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Thursday 18 Aug 2016

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Today's issue of PD

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

Ansell earnings dip

AUSTRALIAN-LISTED

manufacturer Ansell has confirmed it is reviewing options for its Sexual Wellness business, which is one of the world's major producers of condoms.

The company revealed the proposal along with a 15% profit decline for 2015/16, with the overall result for the year a \$207.8 million profit due to the weak global economy and the impact of currency changes.

Ansell said the condom division was its best performing business, with strong prospects for growth in emerging markets such as China and India.

Sexual Wellness is Ansell's only business-to-consumer operation, with all of its other businesses such as medical gloves, industrial gloves and clothing targeting business-tobusiness clientele.

CSL profit \$1.6 billion

CSL Limited vesterday reported a 10% drop in net profit to \$1.6 billion for the twelve months to 30 Jun, with ceo Paul Perreault also foreshadowing a slower than expected rebound next year.

Perrault highlighted CSL's core blood plasma products as well as "strong growth prospects from increasing diagnosis rates of rare immune diseases".

He confirmed CSL currently spends almost \$1b a year on R&D.

TGA confirms label changes

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration yesterday published two formal guidance documents on medicine labels (PD 10 Aug), along with the release of Therapeutic Goods Orders 91 and 92.

TGO 91 is titled Standard for labels of prescription and related medicines, while TGO 92 is for the labels of non-prescription medicines.

The guidance is to "help sponsors and manufacturers of medicines meet the Australian labelling requirements described in the new

TGA

labelling Orders," the TGA said.

"There are different risks and information requirements associated with medicines prescribed by a medical practitioner (or used in a clinical setting) to those self-selected by consumers...as a result the labels for these two types of medicines need to reflect the different contexts in which they're used."

The Australian Self-Medication Industry welcomed the new orders,

"We greatly appreciate the TGA's inclusive, collaborative and transparent approach throughout the lengthy consultation process, which ensured we achieved the right outcome," said ASMI ceo Deon Schoombie.

The review kicked off in 2012, with an initial proposal containing what ASMI described as "impractical reforms...which would have significantly impaired consumers' ability to recognise and select well-known non-prescription medicines," making no distinction between the different ways that non-prescription and prescription

> medicine labels are used by consumers.

"For nonprescription medicines the label is the most important source of information for the consumer... it should provide sufficient information for consumers to appropriately select and safely use medicines."

Schoombie said ASMI was confident the new labelling order would meet the needs of both consumers and the industry.

The major changes for nonprescription medicines are an increase in the prominence of active ingredients on the front of the pack and for registered medicines, a standardised format for critical information on the back.

The new requirements will not change the overall appearance of well-known non-prescription medicine brands, Schoombie added.

See www.tga.gov.au.

Canada goes to pot

PATIENTS with a medical need for cannabis, will be able to grow their own under new rules announced by the Canadian government, according to an article in the BMJ.

The new regulations come into effect 24 Aug under the title of 'Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations' allowing patients to grow a limited amount or designate someone else to produce it for them, rather than buying the product.

"If an individual wants to produce a limited amount of cannabis for his/her own medical purposes, he/ she must submit an application to register with Health Canada," said an official background document.

Seeds and plants would come from licensed medical marijuana producers, who will be able to sell an interim supply of cannabis to people as they wait for their homegrown supply to be ready.

CLICK HERE for the BMJ article.

Influenza hitting hard

THE NSW Health Department has issued a warning about influenza, urging people with flu symptoms to stay away from aged care facilities and vulnerable groups.

There has been a spike in influenza presentations to emergency departments, with almost 2,000 cases reported from across the state last week.

Most cases are caused by the Influenza A (H3N2) strain which is covered by the 2016 seasonal influenza vaccine.

A spokesperson strongly urged all pregnant women to be immunised to reduce the risks to their babies.



which mark the conclusion of the TGA's review of medicines labelling and packaging.



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Telstra Health's \$235m

AUSTRALIA'S telco colossus Telstra reported last week that its earnings before tax were down \$90m due to continued investment of more than \$235m in its Telstra Health division and the Telstra Software Group since 2013.

Pharmacy software supplier FRED IT is part of the division, with Telstra holding a 50% stake in the business alongside the Guild - one of 18 health related companies acquired over the last three years.

The company said it was strongly committed to ongoing investment in Telstra Health, "for which there are tremendous opportunities ahead and which has had a very successful year".

Telstra said it expected remote healthcare diagnostics to "explode" over the next four years, while recent additions include the ReadyCare telemedicine service.





Sponsorship change

NEW sponsors of therapeutic goods need to notify the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of changes in sponsorship arrangements, the TGA has explained in an updated posting summarising regulations.

Forms to be used, the obligations of the new sponsor and a frequently asked questions page are all included.

Sponsorship of therapeutic goods changes when there is a death, bankruptcy or company wind-up, when there is a change in business or product ownership or in the sponsor's name.

Go to www.tga.gov.au for details.

Health research boost

THE Consumers Health Forum has welcomed the government's release of de-identified health data (PD Mon), saying this offers great potential to advance research leading to the potential for better health care delivery in a more cost effective way.

The release includes one billion items of Medicare and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme records, which will facilitate research into the performance of the health system, enabling scientists to examine linkages between Medicare and PBS claims for a random 10% sample of Australians, CHF said.

CHF ceo Leanne Wells said the data "represent a treasure trove of information that has previously been difficult for researchers to access."

Consumers confident

CONSUMER confidence jumped an impressive 2.5% to 117.6 this week, placing it 4.3% above its long run average, according to the ANZ Roy Morgan survey.

