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Today's issue of PD
Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from **SOUTHERNATURE**.

Solomon quits Telstra

SHANE Solomon (pictured) who has served as the inaugural head of Telstra Health since the business was established in 2014, will step down from the role in Feb 2017.



Solomon came to the telco's healthcare services unit from a stint at KPMG's health practice, and has a long history in the healthcare sector.

Until his retirement, Solomon will continue to act as an advisor to Telstra on the national cancer screening register it has controversially been contracted to build and operate by the federal government.

"Having overseen the establishment of Telstra as a leading e-health services provider, Shane has decided that the time is right to begin the transition to retirement after a distinguished career as a health executive," Telstra said in a statement.

Telstra group executive, International and New Business, Cynthia Whelan will take over Solomon's role in the interim.

Telstra Health owns 50% of pharmacy software supplier Fred IT.

Review a focus for APP17

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has released the program for the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference & Trade Exhibition (APP2017), with the government's Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation a key agenda item.

Presentations will include a panel discussion on Fri 10 Mar facilitated by Guild communications chief Greg Turnbull, which will be an "opportunity for pharmacy to respond to the 'flagged' options and provocative thought starters proposed" in the draft report.

APP2017 takes place 08-12 Mar, meaning it will come just as the Review Panel is finalising its recommendations which are due to be handed down in May 2017.

The prestigious Alan Russell Oration at the conference will also be delivered by eminent pharmacist Bill Scott, who is a member of the Review Panel.

"This oration will be a personal perspective, as Bill details pharmacy's best aspects and discusses what needs to be implemented to deliver best practice pharmacy," the APP2017 program advises.

A conference keynote address will be delivered by Catherine King MP, who is Shadow Minister for Health and Medicare and will outline the Australian Labor Party's vision for pharmacy.

Health minister Sussan Ley has also been invited to make a keynote address as well as present the Guild Pharmacy of the Year award on the Thu afternoon of the conference.

The program says Ley will discuss her views on the progress of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement and the potential for community pharmacy to improve the health of all Australians.

Other key speakers include Tim Kelsey, ceo of the Australian Digital Health Agency; Alistair Burse from the Canadian Pharmacists Association; Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand president Graeme Blanchard; former Guild president Kos Sclavos; and Maggie Zhou, Alibaba Group managing director for Australia and NZ.

Celebrity presenters will include radio personalities Adam Spencer and James O'Loughlin, and as always the conference will also include a large trade exhibition and a range of networking functions.

Registration and accommodation bookings are now open - for details see appconference.com.

Flu vaccine tender

THE Department of Health has issued tender documents seeking to identify suppliers of seasonal influenza vaccines for 2018-2020 under the National Immunisation Program.

The initial three year term will also have an option to extend for two additional terms of up to two years each, with supply of quadrivalent vaccines anticipated.

Facelift for PD

ASTUTE readers will note this issue of *Pharmacy Daily* has a new look, with the publication having undergone a makeover - we hope you enjoy it!

PD continues to grow in popularity, with more than 13,000 daily readers across the Australian pharmacy sector, and we'd very much like to thank you for your ongoing support.

Health Care Homes

MEDICAL practices in selected regions can now apply to participate in the first stage of the Federal Government's Health Care Homes program.

Health Minister Sussan Ley has announced 10 regions eligible for the \$100 million first stage rollout, which aims to serve up to 65,000 patients in 200 practices.

Under the Health Care Homes model, medical practices will be given a monthly bundled payment for delivery of effective care to patients with chronic and complex health conditions.

"Health Care Homes allows for team-based, integrated and co-ordinated care for patients and gives greater flexibility to design individual care plans for patients and co-ordinate care services to support them," Ley said.

"We are implementing Health Care Homes to find a better way of delivering Medicare for Australians with chronic illnesses."

The scheme is open to general practices and Aboriginal community controlled health services (ACCHS).

For more information **CLICK HERE**.



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Pharmacist prescribers law

NEW legislation has passed into New Zealand law allowing nurse practitioners, specialist registered nurse prescribers and pharmacist prescribers working in addiction services to prescribe controlled drugs to treat addiction.

