

## Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today has two pages of news plus a full page reminding pharmacies to order their **API Calendars**.

## AbbVie on BRW list

**FOR** the fourth year in a row, AbbVie Australia has been named on BRW's Most Innovative Companies in Australia list, for its innovative approach to ways of working.

The BRW recognition is based on a study that measures the drivers of innovation according to Inventium's best-practice Innovation Framework, ranking the top 50 companies.

AbbVie, ranked 21st, is one of only two healthcare companies listed this year, with Planet Innovation (a hearing aid company), MYOB and Mirvac taking out the top three spots.

"Innovation is more than a one off good idea, it is about implementing processes and a course of action to test, refine and continuously measure outputs to achieve a true ideas driven status," Inventium Founder Dr Amantha Imber said.

With over 240 employees in Australia, AbbVie, a biopharmaceutical company, has previously been recognised for its ability to deliver patient-centred programs that use the innovation technique of co-creation to improve health outcomes for patients, and this year has demonstrated their enabling of a culture where innovation is fundamental to the business, AbbVie gm Kirsten O'Doherty said.

## Primary health crossroad

**EXPANDING** primary care services in pharmacies could be a key element of the future health landscape in Australia, according to Consumers Health Forum ceo Leanne Wells.

Speaking at the annual forum of the Centre for Primary Health Care & Equity late last week, Wells said Australia is currently at a "crossroads in health" where "we need to rejuvenate health policy thinking".

She urged policy makers to take a patient-centred (rather than disease-centred or system-centred) approach.

"Health professions should be prepared to meet the consumer

where it's convenient for the consumer," Wells said.

"For primary care, this might mean expanding services in pharmacies, having better after-hours services, making better use of telemedicine, coming into consumers' homes and offices or in-reaching to supported accommodation and crisis homelessness services".

Wells said the government's recently constituted Primary Care Health Advisory Group has noted that Medicare is failing to meet the challenge of chronic care.

"We need broad changes in behaviour and culture," she said, such as shifting from a fee for service system to one which "rewards wrap-around, team-based care rather than one-off episodic services, particularly for those with chronic and complex conditions".

## APP input wanted

**THE** Pharmacy Guild is inviting pharmacists to give suggestions for business or clinical sessions as part of next year's Australian Pharmacy Professional (APP) conference.

The Guild said it wants to ensure the program "reflects the issues that matter most to you," with feedback to be provided via email to [events@qldguild.org.au](mailto:events@qldguild.org.au).

**MEANWHILE** a free APP2016 registration is on offer for pharmacies that send two staff members to the upcoming Pharmacy Assistant National Conference, taking place 15-17 Oct on the Gold Coast.

There's also the additional incentive of a chance to win \$500 Coles/Myer voucher for regos received during August.

See [pharmacyassistants.com](http://pharmacyassistants.com).

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## National Action Plan

**THE** US Department of Health and Human Services has been commissioned to convene a Federal Interagency Steering Committee to establish a National Action Plan to focus on adverse drug event (ADE) prevention, according to a release from the *Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety*.

The decision was made to target three medication classes: anticoagulants, diabetes agents (insulin and oral hypoglycemic agents), and opioids, the report said.

One measure of the ADE Action Plan's success will relate to the wider dissemination of information and educational resources.

## Illegal supplier jailed

**A BRITISH** man has been sentenced to 16 months incarceration for the illegal sale of erectile dysfunction drugs following an investigation by the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Sundeep Amin, aged 57 years old, pleaded guilty to 21 counts of importing, possessing and supplying unlicensed medicines, as well as admitting to possession of a large quantity of the controlled drug phenazepam and to laundering the proceeds of his crimes, the MHRA said.

Amin had no medical qualifications, said the regulatory body, but had several companies and a number of storage facilities across Essex with several large quantities of erectile dysfunction drugs en route to those addresses.

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# Pharmacy DAILY

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## Guild Update

### Guild Pharmacy of the Year Award 2016 to open soon

**NOMINATIONS** for next year's Pharmacy Guild of Australia Pharmacy of the Year Award are set to open to all Guild member pharmacies this week.

