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SHPA scoops award

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia's (SHPA) communications team has received international recognition for its *A new prescription: Elevating Australia's leading pharmacists* campaign.

SHPA's Nick Sharp-Paul was presented the Gold Quill Change Communication Award of Merit, at the International Association of Business Communicators' awards ceremony in Vancouver, Canada earlier this week.

In recent years the SHPA has become increasingly proactive in its advocacy of hospital pharmacists, building record membership numbers with strong retention rates and a high media profile.

New-look for PD

FROM Mon 17 Jun *Pharmacy Daily* will adopt a new-look design. Be assured - the refreshed layout will feature all our regular columns and reader favourites, including *Dispensary Corner*.

In-pharmacy services cost effective

IN-PHARMACY professional pharmacy services, including medication use reviews (MURs) delivered in community pharmacies, are more cost effective than those delivered in patient's homes, research reveals.

The meta-analysis, published in *PharmacoEconomics*, found interventions delivered by community pharmacists represented good value for money by improving patient outcomes while being either cost-saving or cost-effective.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, George Tambassis, told *Pharmacy Daily* that interventions delivered in community pharmacies for adults, with or at risk of developing acute illness and medical emergencies, appear to be cost-effective.

These findings reinforced the Guild's view that home medication reviews (HMRs) ideally should be conducted in community pharmacies, he explained.

"The report's finding that 'interventions delivered in the patients' own homes are unlikely to be cost-effective' further highlights the need for these services to be conducted within the pharmacy setting," Tambassis added.

"HMRs are a very important evidence-based medication management support service which help to achieve Quality Use of Medicines outcomes.

"The Guild believes that there is a need to reconnect the HMR program with community pharmacies, a connection weakened with the introduction of the direct referral system.

"This reconnection will help to provide a more holistic service for patients and ensure that the critical link between the supply of medicines and their effective management is not lost.

"As indicated in the report, having these services delivered from community pharmacies would also help to ensure that the program

provides value for taxpayers and that services are provided appropriately to patients."

One UK study included in the analysis found there was no difference in outcomes for community pharmacist interventions delivered in general practices by prescribing and non-prescribing pharmacists.

However, interventions delivered by prescribing pharmacists were not cost-effective compared with those provided by non-prescribing pharmacists.

"One finding worth noting that the intervention was more cost-effective when clinical pharmacists provided interventions compared with when community pharmacists did, indicating that community pharmacists would need more training in terms of their clinical skills, and more time to integrate into the GP practice team in order to realise the benefit of their adoption of practice-based roles," the authors said.

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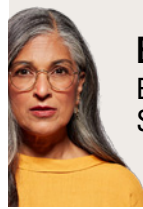
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Victorian hospitals' cyber risks exposed

WEAKNESSES in data security procedures used by hospitals have been exposed by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO).

The VAGO Security of Patients' Hospital Data report, released last month, found the state's public health system was "highly vulnerable" to cyber-attacks, with hospital pharmacy information open to corruption.

"There are key weaknesses in health services' physical security, and in their logical security, which covers password management and other user access controls," the report found.

"Staff awareness of data security is low, which increases the likelihood of success of social engineering techniques such as phishing or tailgating into corporate areas where ICT infrastructure and

servers may be located.

"We exploited these weaknesses in all four audited agencies and accessed patient data to demonstrate the significant and present risk to the security of patient data and hospital services.

"The audited health services are not proactive enough, and do not take a whole-of-hospital approach to security that recognises that protecting patient data is not just a task for their IT staff."

The VAGO issued a series of recommendations urging the state's Department of Health and Human Services to review and expand cybersecurity controls, develop and deliver specialist training for health sector staff, and develop processes to monitor whether all third-party vendor comply with data security requirements.



The report also said clear service level expectations and security responsibilities need to be established for any new joint venture agreements for Rural Health Alliances and member health services.

Tu Scholarship fund

THE Andrew Tu Scholarship Fund has reached its first major milestone, with \$10,000 pledged to support pharmacy students at the University of Sydney to pursue research into mental health.

The fund established to honour the memory of community pharmacist, Andrew Tu, who passed away in Apr 2017.

The target of \$135,000 will establish a fully-endowed annual scholarship in perpetuity.

Organisers of the fund have thanked donors for their generosity, noting "your gift will make a difference".

CLICK HERE to find out more.

TGA indications Q&A

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has posted a Q&A page on its website to clarify some issues around evidence for indications and qualifiers.

The new statements are intended to support sponsors of listed medicines seeking understanding of the TGA stance on permitted indications.

Sponsors are urged to assess the overall presentation of their medicine and refer to the Evidence Guidelines to determine the appropriate level of evidence required to support all of their medicine's indications.

In addition, applications for new indication qualifiers may also be required to provide justification that the qualifier, when combined with a core permitted indication, is suitable for listed medicines.

For more see tga.gov.au.

Pharmacists write to Trump

PHARMACY organisations in the US are petitioning President Donald Trump and Congress, seeking reform of the Direct and Indirect Remuneration (DIR) fee.

DIR fees are charged by insurers (Pharmacy Benefit Managers) to pharmacies, clawing back reimbursement paid for Medicare prescriptions, often over six months after the transaction.

In a joint letter, the National Community Pharmacists' Association, National Association of Chain Drug Stores, American Pharmacists' Association, National Association of Speciality Pharmacy, Food Marketing Institute and National Grocers Association, called on political powerbrokers to relieve pharmacists and pharmacies of DIR burdens, which have inflated drug costs, while forcing pharmacies to provide Medicare scripts below cost, the groups said.

Recent changes to the scheme did not address "onerous fees that have increased 45,000% since 2010, with no savings passed onto beneficiaries," they wrote.

