



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from Pharmacy Connect 2019.

IBS education

GUILD Learning and Development has partnered with Metagenics to launch an online course titled 'Patient-centred management of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and mild gut dysfunction'.

This course will explore the mechanisms behind the development of IBS and provide guidance in assisting in the management of gut patients from a patient-centred, integrative management perspective.

Symptoms of IBS can include heartburn, indigestion, constipation and diarrhoea.

To enrol in this accredited course visit myCPD.org.au.

Discounters eroding profession

PHARMACISTS in Western Australia fear that the ongoing corporatisation of the profession, alongside heavy discounting, will have a negative long-term impact.

The recently released report from the Western Australian Review of pharmacy ownership (*PD* 12 Jul) found pharmacists in the state were concerned about emerging ownership models, the entry of discount pharmacies, marketing on the basis of price or professional services, and the use of service or management groups.

"The industry expressed a concern that these trends exposed the sector to a potential for vertical and horizontal integration, reduced ownership transparency, and increasing external influences," the report found.

The pharmacy sector in WA had seen an increase in the number of pharmacies affiliated with a "discount" pharmacy business model, the report noted.

At the end of 2017 there were 49 registered pharmacies in WA identifying with this type of model: 19 Chemist Warehouses, 18 Discount Drug Stores, and 12 SuperChem Discount Pharmacies.

"Together these pharmacies represent almost 8% of the pharmacies in Western Australia," the report found.

"There was clear belief amongst many stakeholders that the emergence of 'big box' discounters in community pharmacy in Western Australia was not necessarily in the long-term best interests of the public," the review added.

Respondents believed discount retailers would only focus on the most profitable products or services, which would lead to a reduction in choice and access for consumers.

In particular many suggested that "vital, but complementary or marginally profitable ancillary services" were unattractive in



a lowest cost model - such as home medicines delivery, dose administration aid packaging, or services to residential aged care facilities.

However there was also an acknowledgement by some that the discounters had "made some drugs available at more affordable prices to the Australian community".



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Connect line-up

PHARMACY Connect this year, 05-07 Sep, promises to be one to remember with an impressive line-up of more than 30 speakers, both Australian and from the international pharmacy scene.

Organisers say the accommodation at the conference venue, Hilton Sydney, is selling fast.

CLICK HERE for more details.

Europe, US GMP

THE European Union and the USA have now fully implemented their Mutual Recognition Agreement for inspections of manufacturing sites for certain human medicines in their territories.

The milestone follows recognition of Slovakia by the US FDA, with a new "batch testing waiver" also now in force - see ema.europa.eu.

Tocilizumab alert

HEALTH professionals have been advised of "serious drug-induced liver injury" in connection with tocilizumab, marketed in Australia under the brand name Actemra.

Acute liver failure, hepatitis and jaundice have been observed with the administration of the medication, according to a new update from the Therapeutic Goods Administration, which said the frequency of serious hepatotoxicity is considered rare, but in some cases has required a liver transplant.

Actemra is indicated for treatment of a range of conditions including rheumatoid arthritis, giant cell arteritis in adults, juvenile idiopathic arthritis and chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell induced severe or life-threatening cytokine release syndrome.

Patients treated with tocilizumab should be closely monitored for liver adverse events and advised to seek immediate medical advice if they have signs of hepatotoxicity such as jaundice, dark urine, itch, loss of appetite, nausea or vomiting.



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NAPSA logo embraces NAIDOC week

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) marked NAIDOC week by commissioning an indigenous artist to redesign its logo.

Celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture last week, NAPSA's social media platforms featured the design by Glenda McCulloch, a Kalkadoon woman from Mount Isa (instagram handle @cungelella_art).

The original intention for the work was for it to be used only during NAIDOC Week, but NAPSA Rural and Indigenous Chair, Cathryn Carlisle, said "there has been so much interest and engagement in important conversations about cultural safety as a result of the change that we will likely look to support another artist in the future; perhaps we will try to showcase some indigenous art interpretations of our logo from



around Australia."

At the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia's Student Symposium at Monash University, NAPSA announced the election of its new President for 2019/20, its former Publications Committee Chair, Erin Cooper, from Charles Sturt University, assuming the position.

