

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a full page from **Monash University**.

CSL rebadged Seqirus

GLOBAL biotherapeutics company CSL has announced that its influenza vaccines business will now operate under the brand Seqirus effective today, following the merger of the recently-acquired Novartis influenza business and its existing vaccines and pharmaceutical business bioCSL.

The Seqirus brand, which the company says derives from the phrase "securing health for all of us," includes a new logo and visual identity (pictured).



New EMA guidance

THE European Medicines Agency has released a new draft scientific guideline outlining how "post-authorisation efficacy studies" should be designed by companies to support regulatory decision making in the European Union.

The studies are conducted within the authorised indication after a medicine has been granted a marketing authorisation, to collect data on aspects of its benefits that can only be explored once the medicine is marketed.

See www.ema.europa.eu.



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Advanced recognition

THE Australian Pharmacy Council has awarded certificates to Australia's first ever Advanced Practice Pharmacists, who were among 43 participants in a pilot credentialing program undertaken by the APC.

67% of the pharmacists in the trial were evaluated at 'Advanced - Stage 3' (credential level) while the other third were evaluated at 'Advanced - Stage 2' (consolidation level), the APC said.

The program used the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Framework (APPF) for Australia as a tool for evaluating practitioner performance and guiding development.

Participants demonstrated the impact of their practice via a portfolio of their training, achievements and experience.

"Each portfolio was independently evaluated by panels of trained credentialing evaluators," the Council said, with evaluators including both pharmacists and other health professionals such as doctors and nurses.

APC president Debra Rowell said the pilot represented a substantial commitment to the broader community by the Council, which will now be undertaking further evaluation of the trial.

"The pilot program is a fantastic foundation for the future of formal professional development and recognition of pharmacists in Australia," said Dr Ian Coombes, inaugural chair of the APC Credentialing Committee.

Dr Shane Jackson, chair of



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the Pharmacy Practitioner Development Committee that developed the APPF, said it had been extremely satisfying to see it used in a constructive way to support professional development and ultimately recognise the achievements of the practitioner.

The outcome and feedback reports for participants identify professional strengths and opportunities for further development against the 30 competencies in the APPF.

"The report will be a helpful tool in complying with the learning plan requirements in the revised CPD registration standard recently announced by the Pharmacy Board of Australia," the APC said.

Pharmacists credentialed under the trial can use the post-nominative *Adv. Prac. Pharm.*

\$630m for research

THE federal government has confirmed the investment of more than \$600 million to support over 800 innovative medical research projects conducted by 2,200 Australian scientists.

Research into obesity prevention, cancer genomics and hereditary diseases are included, along with a new medication to treat severe ice addiction and new treatments for drug-resistant depression.

The ice addiction project will look at lisdexamphetamine, a substitute for methamphetamine in a clinical trial of around 240 people heavily dependent on ice over a four year period.

There's also a project looking at post-traumatic symptom disorder and new research to establish a link between shift work and pregnancy outcomes, according to health minister Sussan Ley.

From cancer patron to patient

PHARMACY Guild of Australia group executive Engagement & Advocacy Anne Dalton said she was totally unaware of her own brain cancer when ironically meeting in January this year with other executives to plan how the Guild would help raise awareness of the condition.

The meeting resulted in a number of joint initiatives, including an official and active partnership between the Pharmacy Guild and Cure Brain Cancer starting with national president George Tambassis jumping out of a plane and raising \$10,000 (**PD** 03 Mar).

As Dalton expressed it, her symptoms did not at first alert her to the malignant glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) which changed her in approximately two weeks from "patron to patient".

The final round of chemotherapy is about to be undertaken, Dalton said, following months of both radiation therapy and chemotherapy.

Fund-raising successes include the 'Beanies for Brain Cancer' and the current 'Walk 4 Brain Cancer' last weekend which has already raised



\$639,758 of its \$1,100,000 goal.

Pictured on the 'Walk 4 Brain Cancer' last Sunday are, left to right, Ann Dalton, Guild executive director David Quilty and Cure Brain Cancer Foundation campaign manager Jhaike Braham.

To see the results of the weekend fundraising walk or to add your own contribution, go to www.walk4braincancer.com.au.

AZ acquisition

ASTRAZENECA has announced a US\$2.7 billion deal to acquire US cardiovascular and metabolic disease specialist ZS Pharma.

Expected to settle before the end of the year, the acquisition will see AZ acquire ZS-9 (sodium zirconium cyclosilicate), a "potential best-in-class treatment for hyperkalaemia," the firm said.