The Health Practitioners (Replacement of Statutory References to Medical Practitioners) Bill passed its third reading in Parliament last week.

The new legislation amends eight Acts substituting references to 'medical practitioner' with 'health practitioner', the New Zealand Health Department said.

Health Minister Jonathan Coleman welcomed the



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adjustments saying, "Many health practitioners will now be able to perform tasks that were previously the sole domain of medical practitioners.

"As a result, more patients will be able to receive more timely convenient care closer to home.

"This change is especially important

in rural areas and aged care services and will help prevent unnecessary delays for families," Coleman emphasised.

The Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand said it was responsible for getting an amendment to the original Bill for pharmacist prescribers who were not mentioned in the original Bill.

Further information can be sourced at www.health.govt.nz.

PSA CPD stats up

MORE than 240,000 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) assessments were completed by Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) members during the 2015-16 CPD year, according to the latest statistics from the PSA.

The PSA said the figures showed it was the "single largest provider of quality CPD, education and practice support for pharmacists in Australia".

There was also a strong uptake of PSA's CPD Planning Tool, the organisation said, helping members to maintain their competence and meet the Pharmacy Board of Australia's CPD requirements.

NZ Guild slams waste

NEW Zealand pharmacists are calling for a national drug disposal system as vast quantities are suspected of finishing their existence down the toilet or in the tip, according to a report by *RNZ*.

The estimated cost of wasted medicines is about \$40m a year or about 5% of the country's \$800m annual spend on pharmaceuticals.

NZ Pharmacy Guild board member Anthony Roberts said the true cost of wasted drugs was much higher because the estimate did not include the negative effects on health from poor adherence.

"Pharmacy as a service" launches

A NEW online subscription-based pharmacy has launched in Australia, claiming to be the first 'PhAAS' (Pharmacy-as-a-service).

Sydneydrugs.com is operated by a company called Cloud Pharmacy Services Pty Ltd, with Sunit Ruparelia named as the sole director and shareholder.

Cloud Pharmacy Services is also listed by the Pharmacy Council of NSW as the registered owner of Sai Pharmacy in the Sydney suburb of Westmead.

"We are a subscription pharmacy as a service, dedicated to bringing our members markup-free prescriptions and pharmacy products," the website states.

There are three types of membership: Basic, Gold and VIP plans, each offering a range of different options.

The Basic plan costs \$99 per year and gives access to all PBS and private prescriptions, script reminders and pet medications.

Gold at \$199 per year adds compounded prescriptions, SMS conversations with a pharmacist and priority support.

The \$449 annual VIP Plan also includes one free delivery per month, medication reviews and inbound phone calls, and there's also an Enterprise Plan targeting insurance companies or businesses wanting to offer pharmacy services as an employee benefit.

Prospective members must submit pictures of their ID and Medicare card to verify their identity.

More reasons to quit

AS IF there weren't enough data to convince the most sceptical of smokers, a new study published in *Science*, has found that DNA changes in the lung cells of smokers show that smoking increases cancer risk by increasing the somatic mutation load.

Tobacco carcinogens can misreplicate DNA, the mutations leading to a range of possible cancers in the human body, with each mutation leaving a mutational signature.

More than 30 different base substitution signatures have been identified, and in the new work, 5,243 cancer genome sequences were examined.

The study demonstrated that a smoker using a packet of 20 cigarettes per day would induce an average of 150 mutations in every lung cell each year.

The changes leave a permanent signature, even if the individual ceases smoking, authors said.

CLICK HERE to source the study.

New TGA slide sets

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has posted two new slide sets on its website.

The first is a presentation that was given at the University of Technology in Sydney on 19 Oct, providing an overview of the TGA's pre-market and post-market pharmacovigilance methods.

The second was a summary of the regulation of Nanomedicines in Australia given at Nanoparticle Therapeutics 2016, 20 Oct.

Visit www.tga.gov.au to access.

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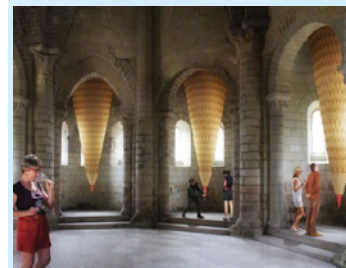


Dispensary Corner

DOES this seem utterly ridiculous to you? People will be milking alcohol from giant teats at an upcoming wine festival in France's Loire Valley.

