

Today's issue of PD

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

GP imprisoned over pharmacist attack

THE doctor who tried to kill a pharmacist in Port Lincoln, South Australia (**PD** 08 Nov) has been sentenced to 15 years in prison with a 10 year non-parole period.

Supreme Court Justice Ann Vanstone ruled that GP Brian Holder was guilty of attempted murder, after he attacked Kelly Akehurst at the Terry White pharmacy where she worked.

The court heard evidence that the 69-year-old had initially hired a private investigator in an attempt to discover the pharmacist's home address, after she notified the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency about Holder's prescribing of large quantities of benzodiazepines.

However he ended up driving to the pharmacy where he presented Akehurst with a bunch of flowers before pulling out a knife and attempting to stab her.

Vanstone said CCTV footage showed the attack was "clearly not a half-hearted assault".

Pharmacy cuts hospitalisations

A UK campaign encouraging people to make pharmacy their first point of call for healthcare has kept almost 14,000 people out of hospitals over a three month period, Britain's minister for the pharmacy sector has claimed.

The government evaluation of the Stay Well Pharmacy campaign, which ran for three months from Feb 2018, showed that 6,016 fewer patients were admitted to accident and emergency (A&E) during the period, while 5,747 fewer people were admitted to emergency rooms in the three months after the campaign had concluded.

According to the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, the Stay Well Pharmacy

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campaign specifically targeted parents and carers of young children under the age of five years.

It aimed to change behaviour by consumers, following research by NHS England which found only one in five adults would consider visiting their pharmacy first for help for a minor health concern.

That figure dropped to just 6% for parents of young children, of whom 35% said they would first opt for an appointment with their GP, while 5% said they would take their child straight to hospital as their first port of call.

Stay Well Pharmacy aimed to make the best use of the clinical expertise of community pharmacists while relieving some of the pressure on GPs and emergency departments and conveying the message that "pharmacists are well trained to spot a 'minor illness' that may be more serious and to help their patients get the help they need quickly".

Pharmacy Minister Steve Brine said the government evaluation showed the program had exceeded expectations by producing 31% unprompted awareness of pharmacies as an option for minor health concerns.

BIO-WHITE Beauty takes consumer gong

ENERVITE'S BIO-WHITE Beauty has been named "Anti-Aging Supplement Product of the Year" for 2019, in the world's largest consumer-voted award for product innovation.

More than 14,000 household shoppers were surveyed in the poll conducted by Nielson.

BIO-WHITE Beauty is an advanced formulation that provides natural support for healthy, radiant skin, the company says.

It is part of Enervite's innovative new range of beauty focused supplements - all based on the understanding that "natural beauty comes from inner good health".

Asbestos meeting

MORE than 300 professionals in asbestos across the health, medical research, environment, legal, workplace and regulatory sectors are gathered today and tomorrow in Sydney to help progress the development of national plans to reduce Australian's exposure to asbestos and asbestos-related disease.

Asbestos-related diseases result in approximately 4,000 deaths per year in Australia - see **MORE HERE**.

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Novartis takes out SA award



NOVARTIS Australia has taken out the inaugural SA Health Partnership Award, with the accolade celebrating “best practice procurement improving health services for South Australians”.

The award was made at the SA Health Supplier Awards 2018 which took place late last month at the Adelaide Convention Centre with over 500 attendees.

Novartis Australia/NZ Country President Lauren Carey said the award was “recognition of a true partnership forged through a shared vision with SA Health for better health outcomes and a more sustainable healthcare system”.

She said Novartis had worked hard to build trust through “consistent delivery and service across all our services to SA Health,” she said.

Over the last 12 months the partnership has helped combat a number of local challenges, including a stock supply issue for SA Health where Novartis helped maintain consistency.

The award also acknowledged Novartis’ contribution through active engagement with a range of key stakeholders, exploring opportunities to bring more research and investment to SA where there are 37 Novartis clinical trials currently under way.

Novartis also helped facilitate a meeting with Medicines Australia and SA Health Procurement, sharing industry code of conduct and compliance frameworks with the aim of ultimately building confidence around interaction with pharmaceutical business partners.

Pictured above at the awards ceremony are, from left: Quinton Swann, Director SA Health Procurement; Andrea Andrews, Chief Procurement Officer SA Health; Don Frater, Deputy CEO SA Health; Dana Bell, Regional Commercial Manager Novartis; Richard Kenderes, Head of Strategic Accounts Novartis; and Vaychel Raman, Novartis KAM and Localisation Strategy Director Asia Pacific, Middle East, Africa Region.

Stroke risky AF

THE AF (Atrial Fibrillation) Association has launched Global AF Aware Week 2018, with the theme of “Detect, Protect, Correct”.

The organisation says one in four people will develop atrial fibrillation in their lifetime, but many are not diagnosed until their symptoms are severe enough to send them to hospital.

Worldwide the prevalence of AF is two to three times higher in men than in women, and the condition has been increasing worldwide as populations age.

AF Association says atrial fibrillation can be detected through a simple pulse check, while non-aspirin anticoagulation therapy can help protect against AF-related strokes.

Opt in, out any time

HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt has reminded the public that the opportunity to opt out or opt back into the My Health Record system applies at any time in a person’s life.

