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The passing of the baton

THE National Council of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has named George Tambassis as Interim Council Nominee for the role of National President, which will become vacant in Oct when Kos Sclavos steps down (PD 16 Apr).

Tambassis is a community pharmacist from Victoria and has been that state's Guild Branch President since 2011.

He owns pharmacies in both rural and suburban Victoria, and has been in the industry for 25 years.

The Council said it was making the nomination now to provide a smooth transition, "whereby the nominated person has the opportunity to build networks with Members and stakeholders."

"It is intended that the nominee will spend considerable time between now and October visiting the Branches, meeting pharmacy, political and other stakeholders around Australia, and building a strong relationship with the National Secretariat," a statement issued yesterday said.

Tambassis, who's pictured above



with Sclavos, said he was humbled by the responsibility that National Council had given him.

"I am looking forward to receiving Members' input, and to hearing any concerns they have, wherever they may be," he said.

And Sclavos congratulated George on his appointment, saying that as National President he had seen Tambassis' collaborative approach at first hand.

"He has a passion for the ongoing viability of community pharmacy and the role of pharmacists".

Sclavos will remain as National President until his resignation takes formal effect in October, at which point National Council will formally appoint his successor.

PSA President Grant Kardachi welcomed the appointment, saying having a handover period would give Tambassis an opportunity to tap into Sclavos' "enormous wealth of knowledge and experience".

pac13 PAC13 Update

PSA is pleased to announce that the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Graham Quirk, will be hosting the PAC13 networking event – Meet the Profession, in the fabulous newly renovated Brisbane Town Hall.

This event will bring together pharmacy owners and experienced senior pharmacy industry representatives to meet any delegates looking to increase their professional network or get advice about how to make the next move in their career.

Built between 1920 and 1930, the heritage-listed City Hall is seen as the heart of Brisbane and has been the backdrop to many cultural, social and civic events. For the past three years the building has undergone significant restoration and repair work and is now re-open to the public.

The Meet the Profession networking event is on Friday 11 October in Brisbane Town Hall from 7:30pm. Due to the location, this event is strictly limited to 150 people. You can register for the event as part of your PAC13 registration at www.psa.org.au/pac.

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Only applicants currently registered with AHPRA will be considered and only those required for an interview will be contacted.



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For details call 13 13 81.

Aspen Bio-Oil response

ASPEN Australia has reacted to recent advertisements by United Prestige for Bio-Oil (*PD* 05 Jun), saying that it has no association with United Prestige and did not authorise the use of its name.

United Prestige caused a stir late last month (*PD* 20 May) when it invited independent pharmacies to "bypass big wholesalers" via its global network which sources "one-off opportunities [for] clearing brand name parcels direct from over 50 countries".

In the ads United Prestige claimed that it "legally imports into Australia Bio-Oil - just ask Aspen," while the United Prestige website also states that the product is brought in legally under a Federal Court agreement signed last Dec.

Aspen Australia Head of Consumer OTC, Robert Barnes, says he wants to clear up "confusion in the market," and denies any agreement with United Prestige allowing it to legally import Bio Oil into Australia.

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"Aspen holds the exclusive license to distribute Bio Oil in Australia, which complies with Australian product, packaging and labelling requirements," Barnes said, adding that it accepts no responsibility for the quality of any products not purchased via the official channel.

"Aspen is not aware of the party from which United Prestige purchases its Bio Oil stock and as such cannot comment on the source, legality or authenticity of the product being supplied by United Prestige," he added.

Aspen also reminded pharmacists that it "has invested and continues to invest significant amounts of money building the Bio Oil brand, including extensive TV advertising, and will continue to do so to support this brand".

Some other products advertised by United Prestige have also generated a reaction from their local representatives, with *PD* asked to remove some non TGA-approved items from the advertisements.

Leading NZ pharmacy

DAVID'S Pharmacy in the small New Zealand North Island township of Kamo has been named the NZ Community Pharmacy of the Year, with the NZ Guild's 2013 Pharmacy Awards taking place last Sat at the Langham Hotel in Auckland.

