E and is perfect on the face and body. Cetaphil Sun SPF50+ Kids Liposomal Lotion (meaning it spreads easily on your kids’ skin) offers a paraben free formula and a pump dispenser with dosage leaf tablet for optimal protection. Cetaphil Sun offers everyday high-quality sun protection for the whole family.


To win, be the first person from SA or NT to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday’s winner, Jeanette Drury.

AND on a somewhat related topic, Microsoft billionaire founder Bill Gates has just spent three days in Beijing displaying a jar of human faeces.

He was attending the Reinvented Toilet Expo event, with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation having contributed over $200m on human waste disposal technologies.

“I have to say, a decade ago I never imagined that I’d know so much about poop,” Gates quipped during a presentation to delegates.

**Dispensary Corner**

**HOW about this for a staff motivation technique?**

A Chinese company is attracting all sorts of unwanted online attention after the release of a video showing staff forced to drink urine (pictured) after failing to reach their sales targets.

The disturbing footage also records the workers lining up to be whipped, while some were also reportedly ordered to eat cockroaches by their bosses at a decorating company based in Zunyi city in the Guizhou Province.

Managers are believed to have exacted the punishments because the staff had “let the team down”.

However after the video went viral online police confirmed that three management staff had been arrested pending an investigation.
Get hayfever wise!

With preservative-free flo daily!

For more information about Flo’s preservative-free nasal relief range, visit www.flo.com.au

Always read the label. Use as directed. Consult your healthcare practitioner if symptoms persist. Flo proudly supports the work of Asthma Australia. The Asthma Australia logo in this advertisement does not in any way constitute an endorsement by Asthma Australia of Flo products.