Last week legislation extending the initial opt out period to the end of Jan 2019 passed through parliament, along with new measures including tougher measures for those who misuse the system and provisions relating to domestic violence, use of MHR data by employers and the release of de-identified data.

The Minister stressed the importance of the platform, saying “My Health Record was designed to save lives,” including helping prevent medication misadventures putting 230,000 in hospital annually.

Antimicrobial alert for aged care

RESIDENTS in aged care facilities are especially vulnerable to infections for many reasons, according to a newly released report coinciding with Antimicrobial Awareness Week.

Special risks for residents relate to their compromised immune status, multiple co-morbidities and poor functional status.

Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) are particularly common and challenging to identify as symptoms may be atypical.

The 2017 Aged Care National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey published by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (**CLICK HERE**) identified high rates of inappropriate antimicrobial use,

with UTIs as the most common reason for prescribing.

The survey also found 32% of residents prescribed an antimicrobial did not have signs of infection and 24% of all antimicrobial prescriptions did not have the indication documented.

NPS Medicinewise says pharmacies that use Webstercare’s Medication Management Software can analyse resident medication data to help identify patterns of antibiotic use.

The RACF Medicinewise report provides measurements to guide appropriate antibiotic use for UTIs, access to clinical support, antimicrobial use comparisons data and lists residents who may benefit from a review of their medicines.



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Dispensary Corner

THIS week America takes some time out for its annual Thanksgiving celebrations - generally involving gorging on turkey with all the trimmings.

However fast food chain Taco Bell is also getting in on the action, with the launch of two new specially created jumpers inviting aficionados to express their thanks for Mexican food.

The tongue-in-cheek outfits (pictured) aim to celebrate the tradition of "Friendsgiving," a Thanksgiving dinner shared with friends rather than family.

The eye-catching tops can also be purchased with matching leggings - however looking at the colourful designs they should also include some sunglasses!



AND also in the US, officials in the state of Alabama are trying to clean up an administrative mess after the accidental purchase of 24,000 rolls of toilet paper.

The Marshall County Sheriff's Office over-ordered on the bathroom supplies, spending \$22,000 on the stock.

According to WAFF-TV the department's full annual budget for janitorial items is only \$15,000, and as well as managing the financial blunder the other problem is having to store an extra two year's worth of loo paper - but at least they'll be ready for a dysentery outbreak.

New diarrhoea drug

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Aemcolo (rifamycin), a newly released antibacterial drug indicated for the treatment of travellers' diarrhoea.

The condition is caused by non-invasive strains of *E.coli*, and is the most common travel-related illness, affecting an estimated 10 to 40% of travellers worldwide each year.

Pfizer price rises

PFIZER has announced it will be raising the price of 41 drugs from early 2019, with a US announcement saying about 10% of its portfolio is affected.

The company said most items would increase by 5%, but has not yet named the drugs that will be impacted by the changes.

Pfizer previously announced price rises in early Jul but backed off after a tweet by US President Donald Trump who said the firm should be "ashamed that they have raised drug prices for no reason".

Rare Diseases plan

THE Federal Government has launched Australia's first National Rare Diseases Framework and Action Plan.

Under the program funding of \$170,000 will be provided to Rare Voices Australia through the Public Health and Chronic Disease Program to enable the development of the scheme.

Health Minister Greg Hunt announced the move on Fri, saying "specific priorities, actions and activities will be identified through extensive consultation including people with a rare disease, clinical and academic experts, policy makers and state and territory governments".

All recommendations for action will be supported by robust evidence so people with rare diseases can receive timely diagnosis, treatment and the best care possible, Hunt said.

There are more than 8,000 rare diseases which are life-threatening or chronically debilitating, with such conditions defined as having an estimated prevalence of five in 10,000 people.

Other initiatives currently in place include the Life Saving Drugs Program which has seen the funding of 14 different medicines for nine very rare diseases, "providing physical, emotional and financial relief for 400 Australian patients," the Minister said.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Judy Cheung-Wood, SkinB5 Founder & Managing Director.**



Australia organic Hemp protein and acne

MODERN lifestyle is hectic, stressful and time poor - consuming enough highly quality nutrients is a constant struggle, and nutrient deficiency is a major contributing factor to acne. This explains the unstoppable consumer trend of multifunctional superfoods. Australia organic hemp provides a convenient way to provide your body with high quality plant-based protein, as well as broad range of wholefood nutrients, just as nature intended. Hemp also happens to be the most sustainable crop on the planet.

Hemp is nature's superpower and is used in the form of supplement, seeds and superfood powders. It's the steak of the trees and one of nature's best sources for a complete plant-based protein. Steak has between 20 to 30 grams of protein per 100g. Hemp? 33! It's loaded with Vitamin E and minerals, zinc and potassium - a quality source of all 20 amino acids, including all 9 essential amino acids.

It has a nice blend of fatty acids, Omega-3 and Omega-6, in just the right ratio for human health. It settles down an inflammation marker known as C-reactive protein imperative for using Hemp for acne. Its anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties can help to renew and heal skin, and it contains high levels of linoleic acid, just like natural skin oil.

Win with Bellé Botanique

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Bellé Botanique are giving readers the chance to win a *L'elixir Skincare Cream* valued at \$64.50 each.

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