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Pharmacy Daily on location at PSA

Today's issue of *PD* is coming to you from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's PSA19 conference at Sydney's Hyatt Regency.

PSA'S conference is this year themed "Unlocking your opportunities" based on the *Pharmacists in 2023* report released last year.

Key issues include advocating for expanded roles plus improved recognition and fairer remuneration for pharmacists as the "custodians of medicines safety".

First up this morning is Health Minister, Greg Hunt, who will formally open the event and speak on how the profession can work with government to improve Australian health outcomes.

Guild backs AMA vax plan

CALLS by the Australian Medical Association (AMA) for all adults to be given free "catch-up" shots of National Immunisation Program (NIP) vaccinations are being backed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

AMA President, Dr Tony Bartone, highlighted the importance of vaccinations as part of the organisation's Family Doctor Week.

"Immunisation is the most important way that Australians can protect themselves, their family and friends, and others in the community from illness and death," he said.

"However, it is estimated that there are about 4.1 million under-vaccinated Australians each year, and most of them are adults.

"The Federal Government currently funds catch-up vaccinations through the NIP for people under the age of 20 years who may have missed out on their childhood vaccinations, and for refugees and humanitarian entrants of any age.

"Other adults have to pay, which



can add up to hundreds of dollars, depending on the number of vaccinations that need to be caught up on."

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily*, a Guild spokesperson voiced support for free catch-up shots, adding that it highlighted the need "to harmonise pharmacist vaccination protocols across all states and territories".

"Community pharmacies in all states and territories should be part of the NIP," the spokesperson said.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from Wizard Pharmacy Services.

New CH2 director



HEALTHCARE products wholesaler Clifford Hallam Healthcare (CH2) has reiterated its aim of being the "preferred independent wholesaler to the healthcare market," as it announced the appointment of Carmen Riley (pictured) to its board of directors effective 01 Jul.

CH2 CEO, David Collins, said Riley had been a key member of the CH2 team for over 10 years "and has contributed significantly to the success of the business during this time".

"Carmen has successfully led the CH2 sales team through multiple large-scale projects including our recent launch into the Retail Pharmacy market," Collins said.

He said the appointment was recognition of her work ethic and dedication, as well as her skills and knowledge of the healthcare market.

Bod grows prescriptions 273% in 2019

LISTED medicinal cannabis company Bod Australia has reported 273% growth of MediCabilis prescriptions over the past twelve months, albeit off a very small base.

A total of 275 scripts were dispensed between Jan and Jul this year with a strong number being repeat prescriptions, the

company told investors yesterday. MediCabilis is being used to treat a range of conditions including pain, stress, anxiety and neurological disorders.

The company attributed the growth to a range of factors including ongoing doctor education and a distribution deal with Cannabis Doctors Australia.

HSD access ease

HOSPITAL authorities will no longer need to seek separate approval from the Department of Health's Highly Specialised Drugs (HSD) Program (section 100) when applying for approval for access to prescribe and/or supply HSDs.

For more information visit pbs.gov.au.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Mid Coast, NSW (Job# 200032790)
42+hrs; light script trade; stepping stone to Management; 2 hrs to Newcastle
- **Pharmacist** - Hobart, TAS (Job# 200032818)
4.5 hour Sunday Shift; Employer of Choice; Low script trade Pharmacy.
- **Pharmacist** - Rockhampton, QLD (Job# 200032794)
Newly registered encouraged; great role; build skills in Prof. & Hosp services

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Dispensary Corner

NO, REALLY - was it *that* funny?

It transpires that jokes are only as funny as their context and especially depending on how funny other people perceive them to be, according to new research published in *Current Biology* - see cell.com.

Jokes were rated funnier when accompanied by canned laughter, but even funnier still when accompanied by real spontaneous laughter.

Researchers also found that people identified as autistic generally found all jokes funnier, a curiosity that authors speculated could be due to their being less affected by not wanting to be seen as laughing at uncool "dad jokes".

Some examples used were:

- What do you call a bear with no socks on? Bare foot.
- What did Michael Jackson call his denim store? Billie Jeans.
- Why couldn't the toilet paper cross the road? He got stuck in a crack.
- What do you call a sleeping dinosaur? A dino-SNORE.
- Why did the cows cross the road? They wanted to go to the mooovies.
- Where do pencils spend their vacation? Pencil-Vania.
- Why are cats good at video games? They have nine lives.
- Why did the balloon go near the needle? To be a pop star.
- What did the duck do when he read all these jokes? He quacked up.

PD apologizes for these, but at least now you can entertain your children for five minutes tonight.

Untreated Hep C concern

DESPITE the listing of highly effective hepatitis C medicines on the PBS in 2016, as many as 58,000 Australians living with the virus are yet to "take advantage of new highly effective cures", according to the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA).

SHPA Chief Executive, Kristin Michaels, highlighting Hepatitis Awareness Week (22-28 Jul), said the recent history of promising new hepatitis medicines had been a bright, albeit temporary, success story.

"As organisations mark Hepatitis Awareness Week, SHPA lends its voice to awareness-raising efforts

to mitigate the health burden of untreated hepatitis C in the Australian community," she said.

"The listing of hepatitis C medicines on the PBS in 2016 allowed some hospital pharmacy departments – with the capability to do so – to step up and proactively provide treatments to patients, as community treatment systems had not yet been established."

Dispensing volumes for these products has dropped to one third of the 2016 peak, Michaels explained, as the bulk of treatment follow up has moved to primary care and community pharmacy.

UK pilot UTI test

THE UK's NHS has launched a pilot 'test and treat' service for patients who may have a urinary tract infection (UTI).

Pharmacists across 37 locations in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire can provide a home dipstick test kit while a free app helps diagnose, according to a report in *The Pharmaceutical Journal*.

Upcoming TGA workshop for SMEs

REGULATORY requirements for small to medium enterprises (SMEs) is the subject of a Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) workshop to be held on Wed 20 Nov 2019.

Designed to help SMEs, new start ups and researchers

who need to get a handle on the relevant regulations, the workshop will cover medical devices, complementary medicines, prescription medicines, biologicals and OTC medicines.

Go to tga.gov.au for more.

Win with LA CLINICA

This week Pharmacy Daily and LA CLINICA are giving readers the chance to win the baby kit pictured, valued at over \$60.

Australian made "Organic For Baby" by LA CLINICA is formulated with certified organic and safe ingredients to care for baby's delicate skin. The Bath & Body Gift Set contains full-sized Soothing Lotion, Soap-Free Wash Gel, Nappy Wipe Lotion and Zinc Barrier Balm. No artificial ingredients or artificial fragrances. Visit www.laclinica.com for more.



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

What type of ingredients are the products formulated with?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Marissa White.

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.

04 - 07 Aug: Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2019; Mt Buller, Victoria; register your interest here: www.medicicom.au

05 - 07 Sep: Pharmacy Connect; Hilton Hotel, Sydney; for details and to register visit: www.pharmacyconnect.com.au

11 - 13 Oct: Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; Sofitel Brisbane Central; for more info and to register see: www.pharmacyassistants.com

14 - 16 Nov: SHPA Medicines Management 2019 (MM2019); GCCEC, Gold Coast; early bird registrations close 16 Sep: www.mm2019shpa.com



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