

MedAdvisor ceo

MEDICATION adherence software company MedAdvisor has announced the appointment of Robert Read as its chief executive officer, to help lead the company through its public listing (**PD** 17 Jun).

Read's career has included several roles growing early stage ventures into larger enterprises, with former roles at ANZ Private Equity and St George Bank - as well as being Director of Commercial Strategy and Operations at GlaxoSmithKline.

Founder Josh Swinnerton said the raising of additional capital would further the growth and development of MedAdvisor "while ensuring a continued market-leading position".

He said provision of services to pharmacies would continue to be a core focus, with additional capabilities planned which will allow stronger connections to patients and a "major new initiative allowing a broader range of health care professionals to interact with MedAdvisor, in partnership with pharmacies".

New degrees from Griffith

GRIFFITH University on the Gold Coast has announced an expansion of its degree program offerings in pharmacy and pharmacology due to strong demand for graduates.

Next year Griffith will launch Australia's first Bachelor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, along with a new graduate entry Master of Pharmacy degree, which will be the only one of its kind in Qld.

The new Bachelor of Pharmacology and Toxicology has been designed to fill a gap in demand areas such as chemicals, mining, agriculture and the environment.

The university is also offering it as a double degree with either business or law.

And the new Master of Pharmacy is offered for people who already have a science degree and are seeking a professional pathway into the pharmacy sector.

Griffith says it's responding to "booming job prospects within the pharmaceutical industry," along

with a "burgeoning image" of Griffith pharmacy graduates.

Professor Andrew Davey, from Griffith's Menzies Health Institute, said there is a real shortage of pharmacists throughout regional Queensland, as well as in the pharmaceutical industry working in clinical trials, government and research.

"This, along with the expanding role of the pharmacist in the overall healthcare of patients, means that there are fantastic opportunities for appropriately skilled graduates.

"From drug discovery to clinical use, from community pharmacy to pharmacovigilance, regulatory affairs and medication management, there are a whole host of career opportunities that graduates can undertake."

Davey said that according to government figures, within four months of graduation Griffith pharmacy students are either in a job or have advanced to undertake higher qualifications.

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PBS publications

FACT sheets on several Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement initiatives have been added to the PBS website.

They relate to the new **Administration, Handling and Infrastructure Fee** (click here); the **Premium Fee Dispensing Initiative** (click here); and **Adjusted Tier 2 Pricing** (click here).

There's also a frequently asked questions flyer relating to the **Transitioning of Herceptin Subsidy to the PBS** (click here).

The Department of Health has also advised of simplified documentation requirements for Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee submissions, with the changes effective from 08 Jul - see the website at pbac.pbs.gov.au.

API calendar orders

ORDERS for 2016 API pharmacy calendars are now being taken, with free delivery and a 5% discount for online ordering - see **page four** for details.

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FIP signs new code

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has joined other global health organisations in signing a new "Ethical principles of health care in times of armed conflict and other emergencies" code of behaviour.

The first-of-its-kind code follows information gathered by the Red Cross showing that in times of war healthcare workers are often coerced into acting unethically.

CLICK HERE to view.

PHARMAC feedback

THE New Zealand Pharmaceutical Management Agency (PHARMAC) has initiated a consultation process around the development of labelling preferences.

The objectives of establishing labelling preferences include to reduce preventable harm from medication errors, to provide guidance and transparency to suppliers, to ensure a consistent approach to assessment and align with international best practice.

GPs pro pharmacists

UNITED General Practice Australia (UGPA) - a coalition of seven doctor groups - has issued a statement of in-principle support for non-dispensing pharmacists to work in general practice.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has welcomed the move, with national president Joe Demarte saying the organisation has been working with the AMA and RACGP for some time to develop a model for a more integrated role for pharmacists in the primary care team (**PD** 28 May).

He said the support from UGPA is significant because it includes a wide range of GP organisations, and acknowledges that incorporating non-dispensing pharmacists in the team "has the potential to improve prescribing and the use of medicines, reduce hospital admissions from adverse drug events, and deliver better health outcomes for patients".

Demarte said the PSA model is an exciting step both for the medical profession and for pharmacists.

SHPA urges funding innovation

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has published a new position statement on the role of pharmacists in interdisciplinary teams.

The statement which was approved by SHPA Federal Council also urges the development of "innovative funding models" - potentially including Medicare reimbursement - in order to enable equitable access to pharmacist services across the continuum of care.

