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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus the latest MIMS Monthly Update.

## Business plan comp

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has formally launched the thirteenth annual National Student Business Plan Competition, with Guild National President George Tambassis urging attendees at the NAPSA Congress in Adelaide last month to take part.

Open to all students studying pharmacy in Australia and New Zealand, the competition offers \$15,000 in cash prizes to the top three teams, in addition to registration, flights and accommodation to attend the 2019 Pharmacy Connect conference.

The major sponsor is Sanofi Consumer Healthcare, alongside EBOS, Gold Cross and PDL.

Entry details, key dates and more are online at [guild.org.au](http://guild.org.au).

## Self care investment call

THE Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) has released its pre-budget submission to the Federal Government calling for greater investment in self care, elevation of health literacy to a national priority and incentives to increase access to medicines.

ASMI CEO Dr Deon Schoombie said, "We need a national health check on health literacy," citing the most recent ABS survey in 2006 which found 60% of Australians had inadequate health literacy.

"Improving the health literacy of Australians needs to become a national priority, with attention from all levels of government and key stakeholders," Schoombie said.

He urged investment in national and local projects to empower communities and individuals to enhance their own wellbeing.

Schoombie went on to argue that greater health literacy leads to greater self care.

"Having adequate health literacy means that an individual is able to seek help when they require, identify ailments that they can self-treat, read medicine labels, understand medicine advertisements and more."

ASMI also called upon the government to invest more in self care research, to prioritise early intervention and preventive health funding, as well as increasing access to medicines through data protection and intellectual property measures for 'switch' applicants.

"The evidence base for Self Care in Australia needs to grow and the long-term benefits of preventive health funding is compelling."

See the submission: [asmi.com.au](http://asmi.com.au).

## FIP Abu Dhabi regos

REGISTRATIONS have opened for this year's 79th World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, which will take place 22-26 Nov in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

Abstract submissions are also now being accepted - for more details see the congress website at [abudhabi2019.congress.pharmacy](http://abudhabi2019.congress.pharmacy).

## Stroke award call

TIME is running out to nominate an inspirational person in the community for the 2019 Stroke Foundation Stroke Awards.

These awards recognise those who have gone above and beyond to support people living with stroke.

**NOMINATIONS** close 15 Feb.

## PSSt...cheque this out!

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students Association presented this gigantic novelty cheque to the Pharmacists' Support Service at last month's NAPSA Congress in Adelaide.

Activities conducted by NAPSA branches raised a whopping \$16,534 to support the work of PSS, with NAPSA President Jess Hsaio saying "As students prepare to enter the pharmacy profession it is reassuring to know that the PSS is always available for support.

"We are very pleased to be able to support PSS to enhance well-being in all members of the pharmacy profession," she added. PSS President John Coppock said



the support from NAPSA was very important as demands for services continue to grow.

"We are a low budget organisation and a donation of this size makes a huge difference to what we can do," he said.

Kay Dunkley, PSS Executive Officer is pictured accepting the cheque during the gala dinner from NAPSA Congress Chair Caela Crane.



Health and Human Services

## APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE VICTORIAN PHARMACY BOARD

Jenny Mikakos MP, Minister for Health is pleased to invite applications for appointments to the following two (2) positions on the Victorian Pharmacy Authority (Authority).

- Pharmacist member (for a registered pharmacist only)
- Lawyer member (for a lawyer only)

These positions provide an exciting opportunity for suitably qualified and experienced individuals to contribute to the governance of the Authority and protection of the Victorian public.

These are paid, part-time Victorian Governor-in-Council appointments. Suitable candidates may apply for either position. The term of these appointments is up to three (3) years from 1 July 2019.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that government boards and committees reflect the composition of the Victorian community. This includes appropriate representation of women, Victorians with disabilities, regional Victorians, Aboriginal people, young Victorians, Victoria's culturally diverse community and LGBTQI Victorians.

Recruitment will consider both merit and diversity during assessment to ensure that the Authority is high functioning and reflects Victoria's diversity.

Applications close at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 25 February 2019. For further information about these positions and to make your application please visit [www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/drugs-and-poisons/Victorian-pharmacy-authority-appointments](http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/drugs-and-poisons/Victorian-pharmacy-authority-appointments).

For enquiries, please contact Eugene Bognar at the Department of Health and Human Services on (03) 9096 5958.

## Dispensary Corner

A DIFFERENT type of sporting equipment has been released in the USA by aluminium foil maker Reynolds Wrap - just in time for today's Super Bowl.

