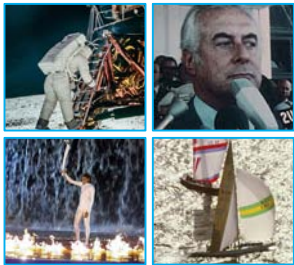


## Intern exam results

**THE** Australian Pharmacy Council has released the results of intern written examinations which were taken earlier this month.

Interns who sat the exams should have received an email explaining how to access their results.

## Where were you when history was made?



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## Guild confirms Tambassis

**THE** resignation of the Guild's National President, Kos Slavos, took effect this morning, with Victorian pharmacist George Tambassis confirmed unanimously as the new National President effective immediately.

Tambassis has been the President of the Guild's Victorian Branch since 2011, and is a working pharmacist with 25 years' experience in pharmacies in rural and suburban Victoria.

Kos Slavos announced earlier this year (**PD** 15 Apr) that he would step down in October after eight years in the position, to provide a smooth transition for the Guild's most senior elected post, with Tambassis then nominated Interim Council Nominee for the role.

"I congratulate George on his election," Slavos said, adding that 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."

"I thank George for the smooth transition which will ensure the Guild pursues its key issues and projects in a seamless manner."

## Perioperative NOAC's

**REPATRIATION GENERAL** Hospital (RGH) has released this week's RGH Bulletin this time with a focus on the complex issues surrounding the use of the novel anticoagulants perioperatively.

Balancing the bleeding risk and risk of thrombosis is different with each of the NOACs - **CLICK HERE.**



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## CORRECTION

Prestige Premium Deals, United Prestige Clearance, United Prestige Group, Mr Andrew Christopher and Mr Kenneth Bridge made a number of statements in respect of Aspen Pharmacare Australia (**Aspen**) and the Bio-Oil product which they formally retract and correct as set out below.

1. Aspen does not know and cannot provide any comment as to whether Prestige Premium Deals, United Prestige Clearance, United Prestige Group, Mr Andrew Christopher or Mr Ken Bridge legally import Bio-Oil into Australia.

2. No agreement exists or has ever existed between Aspen, Geneva Laboratories and Prestige Premium Deals, United Prestige Clearance and United Prestige Group authorising or entitling Prestige Premium Deals, United Prestige Clearance or United Prestige Group to sell Bio-Oil in Australia.

3. Aspen does not endorse, approve or authorise the importation of Bio-Oil into Australia, for sale and/or promotion, by itself or with any other product, by Prestige Premium Deals, United Prestige Clearance, United Prestige Group, Mr Andrew Christopher or Mr Kenneth Bridge.

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## Pharmacist arraigned

A NEW Zealand pharmacist is to appear before the NZ Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal in relation to selling prescription drugs over the internet.

According to the *New Zealand Herald*, the Auckland-based pharmacist dispensed unusually high doses of medications including Risperdal, used to treat acute and chronic psychoses.

Pharmacist and Council professional standards advisor Barbara Moore said the quantities dispensed were concerning.

## Less exercise is more

WHEN it comes to exercising for weight loss new data has now confirmed that less can be more.

In a paper recently published in *The Scandinavian Journal of Public Health*, researchers showed that a 30 minute workout was more effective than 60 minutes because of the impact it had on energy available for the rest of the day.

Those who exercised for a full hour had a sense of exhaustion, were demotivated and were less open to making a healthy change.

Those who exercised vigorously for 30 minutes, were left with more energy encouraging them to take the stairs, cycle to work or take the dog for a walk as well.

## Life-saving skills for staff

THE National Heart Foundation of Australia has developed an online learning module titled *BeAWARE Pharmacy* for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants to help them educate customers with heart disease about the warning signs of heart attack.

The Heart Foundation's national CEO, Dr Lyn Roberts, said the module has been based on the successful *BeAWARE of warning signs of heart attack and stroke*, which was developed for GPs.

"Our first e-training module for general practice staff was launched in May last year and has since been completed by more than 3,000 health professionals," she said.

