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Salary survey to close

THIS Sun 14 Apr is the last day input can be given to the Pharmacy Daily Pharmacist Salary & Employment Survey.

Hundreds of readers have already responded, and are in the draw to win movie tix & more - **CLICK HERE**.

Pharmacy Daily's 2019

PHARMACIST SALARY & EMPLOYMENT SURVEY

The industry's most comprehensive salary and employment survey for pharmacists.

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Pharmacy Daily

AMA slams Pharmacy Board

THE Australian Medical Association has warned that current Pharmacy Board of Australia (PBA) proposals to allow pharmacist prescribing represent a "fundamental undermining" of the national governance framework and process for non-medical health practitioners to apply to prescribe.

A submission by the AMA to the current PBA consultation on pharmacist prescribing (PD 06 Mar) noted the high value the Association places on the professional role of pharmacists working with medical practitioners and patients to ensure medication adherence, improve medication management and provide education about medication safety.

However, the AMA submission also highlights "gravely worrying assumptions by the Pharmacy Board," including the proposal

to bypass the current nationally agreed process for applications to provide, as well as "the denial that the proposals represent a significant expansion of pharmacists' scope of practice".

The AMA also says the Pharmacy Board fails to acknowledge the impact of the proposals on the broader health workforce, and "challenges the Board's evidence that patients in Australia do not have appropriate access to medicines, and the rationale that a solution to this claimed inadequate access is expanding prescribing rights to non-medical health practitioners".

Allowing the Pharmacy Board's jurisdiction-by-jurisdiction plan would lead to "inconsistent and ad hoc practices," the AMA warned, highlighting impacts on education and training, standards, CPD requirements and patient safety.

"To suggest prescribing of S4 and S8 medicines under supervision or under protocol is already within the scope of pharmacists' practice is false and an insult to medical practitioners," the AMA said.

The Association said it supported models where non-medical health practitioner prescribing occurs in a medically led and delegated team environment, and firmly opposed any prescribing by pharmacists "working in, employed by, or associated with, a retail pharmacy".

Xadago PBS listed

PARKINSON'S disease therapy Xadago (safinamide) from CSL offshoot Seqirus has been funded on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Xadago is a highly selective and reversible monoamine oxidase B (MAO-B) inhibitor and glutamate modulator, which when used as add-on therapy to levodopa has demonstrated improved motor function.

The listing is as a Restricted Benefit for use as adjunctive therapy with levodopa.

For the full product information go to seqirus.com.au.

Guild jabs Mundine

PHARMACY Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, has countered footballer and boxer Anthony Mundine's misinformed tweet calling on people to resist vaccination.

Tassone labelled Mundine's comments as "actually expert dangerous".

He pleaded with Mundine to "please stop, just stop before people die influenced by your madness".

Mundine's exclamation-mark-dotted rant said, "Don't vaccinate your kids period! The government bully (sic) you into vaccine! Do your research on the sh*t & watched (sic) the documentary vaxxed... facebook.com..."

The tweet generated other slamming comments.

Wheelchair racer and paralympian Kurt Fearnley entered the fray, referencing a number of his disabled mates who suffered from the effects of polio as a result of being born in countries that "didn't have the luxury of being vaccinated".

He tweeted, "some promote fear in our peace and others promote apathy in what should be feared".

The NSW Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) said it has received multiple complaints regarding misleading and unsafe practices by anti-vaccination campaigners, posing a risk to public health and safety.

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Dispensary Corner

COULD flat-pack furniture giant IKEA be encroaching on pharmacy professional sleep services?

The "incredible furniture store" has released two new podcasts which aim to help customers get to sleep a little more easily.

Narrated by your choice of a male or female Ikea staffer, the "Ikea Sleep Podcast" consists of someone simply reading the Ikea catalogue.

"As experts in life at home, we want to inspire Australians to create an ideal and healthy sleep environment so they can feel refreshed and recharged to get ready for the day ahead.

