

Training Circuit April 2016

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a full page from **Pharmacy 4 Less**.

New drug for MS

AN INTERNATIONAL research team has demonstrated that a new plant-derived drug can block the progression of multiple sclerosis (MS), according to a release from the University of Queensland.

University researcher Dr Christian Gruber said, "This is a really exciting discovery because it may offer a whole new quality of life for people with this debilitating disease."

With successful animal model studies completed, phase I clinical trials of the oral medication may begin in 2018, researchers say.

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

Pathology fights back

UNDER assault from government agencies wanting to reduce the cost of "unwarranted" pathology testing hitting the taxpayer, Pathology Awareness Australia has hit back with a report it commissioned from the Centre for International Economics.

The report argues that pathology provides accurate information that directly affects population health by providing clinicians with the insights to manage patients appropriately.

By providing certainty, pathology saves cost through minimising hospital stay and unnecessary or avoidable treatments, the report said.

SHPA projects progress

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists says it's had strong interest in the key workforce projects it is undertaking this year, and has now appointed steering committees to oversee the work.

SHPA ceo Kristin Michaels said the appointments "mark an important milestone for the future capability, capacity and flexibility of the pharmacy workforce".

The previously announced SHPA Residency, Research and Redesign projects (**PD** 29 Feb) were the subject of a call for expressions of interest from members, with the Residency Project seeing keen interest particularly from early career pharmacists, Michaels said.

"It is clear that the introduction of a structured, formalised, supported and accredited national two-year SHPA Residency Program has great appeal to pharmacists in their foundation years," she said.

"We must offer real value propositions to members to remain a viable, effective organisation and the strong response to this initiative demonstrates SHPA is responding to

member needs," Michaels added.

Catherine Brown, formerly from Cairns Hospital and now at The Alfred in Melbourne was selected from 17 applicants for the Residency Project Committee.

Brock Delfante, working at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth was selected as the early career pharmacist on the National Translational Research Collaborative (NTRC) Project Steering Committee.

And Cameron Phillips, Specialist Pharmacist - Clinical Educator from Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide was appointed as the educator pharmacist on the Residency Project Steering Committee.

High profile researchers appointed to the NTRC Project Steering Committee include Professor Andrew McLachlan from Sydney, Greg Roberts of Adelaide, Michael Barras from Brisbane and Professor Jeff Hughes from Perth.

Peter Fowler, who's chair of the Residency Project Steering Committee said the SHPA program will be recognised nationally within and outside the profession and will establish a consistent set of competencies for residents.

"If the high standard of applicants for committee representation reflects the quality of residents we will soon be training, then pharmacy indeed has a bright future," he said.

More details at shpa.org.au.

PSA16 rego open

REGISTRATIONS are open for PSA16, the key annual conference convened by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

With a theme of *Leading Pharmacy Innovation*, the event will be held from 29 to 31 Jul at the Four Points by Sheraton Darling Harbour Hotel in Sydney, which offers state-of-the-art facilities in its newly opened conference centre.

The theme will lead pharmacists to develop their broader role as Australian healthcare professionals.

Discounted early bird rates of \$625 for PSA members are available until Mon 13 Jun, while the non-member earlybird rate is \$815.

See www.psa.org.au.

Bowel screen grows

PHARMACIES participating in Rotary's annual bowel cancer screening awareness program this year will receive Clinical Genomics Australian-developed tests.

More than 120,000 Rotary-branded versions of the faecal immunochemical test (FIT) will be included in the Rotary BowelCare and BowelScan schemes in all Australian states in 2016.

BowelCare runs from Apr to May and BowelScan just during May and has now expanded to include the new regions of Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania.

Last year over 4,000 patients were referred for follow-up after using the Clinical Genomics test.

New health survey

NEARLY 125,000 Australians are about to receive an invitation to join a healthcare study commissioned by the National Health Performance Authority designed to show how well health care is being coordinated in local areas across Australia.

The research will investigate coordination of care and testing via all sources in Australia.

Win with MILKY FOOT



This week Pharmacy Daily and Biorevive are giving away Milky Foot Active each day.

Milky Foot Active is an effortless at home pedicure treatment which combats foot odour and removes hardened dead skin through an intense peeling action after just one simple application. Milky Foot Active comes with all the benefits of the original Milky Foot but with a new special foot odour fighting formula. Visit www.milkyfoot.com.au

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

What is the added ingredient in Milky Foot Active that creates it's foot odour fighting properties?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Zoe Blandford from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.