"It was so popular we had pharmacy professionals asking if there was a module available for them too – so from there the Pharmacy module was born.

"As well as educating staff on the warning signs of heart attack, the module also provides information on angina medication and when to take it when experiencing warning signs," Roberts said.

She said that pharmacists are well positioned to provide continual education, with heart disease patients usually visiting pharmacies at least once a month for repeats.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia spokesperson, Anthony Tassone said community pharmacy staff are at the forefront of healthcare in our community with a network of over 5000 pharmacies across Australia.

"Pharmacists are our most accessible health professionals, and increasing their knowledge along with their staff in such a critical area is essential.

"It literally could save somebody's life," Tassone said.

Upon completion of the module pharmacy staff can order a Heart Foundation resource pack which includes material for customers to take home as well as in-store promotional collateral to help pharmacists promote their education role to patients.

*BeAWARE* is free to all pharmacists and pharmacy assistant staff - **CLICK HERE** to access the module through the Heart Foundation, or go to the Guild Pharmacy Academy online at [www.mycpd.org.au](http://www.mycpd.org.au).

## PBA board vacancy

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia is calling for expressions of interest for a community member to join the board.

National Board appointments are made by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council, under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force in each state and territory.

This appointment is for up to three years with options.

For details **CLICK HERE**.

## Bushfire disruptions

PHARMACISTS in and near the bushfire affected areas in NSW have been reminded by the Guild of the provisions regarding continuation of supply of PBS and other products given the State of Emergency declared on the weekend.

The advice relates to Patient Entitlement, the 3-day emergency supply rule without subscription, the "owing prescription" option, Continued Dispensing, Medicines subject to the 4/20 day rule, PBS Authority line 1800 888 333 (PBS) and 1800 552 580 (RPBS), medicine distribution arrangements, emergency pharmacy relocation, telecommunications impact on the PBS line and claiming missing prescriptions.

For further details relating to pharmacy supplies impacted by bushfire effects, ring the Pharmaceutical Benefits Division (02) 6289 1555 or **CLICK HERE**.

Meanwhile, the NPS has closed off Be Medicinewise Week by reminding people in bushfire and smoke affected areas to remember to store and manage their medicines wisely despite the emergency conditions.

A series of recommendations from the NPS Medicinewise team include:

Store medicines at home below 25-30°C, but not usually in the refrigerator.

Create a sealed cool dry place out of the reach of children.

Because many medications are damaged by heat, eg., gelatin capsules, and some liquid medicines and injection vials, take special care while travelling.

## WIN A DERMA E TEA TREE PACK

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a **Derma Tea Tree Pack**, including Tea Tree & E Antiseptic Crème, and Tea Tree & E Face and Body Wash.

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The Derma e Tea Tree range includes Tea Tree & E Antiseptic Crème, and Tea Tree & E Face and Body Wash, to refresh your skin and help remove bacteria. The Derma e Tea Tree range uses the highest-quality tea tree oil in effective quantities. It also contains Vitamin E, to soothe and nourish the skin, as it disinfects.

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Hint! Visit: [www.dermaenaturalskincare.com.au](http://www.dermaenaturalskincare.com.au)

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## Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Paul Rowe**, Managing Director of The Business Squad.



## A World of Pharmacy

There is a growing trend in European pharmacy for combining some old-world apothecary knowledge with modern trends. Mostly focused around the cosmetic and beauty obsessions, pharmacists are putting their skills to use producing customised beauty products instead of medicines – and it's paying off!

One of Amsterdam's oldest drugstores, 'Jacob Hooy' are specialising in specially blended remedies from hand cream to face oils, all with organic, naturally derived ingredients.

London's 'Farmacia' dispenses handmade goodies such as organic lavender hand cream and hair products and its products have made their way into British Airways first class cabins.

This trend can be found in many a pharmacy in Paris, Rome and other beautiful locations around the world and it could herald a new lease of life for the traditional apothecary.

