

LOVE IT

“I LOVE eRx Express. I am having lots of fun with it!! Have just had my 83 year old customer send me her 7 scripts from her iPhone!”

Fiona Wailes, Kofoeds Pharmacy

Medical devices fund

APPLICATIONS for stage two of the New South Wales medical devices fund are now open.

The NSW government awarded a total of \$10.3 million to five medical technologies last year.

These included tech using elastotherapy or the elastin protein to naturally repair skin.

A further \$7.7 million is now available in this second round, the Minister for Health Jillian Skinner said.

For more, [CLICK HERE](#).

Health ministers at APP

THE Assistant Minister for Health Senator the Honourable Fiona Nash will present at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition (APP).

During her presentation, Senator Nash will discuss the potential role of pharmacy in primary health care, the Pharmacy Guild said.

“Senator the Hon Fiona Nash is passionate about ensuring that all Australians have equitable access to health care.”

The Guild told *Pharmacy Daily* that they are delighted that senior representatives of the Abbott Government are attending APP this year, including Health Minister Peter Dutton and assistant Minister for Health Senator Fiona Nash.

“This is a critical time for

pharmacy in this country as we face the need to transform and innovate to remain viable and to maximise our contribution to the health system,” a Guild spokesperson said.

“The fact that senior ministers have taken time from their busy schedules to attend and contribute to community pharmacy’s premier event is acknowledged and appreciated.”

Oz pharm tweetchat?

AN AUSTRALIAN version of the UK #weph chats could be on its way.

We Pharmacists holds tweetchats on Twitter using the hashtag #weph, about pharmacy topics, with its first pharmacy-focussed tweetchat held last week (22 Jan) about pharmacist access to patient records.

When Twitter user and APHS Pharmacy Group partner Cathie Reid suggested an Australian version to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (PGA) and to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia chief executive Liesel Wett, the PGA replied that it was a fantastic idea which it was interested in.

“We’ll put our thinking hats on.”

Wett, in turn, said “We’re in!!”

J&J Q4 sales strong

NEW York Stock Exchange listed Johnson & Johnson (JNJ) reported last week Q4 2013 sales of \$18.4b, an increase of 4.5% vs Q4 for the previous year.

Full year sales for 2013 were \$71.3b, up 6.1% from 2012 reported *The Wall Street Journal*.

The pharmaceutical business was the key driver with strong performance also by key OTC and other consumer brands especially Tylenol, Motrin, Neutrogena, Aveeno and Listerine.



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PBS site goes mobile

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) has announced the release of both a smartphone and tablet version of their website.

The mobile version can be accessed directly via m.pbs.gov.au.

The PBS is also seeking feedback about the mobile version: to comment email pbs.webmaster@health.gov.au

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WHAT'S HOT IN NSW 2014?

Immunisation Service Delivery Workshop

Welcome Function: Friday 21 Feb, 5pm - 7pm

Special Guest - the Hon. Jillian Skinner,

Minister for Health & Minister for Medical Research

Guild Industry Forum – ‘be heard’ Sunday 23 Feb

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PSA congrats Gilbert

FORMER PSA Pharmacist of the Year and recipient of the PSA Lifetime Achievement Award, Emeritus Professor Andrew Gilbert, has been made a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day honours awards in recognition of his significant service to pharmacy as an educator, researcher and administrator, and for his service to professional organisations.

National President of the PSA, Grant Kardachi, said Emeritus Professor Gilbert was a most worthy recipient of the award.

"Andrew is an inspiration to the profession and his work on medication management is at the cutting edge of developing sustainable pathways for the future," he said.

"His commitment to the profession and to all pharmacists is something that sets an example for all young pharmacists."

AMA opposes S3 ad calls

THE Australian Medical Association (AMA) has opposed the calls for a relaxation of the restrictions on advertising of pharmacy only (S3) medicines.

AMA president Dr Steve Hambleton said there were good reasons for the restrictions, including a lack of knowledge, the *Medical Observer* reported.

"If you have a cold and buy Lemsip and then have a headache and take Panadeine you can have an overdose situation because people don't realise that paracetamol is in both products."

Dr Hambleton said the AMA did not want to see any changes.

"We do need a trained health professional to make sure that people are not getting important medicines mixed up and pharmacists have an important role in interviewing people."

A study sponsored by ASMI

revealed that common minor ailments take up to 7% of GP consultation time which over the course of a year amounts to the equivalent of 1,000 GP's working full time, the publication reported.

The Guild has consistently stated that, "We support measures which emphasise the importance of seeking the advice of pharmacists in relation to the quality use of all medicines" (PD 24 Jan).

To read more, [CLICK HERE](#).

New LDL lowering drug

AMGEN'S anti-cholesterol drug evolocumab lowered levels of 'bad' LDL cholesterol in 307 patients unable to tolerate statin drugs.

This was the third successful Phase III test of the drug, *Reuters* reported, with the drug meeting primary endpoints in the multicentre, double-blind trial involving 307 patients.

The trial is one of 13 such studies which are planned to include a total of more than 28,000 patients

It inhibited proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 (PCSK9), a protein that reduced the liver's ability to remove LDL cholesterol from the blood, Amgen said.

Amgen R&D executive vice president Sean E. Harper said the positive results suggested the drug might offer a new lipid-lowering treatment to meet "an important medical need for high-risk patients who cannot tolerate effective doses of statins."

Amgen said according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 71 million American adults have high LDL cholesterol.

For more, [CLICK HERE](#).

No bones about Vit D

A STUDY published in the *Lancet* has said there was little reason to prescribe vitamin D supplements to healthy adults to reduce the risk of diseases or fractures.