US pharmacy probe

PROSECUTORS in several US states have confirmed investigations into "widespread fraud by compounding pharmacies" which are alleged to have made illegitimate claims to the health insurance program which covers almost 10 million US military personnel and their families.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, two of the pharmacies used salespeople who paid doctors to write prescriptions to patients - in some cases having not actually met them in person.

Guild Update

OTC Products Delisted

GUILD members would by now be aware that the Department of Health has published information about the over-the-counter products being de-listed from the PBS from 1 January 2016. The Government's intention is that consumers can purchase these products at a lower price OTC than on prescription.

Products being de-listed include paracetamol tablets (500mg and 665mg) and paracetamol liquid as well as some brands of aspirin (100mg and 300mg), antacids, hydrocortisone cream and chloramphenicol. Some items will be re-listed on the RPBS or for use by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. The full list of items being de-listed can be accessed online from here.

Consumers using these medicines for chronic conditions will be advised to talk with their pharmacist or doctor about their treatment options. The Guild will be providing members with information to assist pharmacy staff with discussing changes to the PBS listing.

Blackmores sailors

AUSTRALIAN Olympic gold medal favourite champion sailors Mat Belcher and Will Ryan have been announced as the latest ambassadors for Blackmores.

The pair just won the 2015 World Sailing Championships in Israel and the Men's 470 at the 2015 ISAF Sailing World Cup in Abu Dhabi.

Under the partnership they will work with Blackmores over the next two years as they train in the lead-up to the 2016 Olympics in Rio.

Blackmores md Dave Fenlon said they were a natural choice because of their "commitment to elite sports as well as their passion for general wellbeing in everyday life".

Pharmacy E-Bulletin

ANTIDEPRESSANTS and cardiovascular disease are the subject of this week's RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin, highlighting the mutually increased risk of the two conditions, with depressed patients at higher risk of myocardial infarction (MI) and those who have had MI being at greater risk of depression.

Interactions between cardiovascular therapies and antidepressants are discussed.

[CLICK HERE](#) for access.

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\$2.6m dementia study

TWO major Australian studies in dementia will be the recipients of \$2.6m to partner with the European Union Joint Programme for Neurodegenerative Disease, focusing on risk and protective factors, longitudinal cohort approaches and advanced experimental models.

US & Oz polypharmacy

THE American trend toward more polypharmacy over the past 10 years as revealed in a study published in *JAMA*, is replicated in Australia, according to an article in *MJAInsight*.

The US National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey interviewed almost 38,000 individuals between 1999 and 2012 about their prescription medicines.

The findings demonstrated the proportion of patients taking five or more prescription medicines almost doubled over the period, from 8.2% to 15%, but most were analysed as appropriate and "largely positive".

Predictably, cardiovascular therapies, antidiabetic drugs, antidepressants and proton pump inhibitors were among the most used by patients in both countries.

See www.mja.com.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

SUPERCOMPUTER smartphones curing cancer.

The Garvan Institute of Medical Research has teamed up with the Vodafone Foundation to create "DreamLab", an Android smartphone app that allows Australians to use the power of their phones to help speed up Garvan's cancer research, by harnessing the power of many small processors to make a virtual supercomputer.

When the phone is 95% or more charged and is plugged into power it will process a tiny research problem and communicate the result back to the cancer research team at the Garvan Institute.

DreamLab will provide the computing power needed to run simulations to analyse and group cancers based on their genetic profile (rather than the cancer's tissue of origin), said the Institute.

The online Android-only app is free on GooglePlay - [CLICK HERE](#).

LET'S hope these toilets are extremely hygienically clean.

Russia's capital Moscow now has another must-see attraction - the brand new Crazy Toilet Cafe which opened last week and serves an "array of toilet-inspired dishes in toilet-themed crockery".

According to *The Guardian*, the somewhat dubious menu at the Arbat Street eatery suggestively includes a "swirled sausage served with piles of of mashed potatoes" as well as a fairly gross "creamy brown mushroom soup" served in a toilet bowl.

Cocktails, coffee and green tea are appropriately served in miniature urinals.

General manager Inga Yaroslavskaya was quoted as saying "it's not everywhere you can eat good food from a toilet bowl and drink from a urinal at very reasonable prices".

Win with DESIGNER BRANDS

This week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away each day a prize pack with all six flavours of Designer Brands Balm Balls.

With a cult celebrity following, the secret to the Designer Brands Balm Balls is they are hygienic. The balm sits in a sphere outside the tub so you're not dipping your finger in it! With 100 percent natural ingredients including Vitamin E, Honeysuckle, Shea Butter, Peppermint and JoJoba, they are available in six flavours to soften and moisturise your lips. Visit www.dbcosmetics.com.au

To win, be the first from **QLD** to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

How many shades are there?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Anne Hughes from AFT Pharmaceuticals.



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Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

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