

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, the latest **PD Summer Spotlight** feature plus a full page from: ([click](#))

- Pharmacy 4 Less

Medicine access laws

PARLIAMENT'S last day of sitting for 2016 saw the first reading of the *Therapeutic Goods Amendment (2016 Measures No. 1) Bill 2016*, introduced by Health Minister, Hon Sussan Ley.

Medicines Australia (MA) chief executive Milton Catelin said the Bill supported new regulation-making powers that would create two new pathways to help speed up approval of medicines.



"For a number of years, Medicines Australia and

member companies have worked with the Australian Government to identify improvements in our registration approval processes, and related matters," Catelin said.

"The Bill addresses these concerns head-on.

"The changes to approval, registration and listing times mean that Australian patients will get faster access to safe medicines.

"The measures have widespread cross-political support and we expect it to pass without delay in 2017 as this is in the best interests of the Australian people.

"We will continue to work with the Therapeutic Goods Administration to ensure we all get the detailed regulations right".

Patient-based funding push

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists has reiterated its position that funding for services provided by pharmacists should be patient-centred, and strive towards better health outcomes.

SHPA ceo Kristin Michaels has outlined a vision for the health system to shift away from "process-centred" pharmacy funding.

"Moving the focus from dispensing processes is crucial in order to support Australia's population and the growth of chronic disease," she said.

SHPA is proposing a single funder for all medicines, which would decrease the current complexity

and difficulty of accessing Commonwealth-subsidised drugs.

Writing in the latest edition of the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association journal *The Health Advocate*, Michaels noted that many government-funded clinical pharmacy services, such as the Home Medicines Review program, had been scaled up from hospital-led innovations.

Other similar evolutions are occurring such as smoking cessation, anti-coagulation and opioid de-escalation clinics in the outpatient setting, she said - requiring hospital pharmacists to navigate complex multiple funding programs and rules.

"It is only through the implementation of a new paradigm of pharmacy that we can improve the quality use of medicines, and make inroads into the 230,000 medicines-related hospital admissions each year," she said.

CW satisfies again

THE latest customer satisfaction ratings from Roy Morgan Research have seen Chemist Warehouse regain second position in the pharmacy category for Oct.

My Chemist maintained its top spot with a 91% ranking followed by Chemist Warehouse, then Priceline Pharmacy, Soul Pattinson and Terry White Chemists in fifth.

Blackmores markets

BLACKMORES is hosting a Christmas Twilight Charity Market this Thu 08 Dec from 3.30pm at its Sydney campus in Warriewood.

More than 50 market stalls will be selling handmade clothing, books, skincare, jewellery and homewares from across the globe, all supporting fair trade, sustainability and giving back to the community.

Communities unaware of pharmacy services

DESPITE the wide range of potential healthcare options available through their local community pharmacist, 87% of Australians are seeking first line treatment from their general practitioner, seemingly unaware of other options, according to research released by Sanofi Consumer Healthcare last week.

Sanofi gm Brett Charlton said community pharmacy already provided advice and treatment for many minor ailments such as coughs and colds, headaches, skin disorders and digestive issues to name a few.

"Many Australian pharmacies now offer a range of health services, such as blood pressure monitoring, screening for diabetes, respiratory disorders, and heart disease risk factors among others, in addition to private consultation rooms for patient support and comfort," he said.

Pharmacists had also been trained to counsel and detect symptoms which may indicate more serious conditions that warrant referral to a GP, he added.

More than half of the population (59%) did not know their pharmacy offered these services and more than a quarter (28%) were unaware of the level of training behind the pharmacist title.

"There are potentially significant benefits - both for consumers and the healthcare community - in creating greater awareness of the healthcare options available via local pharmacies," Charlton said.

AMR teamwork call

PHARMACISTS are being asked to work together with GPs, nurses and allied healthcare professionals in the global fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

A summary of international collaborations involving the USA, South Africa, Colombia, Australia, and the UK has compared government advocacy, national guidelines, collaborative research, online training, mentoring programs and social media.

CLICK HERE to access the *Lancet* published abstract.



