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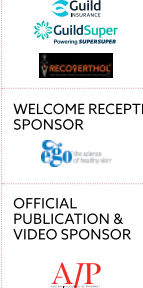
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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a front cover wrap from APP 2019.

Get educated at APP

THE organisers of the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition on the Gold Coast have highlighted the wide range of opportunities afforded during the event to earn Continuing Professional Development credits.

The four-day event includes a host of clinical updates as well as sessions on new regulations and industry news - for details see the cover page of today's PD.

TGA ad action

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has completed more than 750 complaint cases since the introduction of major reforms to regulations around advertising introduced just over six months ago.

In Jul 2018 the TGA assumed responsibility for handling all complaints about therapeutic goods advertising, with the new arrangements providing a simpler and more consistent system for both advertisers and consumers.

A new risk-based complaints handling approach has allowed the TGA to focus efforts on issues that pose the greatest risks to public health and safety, with complaints categorised into one of four risk levels: low, medium, high & critical - based on the health and safety risk associated with the advertisement, as well as the compliance history of the advertiser.

All advertising complaint outcomes are now published on a searchable portal, and new enforcement powers have seen action against Gumby Gumby Australia, Peptide Clinics Australia and Evolution Supplements.

Pharmacists shine in honours

PHARMACISTS were strongly represented in the Australia Day honours list for 2019, which was announced on the weekend.

Grant Kardachi, Dr Geraldine Moses, Emil Dan, Dr Carol Armour, Dr Ross Holland, Jim Siderov and Paul Sinclair were all awarded Member of the Order of Australia, while Geoffrey Pritchard and Leonard Levy received the Medal of the Order of Australia.

PSA National President Dr Chris Freeman congratulated all of the pharmacists who were recognised.

"I applaud all of the exceptional pharmacists for their tireless dedication to their profession, to their community's health and to their peak national body, PSA," Dr Freeman said.

"The pharmacy profession has been well represented in this year's awards...it's inspiring to see so many pharmacists honoured for their pioneering work to improve Australia's health," he added.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia also congratulated all the pharmacy

sector award recipients, making special mention of former NSW Guild Branch President Paul Sinclair, and past National President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia Grant Kardachi "on their well-deserved recognition".

"Community pharmacists are an integral part of Australian life and our health system, and it is great to see two people who have stepped up to make the commitment and sacrifice required to represent the pharmacist profession recognised in this way," said Guild National President George Tambassis.

Two psoriasis drugs

SUN Pharma and J&J subsidiary Janssen have announced the 01 Feb funding on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) of their respective severe chronic plaque psoriasis treatments.

Both products are biologicals which specifically inhibit the action of interleukin-23 (IL-23), controlling the release of the proinflammatory cytokines IL-17A and TNF.

Tremfya (guselkumab) is Janssen's offering, claiming to be the first drug in this class, while Sun Pharma's product is Ilumya (tildrakizumab).

Both products have demonstrated strong positive results in extensive global clinical trials and have now been able to show health economic value to be listed on the PBS.

Health Minister Greg Hunt said the two medicines have the potential to save patients up to \$32,600 per year, adding that "our strong economic management means we are providing Australian patients with access to life-saving and life-changing medicines quicker than ever before".

The medicines are expected to benefit 3,600 Australian patients.

PSOTY wildcard

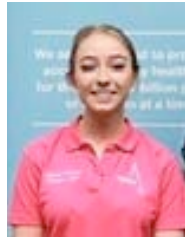
ALYSSA Murray (pictured) from Queensland has won the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) Wildcard for the 2019 PSA Pharmacy Student of the Year (PSOTY) Award, sponsored by Mylan.

PSA National President Dr Chris Freeman announced the award at the NAPSA Congress Gala Ball in Adelaide on the weekend.

"Ms Murray and all of the finalists demonstrated exceptional counselling skills and impressive pharmacy knowledge," Freeman said, adding, "seeing these rising stars in action fills me with confidence about the future of the profession."

Murray is completing a Bachelor of Pharmacy at the University of Queensland and is a member of the Queensland Pharmacy Students Association (QPSA).

As the wildcard winner, Murray will now travel to PSA's national conference PSA19 from 26 to 28 Jul 2019 in Sydney to compete in the national final.