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Penalty rates hearings

THE final week of hearings in the Fair Work Commission (FWC) has kicked off yesterday, with the Australian Retailers Association (ARA) confident of its case demonstrating that current Sunday penalty rates under the General Retail Industry Award 2010 (GRIA) are costing jobs and impeding growth in the retail sector.

ARA executive director, Russell Zimmerman, said penalty rate adjustments will have benefits for the community and economy, as well as retail business cost savings.



Guild Update

Ask Your Pharmacist

NEW health advice topics ranging from eye health to depression have been launched on the Guild's consumer campaign website, Ask Your Pharmacist.

The topics explain ailments and conditions and describe how pharmacies can care and provide advice to consumers on specific health related issues.

Visitors can access the advice by either using the [Asking Their Pharmacist query box](#) or by visiting the advice section page.

The page is also a helpful resource for pharmacists to use in store to help direct their patients to learn more about a specific condition.

More advice topics are set to be included to the resource page, including worms, gout and driving while on medication in the coming weeks.

Check out the full list of topics on the [Ask Your Pharmacist website](#).

Clinical trial framework

MEDICINES Australia has hailed a new commitment by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council to develop a national framework for clinical trials.

The council met in Perth last week, and agreed to work to identify more ways to improve Australia's attractiveness as a preferred destination for trials.

The Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council has been requested to develop models of best practice options for trial sites, as well as consider ways to better engage sponsors and improve trial start up times and outcomes.

"Despite a global reputation for great scientists and doctors, more can be done to reduce the complexity of initiating a clinical trial in Australia, with each state

and often every hospital or research centre having its own unique rules and red tape burden," Medicines Australia said.

MEANWHILE at the meeting ministers also signed an agreement which establishes the ongoing financial support and governance arrangements for the Australian Digital Health Agency.

Planned to be fully operational by 01 Jul, the agency will be responsible for the design and operation of all national digital health systems, including My Health Record.

Other topics on the agenda included PBS medication chart standardisation for all hospitals, issues around childhood obesity and a national approach to medicinal cannabis.

GuildCare Pharmacy of the Month



MOREE Discount Drug Store in regional NSW has taken out the award from GuildCare for Pharmacy of the Month for March 2016.

Since pharmacist Mike Wehbi has joined the Moree team, he focussed on training staff on the use of GuildCare programs, GuildCare said in its announcement.

The result has been outstanding with each of the team highly aware of the programs and confident to refer customers to the pharmacist to engage in these programs in the privacy of the pharmacy

consultation room.

The pharmacy has developed relationships with the local nursing home, community health services, GPs, and many other local healthcare professionals where GuildCare services such as the blood pressure monitoring, MedsCheck, and MedScreen Compliance are relevant.

The enthusiastic Moree team is **pictured** from left: Tammy O'Connor, Mel Gilkison, Mike Wehbi, Jarrod Hammond, Russell Cook, Casey Randell, Julie Jones and Hafiz Dostizada.

DISPENSARY CORNER



OBSESITY could be looming for a group of British thieves who were convicted last week of stealing about \$50,000 worth of sweet biscuits.

The gang of five were sentenced in Cardiff Crown Court after a police investigation which followed the theft of a semi-trailer containing thousands of packets of "Jammie Dodger" biscuits.

The trailer was taken from a food manufacturer in the town of Torfaen, with the gang allegedly gaining access to the vehicle by posing as staff from DHL.

The gang leader was sentenced to almost four years in prison, while varying terms were given to the other perpetrators.

Although the semi-trailer was eventually recovered from a motorway lay-by, the Jammie Dodgers have never been recovered.

After the hearing as they were led from the dock one of the defendants was apparently overheard asking "does anyone want a biscuit?"

A NEW attraction in Shanghai, China aims to give participants the opportunity to experience "death, cremation and rebirth".

The so-called 'death simulator' ride invites visitors to compete in a game, where losers are transported via conveyor belt into a virtual crematorium.

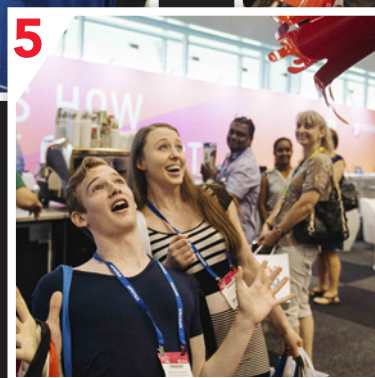
After experiencing a simulated immolation (**pictured** below) they are "reborn" through a latex chute which supposedly evokes a human womb.



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