Titled '*The effect of vitamin D supplementation on skeletal, vascular, or cancer outcomes: a trial sequential meta-analysis*', the study's findings suggested that vitamin D supplementation with or without calcium did not reduce skeletal or non-skeletal outcomes in unselected community-dwelling individuals by more than 15%.

"Future trials with similar designs are unlikely to alter these conclusions."

This came after analysing more than 100 trials, the *BBC* reported.

However at-risk groups such as pregnant women and the elderly were still advised to take supplements, the publication said.

To read the study, [CLICK HERE](#).

AJPB & MedImpact

STOP, collaborate and listen; the *American Journal of Pharmacy Benefits* (AJPB) will collaborate with MedImpact Healthcare Systems to write the journal's 'Drug Trends' column, six times a year.

AJPB publisher Brian Haug said the editorial partnership would provide readers with insights from experts who handled pharmacy needs for millions of Americans, from all walks of life.

The first column will appear in the January/February issue, featuring observations about medications which treat diabetes, hypertension and cholesterol.

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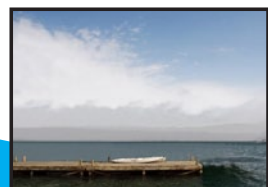
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Contraceptive review

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) has started a review of emergency contraceptives to assess whether any changes should be made to the product information relating to levonorgestrel or ulipristal acetate.

For more, [CLICK HERE](#).

Guild Update

Survey Invitation

All pharmacy educators, preceptors and interns are invited to participate in a survey and enter a draw to win an iPad mini!

The purpose of this survey is to determine the current use, knowledge and acceptance of Australian Competency Standards Framework for Pharmacists and other Pharmacy Education Outcomes in Australian pharmacy education and training.

Through participation in this study, you will have the opportunity to help inform the current landscape of pharmacy education in Australia. This will help to fill a gap that has been identified in the literature and may help inform the future direction of pharmacy education in Australia

If you wish to go in the draw for an iPad mini, enter your email in the short form provided at the end of this survey. This information cannot be linked to your survey responses in anyway.

If you wish to complete the survey, please [click here](#).

You will then be automatically redirected to the SurveyMonkey tool. The survey should take 5 minutes to complete and consists of 26 questions.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

NAPSA ramps up skill-set

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) has kicked off its Congress 2014 aiming to refine pharmacy practice skills through a wide array of activities as well as focusing on "areas of health that have generated much attention in recent times."

Over 250 delegates met at La Trobe University, Bendigo Campus, for the week-long National Congress on 25 Jan.

Activities this year will assess a pharmacy student's ability to work efficiently and accurately.

The areas of health being addressed include oral rehydration therapy, diabetes education and the management of respiratory conditions in a community setting.

Other important elements of the week are participation in the Pharmacy Student of the Year

counselling competition and the Webster Packing and Compounding Challenges.

NAPSA congress chair, John Traynor said "We look forward to seeing our delegates connect with representatives from our industry's peak bodies."

"The Industry Trade Show will allow students to establish these connections prior to entering the workforce."

You can keep in touch with the event via Twitter: [#NAPSACongress](#) or Facebook: [www.facebook.com/auspharmacystudents](#)

Phcy practice review

NPS has launched a Pharmacy Practice Review online quality improvement activity with a focus on *Medicines in older people*.

The activity identifies medicines-related problems in older people, recommendations around drug choice, dosing and duration together with general principles and strategies to minimise risk.

This activity has been accredited for 8 hours of Group 2 CPD (16 CPD credits) suitable for your CPD plan.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

New HIV Rx approval

VIIV Healthcare Australia announced today that Tivicay (dolutegravir) has been approved by the TGA for combination treatment of HIV infection under specific circumstances.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more detail.

It's all about...

MeMeMe

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** and **MeMeMe Cosmetics** are giving away Arch Angel brow kit and Lash Attack Mascara.

Beauty has a new obsession...

British boutique brand MeMeMe cosmetics' award winning Arch Angel is your ultimate secret weapon for bang on trend brows. Use this clever brow gel/highlighter combo to lift, brighten, tame and shape the brows.

Teamed with MeMeMe Lash Attack Mascara, formulated with fibre-lash technology for high impact lashes, this duo gives you all you need to set yourself apart from the crowd.

To win, be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](#).

WINNER
beautyheaven
Glosssears
2013



What sort of technology gives Lash Attack the ability to create high impact lashes?

DISPENSARY CORNER

ANYTHING to declare?

Colorado Springs Airport has installed marijuana amnesty boxes, after the drug became legal to purchase in the state.

Three green metal containers now sit in the terminal to prevent travellers from throwing bags of pot in the trash when transiting to other states where the drug is not legal, the *LA Times* reported.

The airport said the boxes would be monitored constantly and the Colorado Springs police would be responsible for emptying the boxes and destroying the drugs, the publication said.

I HAD a dream.

San Diego company iWinks says it has created a headband which allows you to control your dreams.

The Aurora headband plays lights and sounds during rapid eye movement (REM) to help sleepers become aware that they're dreaming - while they're asleep, the company said on its Kickstarter page.

The lucid dreaming headband has raised US\$239,094, with units expected to ship in June for US\$175, *Mashable* reported.

CRUISE with a difference.

Our cruise specials might have skipped the Lyubov Orlova with good reason - the Yugoslavian cruise liner is reportedly drifting across the North Atlantic with nothing but diseased rats as crew.

The ship was abandoned in a Canadian harbour after its owners ran into debt, then sold for scrap but lost when it came loose in a storm, the *Independent* reported.

The publication quotes "experts" as saying the ship was likely to contain hundreds of rats that had been eating each other to survive and must still be drifting, since no further lifeboat emergency beacons had been set off since March last year, when two signals were picked up, presumably from lifeboats falling into the water.