Household views of the 12 month economic outlook were up 9.6% with the five-year outlook also improved, up 4.6%, and consumers were also more optimistic about their finances with current finances flat but future finances up 1.7%.

The data is based on around 1,000 face-to-face interviews.

CLICK HERE for the report.

THE SEARCH IS ON **ENTRIES NOW OPEN**

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Denise Brady named NT PATY

BARDEN'S Amcal **Pharmacy Assistant** Denise Brady (pictured) has been chosen to represent the Northern Territory at the National Finals of the 2016 Pharmacy Guild of Australia and GuildSuper Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY).

In its tenth year of recognising 'the best of the best' of pharmacy assistants with the award, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Training Manager and National PATY Judge, Deborah

Scholz said the panel had received more than 580 nominations from across Australia this year.

"The PATY Award was created to recognise pharmacy assistants who not only go the extra mile to help their customers but are also proactive in developing their careers," Scholz said.

"In doing so, they encourage others to strive for success and actively contribute to the community pharmacy industry."

Brady was chosen from among nine Northern Territory finalists at a recent workshop where each participant had the chance to demonstrate their pharmacy knowledge and showcase their skills in customer service and



leadership.

"Each candidate displayed a strong commitment to their work and the industry, which was a pleasure to see – it was a hard task to pick just one, but Denise Brady really shone," Ms Scholz said.

GuildSuper gm Teresa Mills said the organisation is pleased to be the major sponsor of the award and to support the successful futures of pharmacy assistants.

National Finals for the Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award will be held at the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference on 28 Oct at the Gold Coast with the national winner taking home prizes worth more than \$10,000 in cash and rewards.



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WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by Cruise Weekly.

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Sale ends 27 Aug: CLICK HERE.

NZ ownership rules

PROPOSED deregulation of the pharmacy sector will see significant changes to rules around ownership of pharmacies, which would be able to be owned by any "fit and proper person" or a "corporate of good repute".

Interestingly doctors or other prescribers would not be permitted to own pharmacies under the proposed arrangements which would aim to separate prescribers from dispensers.

The new Therapeutic Products Regulation Bill which has been tabled in the NZ cabinet by health minister Jonathan Coleman would introduce a licensing system to maintain pharmacy standards, according to NZ Doctor.

Where an owner - such as a supermarket - has multiple pharmacy licenses a single "supervisory pharmacist" would be responsible for the overall standards in the operation.

Under the legislation the owner would have to provide this pharmacist with suitable resources to oversee the business, with accountability to a newly formed NZ pharmacy regulator.



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Indian scam busted

POLICE in Mumbai and Vadodara in India have arrested four people in connection with an online pharmacy business which sold alprazolam tablets to customers in the USA and Europe.

The Indian Narcotics Control Bureau brought the case against Dolphin Pharmaceuticals, raiding a warehouse where about 800,000 tablets were found.

According to an official statement, the offenders were selling alprazolam without prescription at about half the retail price, circumventing procedures by sending the drugs disguised as vitamins or food supplements via post or courier.

Merck+Medivation?

MERCK & Co is believed to have joined the race to purchase US cancer drugmaker Medivation, alongside expressions of interest from Sanofi, Pfizer, Celgene and Gilead, Reuters is reporting.

Medivation products include Xtandi (enzalutamide) which is PBSlisted for the treatment of prostate



Dispensary Corner

THEY say men get it easy during childbirth - but not when the doctor forces you to undergo accidental haemorrhoid surgery.

It was a case of mistaken identity that saw a man (pictured below) who was waiting outside a hospital ward for his wife to give birth ushered into theatre.

Doctors at the Shenyang Hunnan Xinqu Hospital in China asked him to drop his pants and lie on the operating table.

When he protested the doctors told him to do what he was told, according to a report in the People's Daily.

He was then given anaesthetic before his surgery started.

Later, he woke up with a sore backside, to learn that his wife had given birth to a healthy baby boy - and that his surprise haemorrhoids had been removed.

The hospital reportedly offered him \$1,000 compensation while he and his wife consider the deal sitting on their own ring cushions.



THERE'S plenty science can determine - even how to avoid skateboard wipeouts.

According to the Journal of the Royal Society Interface, skaters are better balanced at high speeds if they put the centre of their weight slightly towards the front of the board to help buffer reflex delays.

Stiffer suspension will also help with stability, but could make skating less stable at very high speeds due to increased sensitivity.

Win with A'kin

This week Pharmacy Daily and A'kin are giving away each day a pack including A'kin Pure Radiance Rosehip Oil and A'kin Brightening Rosehip Oil with Vitamin C.

Discover skin that feels soft, smooth and deeply hydrated. This award winning Rosehip oil helps to restore moisture and reduce the visible signs of ageing. The result is vibrant, glowing and radiant looking skin. Or try A'kin Brightening Rosehip Oil with a collagen boosting formula and the addition of powerful antixoxidant Vitamin C to neutralise free radicals, this oil

helps to brighten overall skin tone and texture, while reducing the appearance of sun damage and pigmentation.

To win, be the first from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Are A'kin products vegan?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Joanne Quin from Pharmacy

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia Street address: Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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Publisher: Bruce Piper info@pharmacydaily.com.au

Reporter: Mal Smith

Contributors: Nathalie Craig, Jasmine O'Donoghue, Bonnie Tai

Advertising and Marketing: Magda Herdzik, Sean Harrigan, Melanie Tchakmadjian advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au



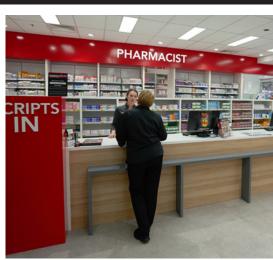
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