"This number will continue to grow if these practices are not reformed," they told the President.

The group claimed if a revised

policy currently being developed was adopted next year beneficiaries could save between US\$7.1 billion and \$9.2 billion over 10 years.

The organisations reported that DIR legal loopholes allowed for abuses that have driven costs up for pharmacies and patients.

"We request your immediate help to address DIR reform this year to eliminate practices that drive up patient and government spending.

"We stand ready to work with you and your administration to pursue additional opportunities, such as legislation, to move DIR reform forward," they said.

Win With Dermal Therapy

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Dermal Therapy are giving away a skin care pack valued at over \$35.



NEW Dermal Therapy™ Face & Eyelid Eczema Cream (RRP \$18.95), designed to soothe eczema on the face and eyelid, is a non-greasy cream that leaves no visible residue and can be used under makeup. Formulated with 5% soothing colloidal oatmeal to relieve irritated & itchy skin and reduce the symptoms of mild eczema. Visit www.dermaltherapy.com.au to find out more.

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

Can the Dermal Therapy Face & Eyelid Eczema Cream be applied to the sensitive areas of the face such as the eyelids?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Lusi Sheehan.



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Jobs of the Week

- **Group Pharmacist** - Central Coast, NSW (Job# 200032544)
\$50/hr weekdays for an organised reliable PIC who enjoys a challenge.
- **Dispensary Technician** - Melbourne's east, VIC (Job# 200032634)
Monday to Friday roster; supportive passionate pharmacy team; free parking
- **Pharmacist / PIC at times** - 2.5 hrs from Brisbane, QLD (Job# 200032606)
Long weekend each fortnight, accomm assistance and avail owner-mentor.

Your Pharmacy Recruitment Experts



Dispensary Corner

PERHAPS an idea for a new pharmacy professional service? Two US women have launched a startup offering to help people choose a name for their baby. Dubbed "Future Perfect," the business offers deals starting at US\$100 for those in a quandary about their future little one. "The Riff" package includes a 15-minute "namestorming" session over the phone, while those wanting a bit extra can pay \$350 for "The Works" which includes a consultation leading to a list of 10 suggested first and middle names for the baby - plus an exclusive gift customised with the selected moniker for "when that sweet babe comes home". "Unlike the subjective opinions friends and family members might give you, our advice will be neutral, unbiased and tailored to your needs," the website at futureperfectname.com promises.

A BRITISH adventurer has donated his own severed toe to a Canadian hotel, in the hope that one day he will return to taste his very own Sourtoe Cocktail. A Yukon tradition at the Downtown Hotel in Dawson City, the famed drink features a mummified human toe which has been part of the drinks list for more than four decades. "You can drink it fast, you can drink it slow, but your lips must touch the toe," goes a local saying. Former UK Marine, Nick Griffiths, lost his toe to frostbite competing in an extreme winter marathon in 2018 and sent it to the hotel, with GM Adam Gerle saying the generous "toe-nation" would help the tradition continue.

Antibiotics polluting rivers

RIVER systems around the world are under threat from antibiotic pollution, a global study reveals.

Researchers from the University of York in the UK, found concentrations of antibiotics were up to 300 times "safe" levels, prompting concerns that it will impact antimicrobial resistance.

Theme Leader of the York Environmental Sustainability Institute, Professor Alistair Boxall (pictured), said the findings were concerning.

"The results are quite eye opening and worrying, demonstrating the widespread contamination of river systems around the world with antibiotic compounds," he said.

"Many scientists and policy makers now recognise the role of the natural environment in the antimicrobial resistance problem.

"Our data show that antibiotic contamination of rivers could be an important contributor."

Boxall said solving the problem was going to be a "mammoth challenge" and would require investment in infrastructure for waste and wastewater treatment, tighter regulation and the cleaning up of already contaminated sites.

Researchers looked for 14 commonly used antibiotics in rivers in 72 countries across six



continents, finding two-thirds of rivers were contaminated.

Trimethoprim was the most prevalent antibiotic identified by researchers, with the molecule found in 307 of the 711 sites tests.

Ciprofloxacin, was the compound most frequently found at levels above those deemed to be safe, surpassing the safety threshold at 51 locations.

While researchers reported that rivers in Africa and Asia had the highest rate of antibiotic contamination, they said sites in Europe, North and South America also recorded potentially dangerous levels of the drugs.

The researchers noted areas of political turmoil, including the Israel/Palestine border, were high-risk.

New GSK CRISPR lab

GLAXOSMITHKLINE has announced the establishment of a new San Francisco facility to work on CRISPR gene-editing technology.

The new Laboratory for Genomic Research, funded to the tune of US\$67 million over five years, will house 24 full-time University of California researchers along with up to 14 GSK employees, with a focus on immunology, oncology and neurology.

Welsh prescribing

NEW funding in Wales has been made available for 50 pharmacists to become independent prescribers as part of a major push to move services from GP surgeries into pharmacies.

Chemist + Druggist reports the money aims to support pharmacies for minor ailments such as helping treat respiratory tract infections, conducting consultations and prescribing oral contraceptives.

EU-US inspections

LUXEMBOURG and the Netherlands have been included in the mutual recognition agreement between the European Union and the US Food and Drug Administration, confirming both countries can carry out Good Manufacturing Practice inspections at a level equivalent to the US.

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.

22 - 23 Jun: SHPA Electronic Medication Management Conference; Novotel Manly Pacific, Manly, NSW; register here: www.shpa.eventsair.com

28 - 30 Jun: ConPharm 2019; Pullman on the Park Melbourne; for details see: www.aacp.com.au

26 - 28 Jul: PSA19; Hyatt Regency Sydney; registrations now open: www.psa19.com

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

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

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