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Dispensary Corner

THIS might not be coming to pharmacies any time soon, but US plastic surgeon John Mesa claims to be pioneering new uses for Botox that combat some of the toughest wrinkles imaginable.

Dubbed "scrotox", Dr Mesa's treatment tackles the tackle, with at least 15 men so far willing to brave his injections in pursuit of younger looking testicles.

Men's Health magazine says the doctor prefers the term "ball ironing" and claims Botox not only results in a less wrinkly scrotum but also allows the testes to hang lower, making them appear larger.

"Technically, it's more painful to get Botox in your groin than in your face because it is a much more sensitive area," Dr Mesa admits to the magazine.

"But we minimise that with a topical anaesthetic."

Men over the age of 21 can have the procedure done.

It takes about 40 minutes and costs up to US\$800 per session, with results lasting four months.

\$4.8m aspirin trial

HEALTH minister Sussan Ley has announced \$483 million in grants for health and medical research funding, including \$4,796,724 for the largest clinical trial ever conducted in Australia.

The project was awarded to Professor John McNeil of Monash University who is looking at whether a daily low dose of aspirin prevents disease in healthy older Australians.

The new funds bring total investment in the research to over \$10 million, with the ASPREE trial being a joint Australia/US collaboration involving 16,700 Australians aged 70 and over, along with more than 2,000 GPs.

The funding will enable the study to complete its final stage of data collection, looking at important questions about the benefits and risk of aspirin in this age group and its effects on disability-free survival.

Other projects funded look at multiple sclerosis, the association between traumatic brain injury and Alzheimer's disease, understanding the health impacts of sleep apnoea, the early disease mechanisms of motor neurone disease, and population-based genetic testing for breast and ovarian cancer.

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Rego data released

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has published registration data for the period 01 Jul-30 Sep 2016, revealing there are 27,073 pharmacists with general registration across Australia.

The majority - 8,335 - are practising in NSW, followed by Vic with 6,709, Qld with 5,407, WA with 2,970, SA with 1,972, Tas with 658, the ACT with 465 and the NT with 202 pharmacists.

16,531 or 61% are female, with 10,542 or 39% being male - more at pharmacyboard.gov.au

EMA Hep C warning

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) has confirmed patients treated with direct-acting retrovirals for hepatitis C such as Daklinza, Exviera, Harvoni, Solvadi, Olysio and Viekirax may be at risk of hepatitis B re-activation.

The EMA is recommending that before starting treatment all patients be screened for hep B.

CW supporting 'Summer of Hope'

CHEMIST Warehouse has partnered with the Australian Federal Police's National Missing Persons Coordination Centre (NMPCC) to launch the 'Summer of Hope' campaign for 2016.

The group's national store network will be leveraged to promote missing persons cases via its *House of Wellness* catalogue program and in-store at all Chemist Warehouse pharmacies.

The campaign is timely given the Christmas period when some who are estranged from loved ones are encouraged to make contact.

"Going missing is not a crime and making contact does not mean you need to return home," said AFP spokesman Chris Sheehan.

See www.missingpersons.gov.au.



Guild Update

The Guild Pharmacy of the Year

THE Guild Pharmacy of the Year awards are a highlight of the pharmacy calendar where community pharmacies that are leading the way in providing innovative, optimal healthcare for members of their community are recognised.

The awards recognise excellence in pharmacy across three categories:

- Business Management
- Community Engagement
- Professional Services Innovation

The finalists this year came from a broad field of nominated pharmacies. A different community pharmacy will be selected as the winner in each category, with the Guild Pharmacy of the Year for 2017 being selected from these three individual category winners and announced at APP on the Gold Coast in March.

Congratulations to all of this year's nominees:

- Lucy Walker Chemmart Goondiwindi, Queensland
- Capital Chemist Southlands, Australian Capital Territory
- Capital Chemist Wanniasa, Australian Capital Territory
- Waikerie Chemplus, South Australia
- Terry White Chemmart Hawthorn, Victoria
- Beaufort St 24 hour Pharmacy, Perth, Western Australia

Win with SkinB5

This week **Pharmacy Daily** & **SkinB5** are giving away each day the Skin Purifying 5 Minute Mask.

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



Where are all Skin B5 products made?

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