

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from Discount Drug Stores.

NAPSA nominations

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) is calling on the next generation of pharmacy leaders to nominate themselves to join its board.

The organisation said it is looking for "passionate pharmacy students, even those with limited NAPSA experience...to consider this incredible opportunity to lead an organisation encompassing hundreds of pharmacy students across the country".

Nominations will close at 5pm on Fri 28 Jun AEST, with voting for the National President and seven Executive Directors to take place at NAPSA's AGM in Melbourne on Sat 13 Jul.

Students who are considering nominating for the board can email the current NAPSA Secretary, Eliza Herd, for more information on secretary@napsa.org.au.

Sanofi to boost influenza vaccine supply

AUSTRALIA'S influenza vaccine supply stocks are set to get a shot in the arm, after Sanofi announced it will deliver an additional 400,000 units which will arrive next week.

Fresh supplies will be distributed to general practices and community pharmacies to meet consumer demand for immunisation this flu season, the company said.

The announcement follows GlaxoSmithKline's (GSK) announcement that its *Fluarix Tetra* season flu vaccine would no longer be available to the private market this year (**PD** 27 May).

Responding to the supply shortages, Federal Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, revealed more than 4.6 million flu vaccination doses had been distributed through the private market including community pharmacies across the country.

A further 7.5 million have been provided through the National Immunisation Program.

"I have been working with vaccine companies to ensure that



there is sufficient supply in the private market," he said.

"World leading medicine and vaccine company Sanofi will bring a further 400,000 *FluQuadri* vaccines to Australia which will be made available through general practice and community pharmacy.

"This will take the overall number of flu vaccines available in Australia this year to over 12.5 million an increase from 11 million in 2018."

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Acting National President, Trent Twomey

(pictured), said the early onset of the virus this year combined with its severity had seen some pharmacies report that their flu vax stocks were running low.

"I would stress that while there may be isolated cases of pharmacies running very low on vaccines, at the moment they can usually source supplies from other pharmacies that have stock or from manufacturers," he said.

"I also welcome the statement from the Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, today that he has been working closely with the manufacturers of vaccines to ensure there is continuity of supply in the private market, including through community pharmacies.

"Keeping supply to the private market as well as to the National Immunisation Program is vitally important to ensure community immunity."

Twomey added that reports of stock shortages should not deter patients from going to the local pharmacies that provide the jab.

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Dispensary Corner

OFFICIALS in Canada have acted swiftly to clamp down on the illegal import of leeches, which are regulated by Health Canada as medicines under the country's *Food and Drugs Act*.

Last week a man from Niagara Falls, Ontario, was fined a whopping \$15,000 after he was arrested at Toronto Airport because security officers found almost 5,000 live leeches writhing around in his carry-on baggage.



Ippolit Bodounov pleaded guilty to violating the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act* - and if that doesn't quite trip off your tongue, don't worry - you can also use the more convenient acronym WAPPRIITA.

After identifying the species (pictured) as *Hirudo verbana* - a restricted leech when collected in the wild - regulators had to make sure the blood-suckers were illegal, and conducted extensive investigations including getting the American Museum of Natural History in New York to analyse the DNA of their gut contents.

The outcome clearly indicated that the creatures did not originate in captivity, and Bodounov was subsequently charged because "over-harvesting of medicinal leeches from the wild is a major threat to the species".

Symbion/Blooms seal deal

PHARMACY wholesaler, Symbion, will retain its status as the first line supplier to the Blooms The Chemist network of pharmacies, for another five years.

The deal relates to the supply of prescription medicines, over-the-counter and complementary healthcare products, extending a 20-year partnership between the two businesses.

Welcoming the announcement, Blooms The Chemist CEO, Phil Smith, said Symbion had been a valued partner in helping the independent chain to blossom into a 90-store network.

"Since 1995, Blooms The Chemist has been committed to delivering



friendly expert advice & exceptional professional service to customers across Australia," he said.

"Critical to this is ensuring we have the right health products for our patients in stock and access to the full range of PBS medicines in a timely manner to ensure that our pharmacists can focus on what's important - the health of their patients," Smith noted.

"Symbion has been providing exceptional service to our network of stores for 20 years and we're pleased to continue this relationship for at least the next five," he added.

Pictured, Symbion CEO, Brett Barons; and Blooms The Chemist CEO Phil Smith.

Choosing Wisely

DELEGATES at the NPS Medicineswise 2019 Choosing Wisely Australia National Meeting in Melbourne today, will discuss the potential for rolling out a strategy to reduce unnecessary treatments.

Choosing Wisely is a toolkit developed by NPS Medicineswise, and has been implemented in collaboration with Safer Care Victoria with the aim of prioritising high-value healthcare, and deliver more effective ways to treat more patients.

NPS MedicineWise CEO, Adj A/ Prof Steve Morris, said Victoria was the first state to fund the expansion of Choosing Wisely Australia across its hospital network.

The meeting will particularly look at the Vic experience, and takes place at the MCG today.

Guild urges RPMA

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has reminded pharmacy owners operating in rural and remote parts of Australia that they only have until 14 Jun to submit renewal applications for the Rural Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance (RPMA).

Those who fail to renew could see their payments delayed or cancelled from 01 Jul.

The Pharmacy Programs Administrator opened renewals on its portal earlier this month (**PD** 02 May) - for more info call 1800 951 285 or see ppaonline.com.au.



Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Travel & Cruise Weekly*.

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SHINE
CONFERENCE 2019

Discount Drug Stores celebrated its 12th national conference by shining a light on a fantastic year of achievements from its franchise partners across Australia.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF THE 2019 LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



**CONGRATULATIONS TO SWANSEA DISCOUNT DRUG STORE!
OUR NATIONAL PHARMACY OF THE YEAR!**

Pictured L-R: Thomas Martinez, Pharmacy Development Manager; Christine Lee, National Finance & Commercial Manager; Rachel & Greg Everett, Swansea DDS Owner; Kelly Alexander, Swansea Retail Manager; Stephen Dunstan, Acting Head of Discount Pharmacy Retail Group; Frances Palmer, National Merchandise Manager



**CONGRATULATIONS TO TIM DENHAM!
OUR NATIONAL PHARMACIST OF THE YEAR!**

Pictured: Tim Denham, North Orange DDS Owner/Pharmacist Manager; Wendy O'Hehir, Pharmacy Development Manager