Our ever-growing obsession with beauty has become almost interlinked with health and customers are looking for more holistic, organic and natural remedies – something that can be tailor made and feel exclusive and luxurious.

Producing small batch cosmetics may not be for every pharmacist, but it is one way we can try to beat the supermarkets, warehouse models and online shops and re-take a slice of this lucrative industry.

Worth thinking about!

## Sigma awards top suppliers



**LAST** week at the 2013 Sigma Supplier Gala Dinner and Awards celebration, Reckitt Benckiser was named the Sigma Supplier of the Year for 2013.

Reckitt Benckiser sales director Kerry Miller said the award was a great honour, underpinning the strong relationship that had been built between RB and Sigma over the last couple of years, "with strong teams that are dedicated to delivering results day-in day-out.

"Both businesses have a very pragmatic approach in challenging times," he said.

"Our strategies are aligned which enables us to maximise opportunities and address challenges - key ingredients to growing our partnership for mutual success in the future," he said.

The evening was themed in Great Gatsby style and took place at the Plaza Ballroom in Melbourne, with finalists and award winners in twelve categories honoured in the presence of Sigma Ambassadors Georgie Parker for Amcal and Amcal Max, and Cindy Pan for Guardian Pharmacy.

As well as taking out the Supplier of the Year award, Reckitt Benckiser was also named Retail/Merchandise Supplier of the Year and Medicinal Supplier of the Year.

Kimberly-Clark was Sigma's FMCG

Supplier of the Year while Sanofi Aventis Consumer Health took out the Health & Wellbeing Supplier of the year, and Ethical/PBS Supplier of the Year was Aspen Pharma, which also won Generics Supplier of the Year.

AstraZeneca was Sigma's Wholesale Supplier of the Year, and Beauty/Gifting Supplier of the Year was Orchard International.

Other winners included GSK Ethical for Branded Supplier of the Year; Optimo Designs for Services Supplier of the Year; and Crosier Scott Architects which took out Retail Support Supplier of the Year.

Sigma chief operating officer Gary Dunne said the awards were a recognition of the "critical importance of developing strong partnership with suppliers, in order for Sigma to better service our pharmacy customers".

Sigma added significance to the event by collecting money from ticket & auction sales and consequently donating \$30,000 toward their charity partner Save the Children Australia.

Guests were also treated to a live performance from the cast of the Melbourne hit musical 'King Kong'.

**Pictured** above from left are Reckitt Benckiser's Kerry Miller, Joel Mann and Mitchell Ellicott with Georgie Parker and Cindy Pan.

## Irish drug shortages

**THE** Irish Pharmacy Union has alerted the public to a "serious shortage in key medicines," flagging issues with supply of Augmentin.

Manufacturer GlaxoSmithKline has told hospitals and pharmacists that it was "experiencing a production capacity issue, which may affect the ability to meet patients' demands for the drug in Ireland and other countries".

There's enough stock until the end of Jan 2014 but then GSK expects no availability until the third quarter of the year.

However other suppliers have indicated they can provide alternatives for the Irish market.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**POLICE** have fined a 54-year-old British woman for riding while intoxicated, after she was found slumped over her mobility scooter.

According to the UK *Daily Mirror*, the woman claimed she had stopped because her back was sore, but it later emerged that she had recently enjoyed a rather extended liquid lunch at her local pub.

"I wasn't drunk," insisted Tina Morris, who refused to take a breathalyser test.

"I only had two or three double vodkas with my lunch. I was having a fag because my back was hurting," she added.

**CUSTOMS** authorities in Switzerland have managed quite a haul, with the interception of a shipment of more than one million fake Xanax tablets.

Four crates of the medication were en route from China to Egypt and were apparently quite difficult to recognise as counterfeit medicines, with genuine-looking packaging.

However testing by the country's medicines agency Swissmedic "revealed that the drugs, which are prescribed to treat symptoms of acute anxiety, contained no active ingredients whatsoever".