

Meds control is key

KEEPING pace with advancements in medication management is essential for pharmacy owners moving forward, says George Castrisos, pharmacist and ceo of MPS Australia.

Castrisos will speak on *The future of medication management – how it will impact your pharmacy and what you can do about it*, on Mar 13, 2014, at the Australian Pharmacy Guild's APP Conference on the Gold Coast.

A pharmacist of more than 20 years, Castrisos has long been an advocate of automated medication packing and management since founding his company Medication Packaging Systems in 1997.

Ranbaxy FDA alert

RANBAXY has said it received a notice from the US Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) regarding possible violations.

The notice referred to the company's Toansa active-pharmaceutical-ingredients manufacturing plant in Punjab, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

The company was assessing the observations and would respond to the FDA, the publication said.

To read more [CLICK HERE](#).

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Guild: innovate for 2014

PHARMACY Guild of Australia (PGA) executive director David Quilty said the coming year must be one of consolidation and innovation for community pharmacies to withstand cost pressures and revenue reductions due to the price disclosure scheme.

Pharmacy Daily has asked peak industry body leaders their expectations for the coming year.

In this **PART I** of three responses, Quilty said that while the Guild supported price disclosure as a public policy measure, it was reaping bigger than expected savings for taxpayers which had a damaging impact on pharmacy bottom lines.

"These pressures will only get worse in 2014 because of the acceleration of price disclosure announced by the former Government in August and enacted by the Coalition Government late last year.

The Guild will continue to urge the Government to adjust pharmacy remuneration to lighten the impact of the price disclosure acceleration."

Quilty said Australian community pharmacies were proving their value every day through their roles

as health care hubs.

The Guild was a strong advocate for expanding professional pharmacy services.

"So we look for to 2014 being a year in which value can be added to the work of pharmacies, in a way which will be mutually beneficial for patients and for the 60,000 people working in pharmacy."

New models would be feasible only if pharmacies were properly remunerated the core role of dispensing medicine responsibly.

Quilty said pharmacies needed to adapt to tough economic times by driving efficiencies and broadening practices.

"In a nutshell, the challenge for pharmacies in 2014 is to broaden their scope of services, while maintaining quality, and ensuring financial viability."

Constitution altered

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has notified the Fair Work Commission of an alteration to its constitution.

The changes relate to the election of office bearers.

To read the details [CLICK HERE](#).

Arbonne creme recall

THE Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) has recalled Arbonne Europe Sarl's RE9 Advanced Restorative Day Creme SPF 15 3mL sample tubes from Lot 45284.

The product contained *Enterobacter gergoviae* bacteria, posing a risk of infection to immunocompromised individuals.

It was part of a sample set which only authorised independent consultant distributors registered with Arbonne could buy.

For more details [CLICK HERE](#).

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New NPS members

NPS MedicineWise has three new honorary members.

Gerard Stevens, founder and managing director of Webstercare, Dr John Aloizos, GP and former chair of APAC, and Tony Wade, a longstanding member of the PHARM committee.

NPS MedicineWise board chair Dr Janette Randall said the new members had each made significant contributions over many years to the quality use of medicines in their chosen fields.

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See www.insightvacations.com.

Hideaway Island Resort and Marine Sanctuary has special offers in place for the low season in Bungalows and Villa for sale to 31 January 2014 and valid for travel: 31 March 2014 - ask your travel agent about pay for 4 and stay 5 nights deals and \$50 room credits.

PSA: Report backs shift

A REPORT commissioned by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in the United Kingdom reinforces the need for practice change, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) president Grant Kardachi has said.

Published in November, the report, *Now or Never: Shaping Pharmacy for the Future*, said the traditional model of community pharmacy would be challenged due to economic austerity, a crowded market and changing technology.

"A broader role for pharmacists as caregivers will be central to securing the future of community pharmacy."

Kardachi said shifting pharmacy from supply to a greater focus on the provision of a broader range of services was a view echoed by the PSA.

The report said pharmacists had a role in helping the health system make the shift from acute to integrated care, and fulfilling the need to do more for less.

Pharmacists increasingly provided services that helped people stay well and use their medicines effectively, it said.

"However the pace of change remains slow, and financial and structural incentives are not sufficiently aligned to support it."

Kardachi said the reduced margins from dispensing and other pressures meant a change was needed.

"Pharmacists as caregivers" was the way the industry needed to see itself, and be seen by patients and customers, he said.

Pharmacists had the skills and knowledge to act as caregivers but have been largely underutilised he

added.

"Part of the reason for this is the lack of recognition of our abilities but our own reluctance to move from our comfort zone of dispensing contributes to the problem.

"We need to build changes into the way we do business – in community pharmacy and in other areas of practice – to ensure that our practices change in line with new services."

To read the report, **CLICK HERE**.

FDA curbs paracetamol

FDA is recommending health care professionals discontinue prescribing and dispensing prescription combination drug products that contain more than 325 milligrams (mg) of acetaminophen (paracetamol) per tablet, capsule or other dosage unit.

The concerns relate to the potential for hepatotoxicity.

CLICK HERE for details.



DISPENSARY CORNER

BEE sensor-ble.

Those crazy cool cats at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) are fitting up to 5000 tiny sensors to thousands of Australian honey bees to monitor the insects and their environment.

CSIRO aimed to improve honey bee pollination and productivity on farms, as well as understand the drivers of Colony Collapse Disorder.

The sensors measure 2.5mm by 2.5mm and are being fixed to the backs of bees in Hobart.

SKYNET, anyone?

RoboEarth, a world wide web for robots, will be tested at Eindhoven University, with four robots using the mutual learning system to refine tasks including serving drinks to patients in a mock hospital room, *BBC News* reported.

WIN A THERMOSKIN SPORTS PACK

Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with *Thermoskin* this week and is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a Thermoskin pack from their New Sport Range, valued at \$65.

Leading Australian injury prevention and rehabilitation brand, *Thermoskin*, provides effective treatment with its New Sport Range of products designed to be worn during active performance.

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