

McCormack at APP



DEPUTY Prime Minister and Leader of The Nationals Michael McCormack (pictured) will address delegates at

next month's Australian Pharmacy Professional (APP) conference on the Gold Coast.

McCormack will deliver the opening address on the morning of Fri 08 Mar discussing the vital role community pharmacies play in non-metropolitan Australia.

In addition to the Deputy Prime Minister, this year's conference will also feature addresses by the Federal Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, and the Shadow Minister for Health and Medicare, Catherine King.

Consumers 7CPA input call

THE Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) is seeking a voice at the table when negotiations begin for the next Community Pharmacy Agreement (CPA) following confirmation by Health Minister Greg Hunt that the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) will also be involved (**PD** yesterday).

CHF CEO Leanne Wells commented, "We urge government to include consumers in these discussions which involve the provision of more than \$20 billion over five years for the dispensing of prescribed medicines to the community."

"While today's statement is a welcome move away from the bilateral negotiations between the retail pharmacy sector and government, it is time that consumers also have a seat at the table in deciding how best to serve the interests of patients and community," she said.

Wells also noted the PSA's new report *Pharmacists in 2023* which highlights that pharmacists are custodians of medicine safety, responsible and accountable for safe and effective use of medicines.

"The report advocates more patient-centric care which the Consumers Health Forum strongly supports... the role of the pharmacists as dispensers, quality use of medicines advisers and deliverers of aspects of primary health care is an important area of reform."

"However, there remains a significant gap in ensuring consumers always receive the information they need about their medication," she claimed.

Wells added that CHF's own research showed that "consumers trust pharmacists, value community pharmacy and want pharmacy services to be opened up and integrated with the rest of the health system."

"Consumers have formed specific perceptions and preferences based on their experiences with the sector and these should be heard and considered as part of discussions to shape the future of pharmacy," she concluded.

MEANWHILE the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has also hailed "broader pharmacy representation" for the next CPA, saying that "all pharmacists, practising in all settings, should have input into the important funding agreement".

SHPA CEO Kristin Michaels said while the agreement was community-facing "the reality is medication-related incidents permeate through all healthcare settings, and programs to support optimal medicines management cannot be segmented".

NDARC seminars

THE 2019 National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) Seminar Series will commence on Tue 19 Feb 2019 with a special presentation by Professor David Nutt (pictured) from Imperial College London.



Professor Nutt will present, *Addiction: From brain mechanisms to new treatments*, including data from a "new large imaging study – ICCAM – that has used fMRI and drug challenge techniques to explore stress, reward and impulsivity systems in abstinent alcoholics and heroin and cocaine addicts" - for more and to register, see ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au.

Software consultation

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is opening a consultation process seeking input from stakeholders on the regulation of software, including Software as a Medical Device (SaMD).

While software is currently regulated by the TGA under the existing medical device framework, it is not thought to adequately manage the emergence of apps.

The TGA said the new regulations will, where possible, harmonise with international practices.

Visit tga.gov.au for details.

MEANWHILE the TGA is also conducting a webinar on the current regulations around SaMD, on Thu 07 Mar 12.30-13.30.

CLICK HERE for more information and to register.

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Breastfeeding mode affects microbiome

THE microbiome of infants is impacted by the mode of breastfeeding, according to a new report in *Cell Host & Microbiome* yesterday.

"Breastmilk contains a complex community of bacteria that may help seed the infant gut microbiota", authors wrote but milk microbiota composition and diversity "were associated with maternal factors (BMI, parity, and mode of delivery), breastfeeding practices, and other milk components in a sex-specific manner".

For example, pumped breastmilk was consistently associated with multiple microbiota parameters including enrichment of potential pathogens and depletion of bifidobacteria.

Visit cell.com for access.

2018 PHARMACY MARKET REPORT

AVAILABLE NOW!

Jobs of the Week

- **Managing Pharmacist** - Hunter, NSW (Job# 200031801)
New furn'd 4bdr home close beach; Leadership + people skills required.
- **Pharmacist** - North West of Melbourne's CBD (Job# 200031965)
Looking for stability & great \$\$ whilst working with a passionate, supportive team!
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Regional North West, QLD (Job# 200031668)
Lifestyle plus career progression opportunity for all exp levels. Indigenous health.

