

Today's issue of PD

TODAY'S *Pharmacy Daily* features two full pages of news, plus a full page from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia regarding the Pharmacy Practice Incentives (page 3).

MEANWHILE congratulations to Michelle Jensen of Airlie Beach Day and Night Chemist and Melita Jensen of Wheatbelt GP Network who were the lucky winners of last Friday's Hair Nutrition competition.

Scott's Sigma shares

PHARMACIST Bill Scott, who hasn't renewed his directorship of Sigma Pharmaceuticals (PD Thu), has interests in just under 6.3 million shares in the company, according to a Final Director's Interest Notice lodged on Fri.

Scott's Sigma shareholding is worth around \$2.86 million at the company's current share price.

Blackmores adds new liquid Omega Daily

BLACKMORES has added to its Omega Daily range with a the new Omega Daily Liquid Fish Oil, for consumers who prefer liquid dosages, or who find it hard to swallow tablets.

The product provides nine times the omega-3s of a standard fish oil capsule and is made using a specialised purification process designed to deliver quality and reduce any "fishy aftertaste".

The lemon flavoured liquid also contains mixed tocopherols (natural Vitamin E) to reduce oxidation and has an RRP of \$39.95.

Pharmacy back on skills list

THE Department of Immigration and Citizenship has put hospital pharmacy and retail pharmacy back on the Skilled Occupation List, after having removed both occupations from the list last year.

The updated list will come into effect on 01 July, and will apply to all new independent or unsponsored skilled applications lodged after this date.

The move has however come under fire from segments of the industry who claim there is already an oversupply of Australian pharmacists for the amount positions currently available.

"Having been in Pharmacy recruitment for 25 years I have

observed the different phases but have never experienced the situation in which we now find ourselves," said Susan Muller of the Pharmaceutical Locum Company.

"Only last week a pharmacist with years of experience confessed to me that she was now accepting Centrelink payments because it had been so long since she had been successful in securing a locum.

"Even full-time positions offering award wages of around \$23/hr are inundated with applicants," she said.

It is estimated that this year alone 1800 pharmacists will graduate from Universities and Pharmacy Schools across the nation, which according to industry pundits, will add pressure to an already oversupplied marketplace.

According to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship the addition of retail and hospital pharmacy to its list "reflects the Australian Government's commitment to a skilled migration program that delivers skills in need in Australia".

"The SOL will continue to deliver a skilled migration program tightly focused on high value skills that will assist in addressing Australia's future skills needs," the statement announcing the addition said.

The department said the list will be reviewed again next year, to ensure it meets the needs of the Australian labour market.

The removal of pharmacy from the list last year was decried by some universities as it affected their ability to attract foreign students.

Actonel on PBS

THE first oral bisphosphonate for osteoporosis has been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme effective immediately.

Sanofi-Aventis' Actonel EC (risedronate sodium) 35mg is taken once a week, with a delayed release enteric coating to minimise interaction with food.

The formulation also contains a chelating agent, edetate disodium (EDTA) which reduces the binding of dietary calcium to risedronate, reducing the impact of food on absorption of the medication.

Actonel EC is indicated for the treatment of osteoporosis, the treatment of glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis, and the preservation of bone mineral density in patients on long-term corticosteroid therapy.

WIN AN INSTANT WRINKLE FILLER



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with Plunkett Pharmaceuticals this week and is giving 4 lucky readers the chance to win an Instant Wrinkle Filler valued at \$39.95.

Now you can have perfect, even skin – no more fine lines, wrinkles or open pores.

Instant Wrinkle Filler is a translucent, lightweight, waterless gel that instantly fills imperfections and primes the skin for makeup application, creating a smooth, even surface, while mattifying for a flawless finish.

Instant Wrinkle filler uses topical fill technology to temporarily erase imperfections and silica to diffuse light and blur fine lines and wrinkles.

For your chance to win your very own Instant Wrinkle Filler, simply be the first person to send in a correct answer to the daily question below to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Name one key silicone ingredients in the Instant Wrinkle Filler

Hint! Visit www.johnplunkett.com.au

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Tweed Heads... 13 Nov

10 Group 2 CPD credits

Register at:

www.psa.org.au

Guild Update

This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild

Intern training

THE Pharmacy Guild has extended its learning offer to provide intern pharmacists with a choice in which intern training program (a compulsory part of gaining general registration) suits their specific needs on their journey to joining the profession.

The program is currently offered in NSW, Qld and Tasmania, with a view to expanding to other states later.

As part of the national peak body representing owners of community pharmacies, the Pharmacy Guild's Intern Training Program provides interns an opportunity to work closely with future employers. Graduates will gain insight into clinical, business ownership and management aspects of community pharmacy, which will provide them a competitive edge.

Pharmacist employers take note – the Pharmacy Guild has identified the need for pharmacists entering the workforce to be trained in the practical business aspects of a real-world pharmacy.