The competition will once again recognise and reward community pharmacy businesses who demonstrate excellence within their pharmacy.

Pharmacy Guild members can nominate themselves or a pharmacy business in the three categories Excellence in Business Management, Excellence in Community Engagement and Innovation in Professional Services.

Members have been encouraged to start thinking about their applications including reasons why their pharmacy business should be considered for the award.

This year also marks the official rebranding for the award, changing from QCPP Pharmacy of the Year to Pharmacy Guild of Australia Pharmacy of the Year Award.

Entries for the competition open 19 August 2015 and are set to close 14 October 2015.

Further competition details, including how to enter, will be available on [guild.org.au](http://guild.org.au) this week.

### Pharmacy Choice 6CPA roadshow

**PHARMACY** Choice members have been told the two biggest issues for independent pharmacies are the ability to manage staff and stock, during a recent national roadshow providing insight into the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Norman Thurecht and Mark Nicholson from business advisory firm Pitcher Pharmacy said slow-moving stock needs to be identified and replaced with "faster-moving, more customer-relevant lines that will improve cash flow".

Thurecht suggested changing KPIs for staff members, measuring indicators such as items sold per customer.

Pharmacy Choice national manager Luke McKinnon said the sessions also highlighted store performance benchmarking, focusing on measuring S3 sales and "the opportunity presented by dispense customers who haven't purchased retail products."

"Members were also told of the importance of changing from a transactional mindset to one focused on customer engagement," McKinnon added.

Pharmacy Choice now comprises more than 800 members across Australia.

### PBAC guidelines review

**NEW** guidelines on Preparation of Submissions to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) are to be opened for consultation following Minister for Health Sussan Ley approving the review.

Technical methods issues raised by the PBAC and stakeholders since the last substantial revision will be the main matters for consideration and stakeholders are invited to submit.

The public consultation closes on 31 Aug - see [www.pbs.gov.au](http://www.pbs.gov.au).

### Scripts found in street

**POLICE** in New Zealand's Lower Hutt are investigating after more than 100 prescriptions were found scattered along one of the city's streets.

They believe the incident is linked to a package which had been stolen from the back steps of a local pharmacy.

The *Dominion Post* reported NZ's Office of the Privacy Commissioner had been contacted by the pharmacy owner, who had provided a report of what had happened and confirmed it would now "make changes in its procedures in dealing with old and used prescriptions".



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### DISPENSARY CORNER

**THERE'S** a reason that exercise feels good, and its formal name is actually "irisin".

A report in the *Cell Metabolism* journal this week has confirmed the existence of the so-called "exercise hormone" which was found using mass spectrometry to be "significantly increased in individuals undergoing aerobic interval training".

Researchers from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute say that using the state-of-the-art technology they have "proven beyond doubt that irisin is real".

First discovered in 2012, there have apparently been divisions in the scientific community about the authenticity of the hormone.

Irisin is potentially important because it has been seen as giving a clue as to why exercise keeps people healthy.

**COULD** there be a clue to longevity in the life of 26-year-old Corduroy - an American cat which has just been documented as the oldest living feline in the world?

Corduroy was born on 01 Aug 1989, and is now more than ten years older than the average cat.

According to owner Reed Okura, "the secret has been allowing him to be a cat - hunting and getting plenty of love".

Apparently Corduroy loves chasing mice and eating cheddar cheese - a fine life indeed.

It's not the first time he has held the title of oldest living cat - Corduroy was listed in the Guinness Book of Records in 2013 but lost his crown when the owners of another cat, Tiffany Two, managed to prove that their animal was older.

Tiffany Two died last year at the age of 27, while the oldest living cat ever was Texas-based Creme Puff who died in 2005, aged 38.

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To win, be the first person from QLD to answer the question correctly. Send your answers to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

As featured on the HOYTS Corporate Solutions movie planner, name the movie released in cinemas on 1 Jan 2016.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Tim McLaren from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.



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