"The safe and effective use of medicines is underpinned by a patient-centred, collaborative and interdisciplinary team approach, where the right service is delivered at the right time, in the right location, by the right practitioner, to the right patient," SHPA said.

"SHPA believes that pharmacists should be part of such teams in all care settings across the health system to optimise outcomes from medicines for patients".

Examples of services provided

by team-based pharmacists could include medication reconciliation, medication management reviews, identification of medication-related problems and the development and documentation of medication management plans.

Pharmacists in such a setting would also provide education to individual patients as well as to other members of the health care team, the statement says.

Potential funding mechanisms are cited such as contracted/employed pharmacists in general practice, residential care and Aboriginal Health Services; pharmacists in hospital and community pharmacy settings; and "community pharmacies and pharmacists funded via the Community Pharmacy Agreement or, preferably, the Medicare Benefits Scheme".

SHPA said it believes medication management reviews should be available to patients at the highest risk of medication related problems "irrespective of the care setting".

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Free one-way business class airfare to China

CHINA specialists Wendy Wu Tours have released a new offer of a free one way business class airfare to China flying China Southern Airlines on a range of China fully inclusive group tours departing between 06 Oct and 10 Nov this year - but be quick this special is only available when you book between 01 and 15 Jul.

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BC screen rates down

BREAST cancer screening rates have dropped, according to new data released from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Participation rates for women aged 50 to 69 have fallen from a high of 57.6% in 2001-02 to 53.7% in 2013-14, the report said.

A recent major international analysis from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) confirmed the life-saving benefits of screening mammography with a 23% reduction in the risk of breast cancer.

Chair of Cancer Council Australia's Screening and Immunisation Committee, Associate Professor Karen Canfell, said the IARC analysis implied thousands of premature breast cancer deaths were prevented over the past 20 years, "a number that would be increased if more women participated in the screening program."

TGA fees update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has published an update of its fees and charges around prescription and non-prescription medicines, listed medicines, devices, good manufacturing practices, advertising and the Annual Charge Exemption (ACE) scheme and other charges - [CLICK HERE](#) to access.

PHARMAC contracts

NEW Zealand's Pharmaceutical Management Agency (PHARMAC) has announced contracts for the supply of medications.

The main sole-supply winners include Pfizer, Apotex, Hospira, API, Actavis, MundiPharma, AFT, Mylan and Radiant.

Hospital supply contract winners are also listed including GSK, Pfizer, Actavis, AFT, API, Jaychem, Baxter, Apotex, MundiPharma and Mylan.

Products for which PHARMAC does not intend to award sole supply or hospital supply status are also listed - [CLICK HERE](#) to access.

Organ donor support

EMPLOYERS who provide leave to employees who are donating their organs will receive extra support from the Health Department as of this month.

Assistant Minister for Health Fiona Nash announced a 50% increase on the period of time for which the government pays employers in that situation.

"We are proud to extend the Supporting Leave for Living Organ Donors Programme from six weeks to nine," Nash said.

"The programme aims to compensate for the time off work associated with living organ donation and encourage employers to support employees who choose to donate an organ."

DISPENSARY CORNER



CROCHET schmochet.

What do you do when you like crocheting but found the market for the traditional teapot cover has dried up?

The whimsically named Gypsy Apple Luck, 39, from Northland, New Zealand, has started crocheting any and everything from food, to adult toys to (and here's the medical link) body organs, according to stuff.co.nz.



She started with a uterus (why not?), then gradually completed as many organs as she could including a set of lungs and kidneys (**pictured**), eyes and more.

IN case you felt tired Tuesday night... you had an extra long day.

A whole second, a "leap-second", was added to your day at the end of June to allow the earth to catch up with atomic time.

Apparently it's all to do with the rate of decay of cesium atoms - which is apparently more accurate than the slowing earth's rotation.

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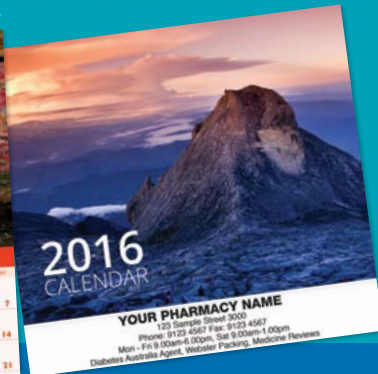
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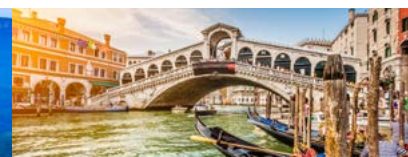
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