To achieve this, the Pharmacy Guild has focused on a balanced approach to practical skills and education, with additional elements regarding the professional programs coming out of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Unique to the Guild Intern Training Program are:

- two workplace visits by a qualified pharmacist providing one-on-one support;
 - dedicated interactive online forums for both interns and preceptors;
 - support with the PBA provisional registration application process;
 - a rural and remote focus so these students are not disadvantaged;
 - a placement support service; and
 - the BIG one – free APP registration!
- Free registration to this peak industry event will give students the opportunity to hear firsthand all the latest information on the political, business and clinical aspects of the pharmacy landscape.

For further information on the Guild Intern Training Program in NSW (02 9467 7100), Queensland (07 3831 3788) and Tasmania (03 6220 2955), contact the relevant State Branch.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Sensaslim versus Harvey

THE backers of the Sensaslim weight loss spray today agreed to file an "amended statement of claim" against health activist Ken Harvey, prior to a scheduled hearing in the NSW Supreme Court.

The matter, in which Sensaslim is seeking damages for defamation in relation to a complaint submitted by Harvey to the TGA Complaints Resolution Panel, also saw the plaintiff (Sensaslim) agree to pay any of Harvey's costs "thrown away" as the result of the changed statement of claim, which must be lodged before 01 July.

Harvey then has two weeks to lodge a defence, with a further hearing scheduled for 15 August.

The original claim was lodged by Sensaslim Australia Pty Ltd against Harvey and his company Medreach Pty Ltd, claiming damages of \$800,000, and is controversial because the pending legal action has stopped consideration of the original complaint by the TGACC - while promotion of Sensaslim has continued.

Sensaslim has been under fire recently from other quarters, with an expose on channel 9's *A Current*

Affair (PD 02 Jun) highlighting alleged 'fabricated research,' and 'false claims' about the product.

An article from Monash University's Associate Professor John Dixon in the *Medical Journal of Australia* today also highlights the dangers of doctors backing products based on evidence which eventually failed to emerge.

Generic's GOANNA

GENERIC Health has secured the rights to the GOANNA brand and its range of therapeutic rubs and oils.

Goanna was previously part of the Sigma Pharmaceuticals portfolio, but changed hands when Sigma sold this division to Aspen Pharmacare recently.

Generic Health said it was "excited to add this heritage brand to the existing portfolio of quality prescription and over-the-counter products and looks forward to continuing the brand's rich tradition of excellence."

The company said it intends to add "a number of exciting brand extensions to the range". to reinforce its position in the Australian market.

Exciting career opportunities

PHARMACIST/BUSINESS MANAGER

Parkes, Central Western NSW

Parkes Pharmacy is offering a career opportunity to an energetic professional pharmacist to lead their dynamic team. This busy community Pharmacy offers exceptional customer service with a strong emphasis on health-related advice and solutions. Be supported by a strong professional team including Pharmacists, Retail Manager and experienced dispensary and retail team.

Parkes Pharmacy is QCPP accredited and provides Dose Administration Aids, Opioid Substitution, HMRs to the Parkes community.

As part of the CountryPharm Group, Parkes Pharmacy is supported by Group Managers in the areas of buying, retail, human resources and industrial relations. Attractive salary package for suitable applicant.

If you are a pharmacist with management experience who is interested in further career development in a supportive environment, contact Debbie Prior on (02) 68523899 or email debbiep@countrypharm.com.au for more information.



DISPENSARY CORNER

DRUIDS just want to save lives.

A group of druids living in Austria are urging local officials to reinstate a roads program which saw them tackle road accident hotspots, to make them safer.

According to reports, Austrian transport officials funded a three year program which saw the Druids use divining rods to detect what they believed to be negative rays which emanated from common road accident spots, and place stones on the side of the road to drain the negative energy to drain away.

Speaking on behalf of a Druid squad project which saw rods and stones used on a stretch of road between Merkenersch and Dobersberg one member said: "Seven years on there has been no serious accidents on this stretch of road - even though the number of cars using the road has doubled during this time".

Some are however doubtful of the Druid's powers, claiming it is more likely that accidents stopped because drivers slowed down to look at the rocks.

JUST another day at the office for Iron Man.

Massive Iron Man fan, Wang Kang, shocked his co-workers at a local telecommunication company in Shanghai, after turning up to work in a home-made replica of the Tony Stark iron suit made famous by actor Robert Downey Junior.

"No colleagues knew my mission, and some of them froze as I approached, and some were even screaming," Wang said.

After the initial shock workers from various departments began to follow Wang, before he was warned by security to remove the suit because it was not good for the company image.

The company's directors however were thrilled with Wang's creation, saying it was "good for stimulating a company culture".

Have you registered yet?

*Register before **30 June 2011** for Pharmacy Practice Incentives to receive your start-up payments.*

*Register at **www.5cpa.com.au***

*Phone **1300 555 262** or email **support@5cpa.com.au** for more information*