"Throughout this podcast, you'll hear many names of IKEA furniture as we work through the IKEA catalogue, starting in the bedroom section and ending in the bathroom," the company said.

The podcasts are available for download at ikeaau.podbean.com.

YOU'VE heard of governments stockpiling Tamiflu in preparation for a potential pandemic - but authorities in Switzerland appear to have other priorities.

Reports from Zurich this week have confirmed official plans to abolish the country's emergency stockpile of coffee, after a formal ruling that the beverage is "not vital for human survival".

Local legislation requires coffee manufacturers, importers, roasters and retailers to store bags of raw coffee, under a system established in the 1930s to deal with potential shortages.

Opposition to the proposal is brewing, with some saying it ignores other health benefits of coffee including antioxidants.

Phebra cancer deal

AUSTRALIAN pharmaceutical firm Phebra has announced a new "collaboration and licensing agreement" with the University of Wollongong, for the ongoing development of newly patented arsenic compounds to potentially treat solid tumours and haematologic malignancies.

The work follows recognition by researchers Carolyn Dillon and Judith Carrall from the university's School of Chemistry and Molecular Bioscience of the well-established efficacy of arsenic in the treatment of acute promyelocytic leukaemia.

A newly developed concept allows the dose of the cytotoxic arsenic to be reduced up to forty-fold, as well as specifically targeting cancers that are sensitive to the drug.

Phebra CEO, Mal Eutick, said positive indications had already been seen in *in vitro* trials to date, targeting several cancers also including acute myeloid leukaemia and potentially pancreatic cancer.

"Phebra believes it has the potential to represent a new generation of treatment," he said, with plans to move into animal trials later in 2019.

Finasteride to S3?

THE TGA's Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling is inviting public submissions on a number of scheduling amendments, including a change which would see a new Schedule 3 entry created for baldness treatment finasteride.

The expected use of the medication is "for the treatment of androgenetic alopecia (male patterned hair loss) in men over 18," with the Committee saying finasteride fulfils the criteria for an S3 substance and would provide an alternative to topical minoxidil.

"Consumers can easily identify the symptoms of male pattern hair loss and it can quite easily be verified by the pharmacist, to ensure that there is no other reason for the hair loss," the consultation advises.

The Committee also noted the product had been on the market for a number of years, with no clinically significant identified drug interactions, and pharmacists are well equipped to provide advice to consumers on the adverse effects, interactions and contraindications - in particular the potential risk to the male foetus if finasteride is handled by pregnant women.

Travel & medicines

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has updated its site summarising the issues surrounding medicines and travel.

Not only should travellers' checklist include passport and tickets, but a letter from their health professional - see tga.gov.au.

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.

27 Apr: Diabetes Expo 2019; Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre; register here: www.diabetes-expo.org.au

03 May: Colloquium 2019; Sofitel Melbourne On Collins; for more info and to register visit: www.colloquium2019.com.au

04 - 05 May: Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar; Crowne Plaza Coogee Beach, Sydney; for details visit: www.pharmeducation.com.au

05 - 13 Jun: PSA Offshore Refresher Conference; Montreux, Switzerland and Lyon, France; registrations now open: www.psa.org.au

28 - 30 Jun: ConPharm 2019; Pullman on the Park Melbourne; early bird offer here: www.aacp.com.au

26 - 28 Jul: PSA19; Hyatt Regency Sydney; early bird registrations now open: www.psa19.com

Win with Nutri-Synergy

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Nutri-Synergy are giving away the NS 21 Skin Repair Treatment and Sensitive Skin Cleanser valued at \$38.90.

NS 21 Skin Repair Treatment is a natural, cortisone-free cream which nourishes, relieves and repairs problem, irritable, damaged or chronic dry skin conditions. Use NS Sensitive Skin Cleanser together with NS 21 Skin Repair Treatment to maintain normal skin function and help prevent flare ups. Visit: www.NutriSynergy.com.au for more.

To win, be the first from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Does NS 21 Skin Repair Treatment contain petrochemicals?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Kurt Mallyon.