This year the awards reflected a new judging methodology, based on a "net promoter score" from patients on how likely they would be to recommend each pharmacy to a friend or colleague.

More than 18,000 patients from 253 community pharmacies took part in the survey.

Preventive symposium

PRACTITIONERS in preventive health and health promotion are being invited to a public session as part of the National Preventive Health Research Symposium in Canberra later this month.

The session will take place at ANU on 26 Jun from 2.30pm - for more information and to register email aui.oravala@anpha.gov.au.

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Priceline's top franchisees

PRICELINE Pharmacy has recognised its leading franchisees, with Priceline Pharmacy Helensvale in Queensland named as the Store of the Year.

The recognition was made during the annual Priceline franchise conference in Bali, with joint winners of the Pharmacists of the Year award which went to Renee Kaye from Bundaberg Qld and Bev Mistry from Woden in NSW.

The Retail Manager of the Year award went to Vanessa Boardman from Capalaba in Queensland.

API md Stephen Roche said "Every year we are pleased to award and acknowledge those individuals and stores that have demonstrated a combination of outstanding commercial results, great customer service and a high level of commitment to the programs and charities that Priceline Pharmacy supports".

Criteria vary for each category,

however all winners must operate in accordance with Priceline's overall brand standards, values and requirements.

"The awards also acknowledge high performance across criteria including customer service, commercial results, participation in Priceline Pharmacy campaigns and initiatives and mystery shopping results," the company said.

UK nicotine regulation

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has announced that all nicotine-containing products, such as electronic cigarettes, are to be regulated as medicines.

The move aims "to make these products safer and more effective to reduce the harms of smoking," with the move following a consultation showing widespread support for regulation.

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DAILY

Pfizer to receive US\$2.15b in damages

PFIZER has announced a massive settlement with generic manufacturers Teva and Sun Pharmaceutical, who will pay it US\$2.15 billion to settle a patent infringement case.

The agreement covers the launches of generic Protonix (pantoprazole) in the USA, and will compensate Pfizer for losses incurred when Teva and Sun launched generic versions of the medication before its patent expired in January 2011.

Teva will pay \$1.6 billion and Sun will pay \$550 million, after a court ruling that the generic versions of the proton pump inhibitor infringed a Takeda patent which is licensed to Pfizer's Wyeth business in the US.

According to Pfizer the settlement deal was reached just before the commencement of a trial to determine damages.

Teva launched its generic Protonix in Dec 2007, while Sun's version came out in Jan 2008.

Pfizer said that sales of Protonix dropped almost 60% to \$806m in 2008 after the generic releases.

DISPENSARY CORNER

YES, there's even an app for that.

The Venezuelan toilet paper crisis (**PD** 21 May) shows no sign of abating, but a new smartphone app has been developed to help desperate citizens keep on wiping.

Called Abasteceme ("Supply Me" in English), the free Android app uses "crowdsourcing technology" to alert users about which supermarkets have stock.

Released last week, the app has already been downloaded more than 12,000 times.

The crisis is being blamed on official price controls, but some politicians are claiming that anti-government forces are deliberately buying up basic items to destabilise the country.

The app was created by Jose Augusto Montiel, who said "lots of things are in short supply, but what people are most worried about is finding toilet paper."

"People never knew how much they needed it until it started running out," he added.

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WIN A MILKY FOOT PACK



This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a **Milky Foot** pack, valued at \$29.95 each.

Milky Foot, the effortless way to exfoliate your feet, has now launched a new improved formula with 3D socks for enhanced comfort. The new formula provides even faster application time (only 45 minutes), faster peeling (from 3 days after application) and a new wrap-around-design foot sock. Milky Foot have even added a new

ingredient (Almond Milk) which means there's less irritation for those with sensitive skin.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/milkyfoot.

To win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

How many days after new Milky Foot's application will feet start to peel?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Lachlan Rose** from **Manly Vale Pharmacy**.