The company - which experiences strong demand during football season because of the need to heat up snacks - has created a new "Hunger Harness" (pictured) so fans have everything they need to stay on the couch.

The wearable, insulated pack features a variety of thermal pouches as well as an integrated food tray "that turns you into a human table" - meaning you never need to miss a play while maintaining your intake of not-so-healthy junk food.



AND also in the USA, an anti-vaccination mother has been somewhat ridiculed after asking on social media what she should do to protect her three year old from an outbreak of measles.

She's a member of the "Natural Health Anti-Vaxx Community" group on Facebook, and posted a request for advice on precautions she should take.

The responses came quickly, with one quipping "bring her to the edge of the flat earth...the air is cleaner there," while a Twitter commenter posted a photo with a T-shirt confirming that "Vaccines cause adults" (right).



## Fake US pharmacist

PHARMACY regulators in California are deliberating about whether to suspend the licences of three Walgreens pharmacies near San Francisco, after it emerged that an employee who worked there for more than a decade had fraudulently posed as a pharmacist.

Kim T. Le is alleged to have handled more than 700,000 prescriptions at the pharmacies between 2006 and 2017 - more than 100,000 of which were for controlled substances.

During her time at Walgreens Le also administered vaccinations, counselled patients and supervised pharmacy technicians - but it has since emerged that she had falsely claimed to have graduated as a pharmacist in Nebraska, but was in fact using the credentials of another pharmacist with the same name who did not work at Walgreens.

A Walgreens spokesperson said Le's employment had been terminated in Oct 2017, adding that "upon learning of this issue we undertook a re-verification of the licenses of all our pharmacists nationwide to ensure that this was an isolated incident".

## Antibiotic pack size

THE size of antibiotic packs could impact on judicious antibiotic use with the risk of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) driving reconsideration of factors such as these, according to an editorial piece in the latest edition of *Australian Prescriber*.

Associate Professor of Pharmacology at Bond University Treasure McGuire outlines key issues around length of treatment and the AMR implications.

McGuire explains why longer treatment periods than often necessary are recommended, saying: "to improve the likelihood of success in clinical trials, a longer duration of antibiotics than the theoretical minimum may be used. "Only after establishing efficacy are equivalence trials of shorter durations conducted.

"Ambiguity about the optimal duration of treatment for a particular indication contributes to uncertainty about how many doses to put in a pack."

See the write-up at [nps.org.au](http://nps.org.au).

## APP sellout

THE exhibition space at next month's Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference & Exhibition has fully sold out.

The event will feature more than 450 stands and 250 suppliers showcasing the latest pharmacy sector products and services.

The trade exhibition will open with a Welcome Reception on Thu 07 Mar, continuing until Sun 10 Mar.



Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is - **Robert Whelan, Managing Director of AP Group.**



## Independent pharmacists are the winners

RETAIL Pharmacy markets have proven to be resilient despite some of the negative publicity around ongoing profitability. There continues to be strong buying demand from independent pharmacists who believe they have what it takes to succeed in the space.

Independent pharmacists represented ~90% of total pharmacy business purchases from AP Group over the previous year. While the larger groups remain active in the market, they have been more selective in which businesses they purchase.

Throughout the last year AP Group did see a slight reduction in the average sale price from ~\$2,000,000 to ~\$1,850,000, which can largely be attributed to the lack of 'high value' pharmacies on the market.

Perhaps most interestingly in 2018, the average time from listing for sale with AP Group to selling was only 2 months. Managing the settlement process is still highly important as tightened financier criteria can still cause some delays. The major wholesalers' appetites to support their members is stronger than ever which is supplementing the tighter lending criteria.

With an estimated 100+ pharmacies on the market at any one time and strong market competition, the outlook for the coming year is strong for buyers and vendors alike.

## Win with Hawaiian Tropic

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Hawaiian Tropic are giving away a Silk Hydration prize pack to the value of \$45.

Let your senses take you with the NEW Hawaiian Tropic Silk Hydration range. A sunscreen that pampers you like no ordinary sunscreen! The range offers 12 hours of moisturisation while providing broad spectrum UVA/UVB protection, leaving your skin with a non-greasy, silky skin feel and the brand's signature mango and papaya scent. Visit [www.hawaiiantropicsun.com.au](http://www.hawaiiantropicsun.com.au) to find out more.