ConvaTec recall

STERILE surgical products company ConvaTec, in conjunction with the Therapeutic Goods Administration, has issued a recall of multiple products after tests found that the sterile packaging could have been breached during transport.

Products affected include suction tubes/catheters, oxygen delivery catheters, gastro-enteral tubes, nasogastric tubes, intermittent urology catheters, drainage kits and sterile urine drainage bags.

To date, there have been no reports of incidents related to this packaging issue.

All products delivered since 01 Jan are involved - see tga.gov.au.

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Dispensary Corner

A NEWLY released North Korean state-sanctioned fashion magazine (**below**) has once again highlighted the practical fashion sense of the country led by dictator Kim Jong-un.

Some of the fabrics used in the stylish shoots have been highlighted as being "artificial flannelette fabrics composed of trace elements such as high-grade protein, amino acids, fruit juice, magnesium, iron and calcium".

Suitable for adventurous outdoor types engaged in activities like sailing, outdoor exploration and mountain climbing, the clothes "can be eaten to avoid starvation in the event that food has run out," the publication helpfully advises.



IN A great example of recycling, a Los Angeles based biomedical company has started selling boxes of used tissues.

The start-up Vaev claims that exposure to the viruses on the tissues can "train your immune system," as an alternative to immunisation.

"We believe using a tissue that carries a human sneeze is safer than needles or pills," according to a website blurb for the product, which costs a hefty US\$80 per box.

"When flu season comes around, you should be able to get sick on **your** terms," Vaev added.

PDL warns on forged scripts

PHARMACISTS are being reminded of their obligations to take "reasonable steps to satisfy themselves that a prescription has been issued by an authorised prescriber," with a new update from Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL) providing guidance on actions to be taken in the event a forgery is suspected.

PDL says S4 and S8 drugs are the most likely to be forged, especially benzodiazepines and opioids, but added that pharmacists should also consider other medications which may be abused such as anabolic steroids, and medications such as Catapres which can be used to mask the symptoms of withdrawal from drugs of dependence - for example if a patient had sold their prescribed takeaway dose of an opioid substitute.

"The supply of such medicines in the absence of a legal prescription results in unacceptable risks to the public," PDL noted, with pharmacists having an obligation to notify the state health department and in some jurisdictions, the police, if they believe a prescription

has been forged or altered.

Another PDL alert issued last week centres on so-called "APINCH" medicines - classified as high risk covering Antimicrobials, Potassium & other electrolytes, Insulins, Narcotics and other sedatives, Chemotherapeutic agents, and Heparin & other anticoagulants.

The APINCH list is tabled by the Clinical Excellence Commission (checklist **HERE**), with PDL highlighting a host of examples where legal consequences have ensued from dispensing errors.

Injectable antibiotics require the pharmacist to warn the patient of early signs of an allergic reaction, while insulins have caused issues such as mix-ups between NovoRapid and NovoMix.

Chemotherapeutic agents such as methotrexate should be a top of mind alert for pharmacists, while the increasing use of Direct Oral AntiCoagulants (DOACs) had also led to a rise in the number of incidents involving anticoagulants.

Finally PDL also highlighted risks around Digoxin - more on APINCH at cec.health.nsw.gov.au.

Guild Update

Popular rural pharmacy video competition is back

THERE is still time to get an entry in for the Guild's popular rural pharmacy video competition.

This year the theme is 'What My Rural Pharmacy Will Look Like in 2025' to align with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's major project, Community Pharmacy 2025 (CP2025) which provides a vision for a vibrant, dynamic and commercial community pharmacy network into 2025 and beyond.

Entries for the video competition close on 4 February.

The 30-45 second video should show how this CP2025 vision applies to rural, regional and remote pharmacies and how pharmacists and staff in these areas have taken their futures into their own hands. It should also show how working and living in rural Australia offers amazing and unique opportunities, and excite people enough so they want to come and work with you.

The best video will be judged before APP, being held on the Gold Coast from 7-10 March 2019, and the People's Choice winner will be judged by the audience at APP's Rural Pharmacy Forum session.

The competition is open to employees or owners of a PhARIA 4-6 pharmacy.

The Rural Pharmacy Forum has compiled some tips to help get the best video results from phone cameras. These can be accessed on the [Rural Pharmacy Video Competition](#) page.

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