Cooper succeeds Jess Hsiao from the University of South Australia, as NAPSA President.

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Resveratrol guide

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has released a new compositional guideline for resveratrol, which is made by fermentation with genetically modified baker's yeast - for details see tga.gov.au.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is Gary West, PDL's Professional Officer.



Confirmation Bias

THE fact that you are easily able to interpret these words demonstrates a problem that is prevalent in dispensing errors...a problem referred to as CONFIRMATION BIAS.

Many errors reported to PDL are the result of incorrect data entry or drug selection in the dispensing process prior to checking by a pharmacist. PDL has analysed reporting data and has identified that the checking pharmacist fails to detect an error in a significant proportion of these incidents. It's believed that the checking pharmacist expects to see the task performed correctly so the checking process is impacted by this expectation or cursory approach. Confirmation bias can also occur in the interpretation of hard to read prescriptions or in the checking of DAA packs.

When checking the work of another, start by reading and interpreting the information as if you were beginning the process yourself. Do not be influenced by interpretation of a script by another person, as they may have made an error. When checking a DAA, refer to the drug profile and think about what each of the contents should look like and in which timeslot they should appear.

Awareness of these potential pitfalls can minimise the risk of error and potential consequence for the patient.

Dispensary Corner

WE ALWAYS knew they were dirty birds, but a new study by scientists at Perth's Murdoch University has revealed that Australian seagulls carry alarming levels of antibiotic-resistant superbugs.

The researchers found that E.coli in the guts of more than a fifth of silver gulls across the country was resistant to common drugs such as cephalosporin and fluoroquinolone, while even more alarmingly some samples were resistant to "last-resort" antibiotics carbapenem and even colistin.

The study, published last week in the *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*, involved examining the droppings of 562 silver gulls in densely populated coastal areas of Australia between 2015 and 2017.

DISNEYLAND is the most magical place on earth, but a dose of reality has brought the theme park giant down to earth after local authorities issued a rabies alert for Walt Disney World Resort in Florida.

The Florida Department of Health said a cat with rabies had been found in the area, scratching two Disney staff who were fortunately not infected.

The public are being asked to "maintain a heightened awareness that rabies is active in this area," with concern the unfortunate feline may have also spread the disease to other species such as dogs, raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks, otters, bobcats and coyotes.

CHP is reviewing its code

CONSUMER Healthcare Products (CHP) Australia is seeking input from interested parties as the recently renamed organisation's Code of Practice is being reviewed.

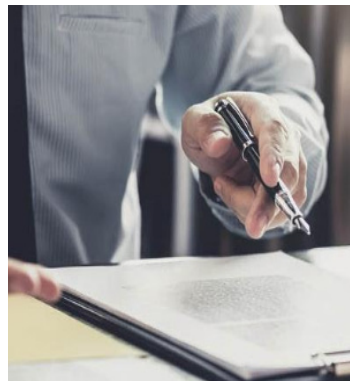
Previously known as the Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) (*PD* 27 May), CHP said that changes to the Code "will be necessary to capture our change of name and to reflect recent changes to the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code (TGAC).

"In addition to these necessary changes, we are seeking suggestions for other potential revisions to the Code."

The focus of the Code of Practice is to establish standards of ethical conduct expected of members, with the key intention of promoting Quality Use of Medicines along with ensuring responsible and balanced advertising.

The Code also includes a complaints handling mechanism to resolve disputes about CHP Australia members' conduct.

Initially adopted 28 years ago and revised 18 times since, most



recently in Nov 2016, the current ASMI code can be found at chpaustralia.com.au.

To have your say about the proposed new Code of Practice, complete the submission form available by **CLICKING HERE** and return it to Steve Scarff by 02 Aug this year.

More details on 02 9922 5111.

MEANWHILE CHP Australia has also confirmed the departure of its Public Affairs Manager, Jarrod Lomas who finished up last Fri to take on a new role within the Federal Government.

Win with John Plunkett

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away the Superfade Accelerator plus a John Plunkett cosmetic bag.

Superfade Accelerator can be used for quicker results with Superfade Creams or alone to help remove superficial pigmentation. Contains a blend of AHAs including Ferulic acid cytoectors to gently exfoliate. RRP \$19.95.

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

In which country is Superfade Accelerator made?

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