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



How many hours of moisturisation does the Hawaiian Tropic range offer?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

## New Products

- **Ferric derisomaltose (Monofer)** contains iron in a complex with isomaltoside 1000, releasing bioavailable iron to iron binding proteins. Monofer is indicated for the treatment of iron deficiency in adults, under the following conditions: when oral iron preparations are ineffective or cannot be used; where there is a clinical need to deliver iron rapidly. The diagnosis must be based on laboratory tests. Monofer is contraindicated with non-iron deficiency anaemia (e.g. haemolytic anaemia); iron overload or disturbances in utilisation of iron (e.g. haemochromatosis, haemosiderosis). Monofer solution for injection contains ferric derisomaltose 500 mg/5 mL in a pack size of 1 vial.
- **Guselkumab (Tremfya)** is a human monoclonal antibody that binds selectively to the interleukin 23 (IL-23) protein with picomolar affinity. Selective blockade of the regulatory cytokine IL-23 normalises production of effector cytokines including IL-17A, IL-17F and IL-22 that drive inflammatory disease. Levels of IL-23 are elevated in the skin of patients with plaque psoriasis. Tremfya is indicated for the treatment of adults  $\geq 18$  years with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy. Tremfya solution for injection (prefilled syringe) contains guselkumab 100 mg/1 mL in a pack size of 1.
- **Letermovir (Prevymis)** inhibits the cytomegalovirus (CMV) DNA terminase complex, which is required for viral replication and virion maturation. Prevymis is indicated for the prophylaxis of CMV infection or disease in adult CMV-seropositive recipients [R+] of an allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT). Prevymis is contraindicated with concomitant administration of pimozide; ergot alkaloids (ergotamine and dihydroergotamine); ciclosporin with pitavastatin or simvastatin. Prevymis tablets contain letermovir 240 mg in a pack size of 28.
- **Naltrexone hydrochloride/bupropion hydrochloride (Contrave 8/90)** contains two components: naltrexone, a mu-opioid antagonist, and bupropion, a moderately weak inhibitor of neuronal reuptake of dopamine and norepinephrine. The exact neurochemical appetite suppressant effects of naltrexone/bupropion are not fully understood. Contrave 8/90 is indicated, as an adjunct to a reduced calorie diet and increased physical activity, for the management of weight in adults  $\geq 18$  years with an initial body mass index of  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> (obese), or  $\geq 27$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> to  $< 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup> (overweight) in the presence of one or more weight related co-morbidities (e.g. type 2 diabetes, dyslipidaemia, or controlled hypertension). Treatment with Contrave 8/90 should be discontinued after 16 weeks if patients have not lost at least 5% of their initial body weight. Contrave 8/90 is contraindicated with uncontrolled hypertension; seizure disorder or history of seizures; known central nervous system tumour; acute alcohol or benzodiazepine withdrawal; history of bipolar disorder; concomitant treatment containing bupropion or naltrexone; current or previous diagnosis of bulimia or anorexia nervosa; current dependence on chronic opioids or opiate agonists (e.g. methadone); acute opiate withdrawal; concomitant monoamine oxidase inhibitors (or within 14 days of MAOI discontinuation) or reversible MAOIs; pregnancy; severe hepatic impairment; end-stage renal failure. Contrave 8/90 tablets contain naltrexone hydrochloride 8 mg/bupropion hydrochloride 90 mg and are available in a pack size of 112.
- **Plitidepsin (Aplidin)** interacts with eukaryotic Elongation Factor 1A2 (eEF1A2), a protein that forms part of the cell's translation machinery, is described to have oncogenic properties and is overexpressed in various tumour cells. Aplidin, in combination with dexamethasone, is indicated for the treatment of relapsed and refractory multiple myeloma after at least three prior treatment regimens, including both a proteasome inhibitor and an immunomodulator. Aplidin may be used after two prior lines of therapy if refractory and/or intolerant to both a proteasome inhibitor and an immunomodulator. Treatment must be initiated and administered under the supervision of a physician qualified and experienced in the use of chemotherapeutic agents. Aplidin is contraindicated with hypersensitivity to excipients PEG-35 castor oil or ethanol. Aplidin powder for solution for infusion contains plitidepsin 2 mg and is available in a pack size of 1 vial.

## New Indications

- **Pembrolizumab (rch) (Keytruda)** is now indicated as monotherapy for the adjuvant treatment of melanoma with lymph node involvement in patients who have undergone complete resection.

## New Contraindications

- **Dextromethorphan hydrobromide monohydrate (Bisolvon Dry)** is now contraindicated with bronchial asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia, respiratory insufficiency, respiratory depression, and breastfeeding.

*This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month.  
Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.*