Share your career vision with us and we'll help get you there!



Dispensary Corner

COULD a new line of razors be coming, for in-transit use?
 In Florida a woman was captured on video nonchalantly shaving her legs while riding as a passenger on the back of a scooter.
 She pursued her depilatory objective with determination, banging the razor on the frame of the scooter in between sweeps to clean out the blades.
 The video went viral, of course and generated a swathe of comments and critiques around her shaving style.
 One viewer warned, "One way to get ingrown hair," while another quipped how painful the salt water might feel once the pair reached the beach.
 Nad's may have been a better option for the scooting shaver.



FORGET thunderstorm asthma alerts - authorities in the US city of Cleveland, Ohio this week issued a public health warning with a difference, telling pet owners to "hold onto your pooch".
 The update from the National Weather Service included a "small dog warning" due to gusting winds, with advisory also warning of other, more prosaic effects, such as trees being blown down.
 Fortunately pet owners heeded the advice, with no reports of flying puppies received after the windy weather passed, meaning that Toto didn't end up in the Land of Oz this time.

Pharmacists' opioids focus

CONSIDERED one of Australia's most urgent public health crises, opioid-related harm is the central theme in the latest issue of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA)'s flagship organ the *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research (JPPR)*.
 Prompted by recommendations in the SHPA's *Reducing opioid-related harm* report published last Nov (PD 26 Nov), the *JPPR* includes a special article on the subject as well as research articles, reviews and reports on hospital discharge opioid guidelines, sustained-release subdermal buprenorphine implants to manage opioid use disorder, and administration of oxycodone-naloxone and systemic opioid antagonism and harm.
 SHPA Chief Executive Kristin Michaels said the focus on opioids was a fitting reflection of the issue's importance to hospital pharmacists and the acutely unwell Australians in their care.
 "Through meticulous research and stakeholder consultation –

including the inaugural Medicines Leadership Forum in Jul 2018 – we now have unprecedented insight into the post-surgery risk factors that can lead to opioid dependence in different patient populations.
 "This year SHPA looks forward to conversations with consumers, government and pharmacy, medical and nursing stakeholders to mitigate and reduce the alarming prevalence of opioid-related harm through the 33 recommendations of our Nov 2018 report."
 For more details on this and more, members may **CLICK HERE** for free access.

Melanoma rates up

WHILE melanoma incidence and mortality rates have risen globally, Australia has overtaken New Zealand as the country with the highest rates of invasive melanoma in the world, according to new research in the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*.
CLICK HERE for access.

NICE antibiotic guide

THE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and Public Health England have published new antibiotic prescribing guidance for patients with suspected pneumonia.
 Both community-acquired and hospital-acquired pneumonia are to be treated orally initially, then reviewed after microbiological testing confirms the organisms.
 Visit nice.org.uk for details.

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.
- 07 - 10 Mar:** APP 2019; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; to register see: www.appconference.com
 - 22 - 24 Mar:** NSW/ACT Annual Therapeutic Update 2019; Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley; register at: www.psa.org.au/atu
 - 22 - 24 Mar:** SHPA Foundation Seminar in Clinical Medication Management; Novotel Brisbane; registrations now open: www.shpa.org.au
 - 27 Apr:** Diabetes Expo 2019; Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre; register here: www.diabetes-expo.org.au
 - 04 - 05 May:** Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar; Crowne Plaza Coogee Beach, Sydney; for details visit: www.pharmeducation.com.au

Win with SkinB5

This week *Pharmacy Daily* & *SkinB5* are giving away each day the NEW SkinB5's Clear Skin Superfood Booster valued at \$63.90.

Clear Skin Superfood Booster is an innovative nutritional approach to skin wellness for blemish and acne prone skin, using specially selected ingredients to supply the body with key vitamins, minerals, essential fatty acids, amino acids, digestive enzymes, probiotics & prebiotics. Available from Sigma PDE CODE 301911 and API PDE CODE 43816. Watch the YouTube video **HERE** for more. For more info see www.skinB5.com.au.

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

What type of protein does Clear Skin Superfood Booster contain?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.