The downward pointing cones (pictured below) have been installed at the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud and fitted with a teat at the end which releases wine when squeezed.

The 'udder' design is said to have been inspired by the Roman myth of Romulus and Remus, who were suckled by a she-wolf after they were abandoned by a river, and went on to found the city of Rome.



A SWISS cafe which will offer robot sex services alongside hot beverages is set to open in Geneva by the end of the year.

According to a report in *CNBC*, owner Bradley Charvet originally wanted to employ real sex workers to 'entertain' his patrons but legal issues led him to opt for high-tech sex robots.

He is planning to charge customers around \$60 for a drink that comes with the added bonus of a sex act.

Men can select their desired 'woman' from an iPad filled with several choices.

Charvet is currently in talks with a company selling the silicone-skinned lifelike androids.

Mayne shares lose \$400m

ASX-LISTED Adelaide-based specialty brand and generic pharmaceutical company Mayne Pharma Group has lost almost \$400 million, or 15.5%, in market value for its shares after it was named as being part of an investigation by US authorities.

US prosecutors may be charging generic drug makers on suspicion of price collusion after *Bloomberg* reported an antitrust investigation by the US Justice Department (DOJ).

Other drug companies named included US-listed Mylan, Teva and Lannett, which all also saw dramatic slumps in market value.

In an ASX announcement on Friday, Mayne said "Contrary to an inaccurate statement made in the US press overnight, Mayne Pharma has previously stated that it is cooperating with the DOJ in its investigation and continues to do so.

"Mayne Pharma continues to believe these investigations will not have a material impact on its future

earnings...however no assurance can be given as to the timing or outcome of the investigation."

Just the previous day, Mayne announced the launch of MS Contin generic, morphine sulfate extended release tablets (15mg, 30mg, 60mg and 100mg) in the US, having been granted US FDA approval.

"It is pleasing to report that our Generic Products Division now directly markets more than 50 products and we have a growing pipeline of more than 40 generic and branded drug products targeting US markets with IMS sales greater than US\$7 billion," the announcement stated.

Ozurdex AusPAR

ALLERGAN Australia's diabetic macular oedema treatment, Ozurdex (dexamethasone) has been added to the Australian Public Assessment Reports (AusPARs).

Ozurdex is administered via intravitreal injection - [CLICK HERE](#).



Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is Jonathan Mayes, national professional services manager at Amneal Pharmaceuticals.



Consumer perceptions on DAA's

RECENT research by McChindle highlighted some interesting insights around consumer perceptions of DAAs, results were presented at APP16, below are some key findings.

We should not be using the term DAA, consumers are not familiar with this terminology, a more user friendly description or name for a DAA is recommended such as a 'medication pack'.

The main objection to transitioning on to a DAA was the belief by 74% of the sample group that they simply don't need a DAA, and 83% of the respondents said that they relied on habitual queues to remind them to take their medications. Health care professionals know that this is not ideal. While only 16% of Australians on multiple medications use a DAA, the majority will consider a DAA when presented to them effectively by a GP or Pharmacist.

One other factor in influencing consumers' willingness for the uptake of a DAA is the cost, to increase the uptake of DAAs it is critical that pharmacy staff educate their customers of the value of a DAA. As part of this process, have a sample pack on hand to demonstrate the features and benefits, it may be worth offering a free month trial as well.

Win with A'kin

This week Pharmacy Daily and A'kin are giving away each day a pack including A'kin Pure Facial Cleansing Gel, Antioxidant Day Cream, Antioxidant Night Cream.

Remove excess oil, makeup and impurities naturally with A'kin Sandalwood & Neroli Pure Facial Cleansing Gel. A synergistic combination of select pure botanic actives like Panama bark, Witch Hazel and Vitamin B5 works to thoroughly cleanse, clarify and soothe skin. Complement your skincare routine with A'kin Rose de Mai Antioxidant Facial Day Creme and A'kin Lavender & Rose Antioxidant Facial Night Creme for replenished, radiant and revitalised skin the natural way.

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

Which country is A'kin made in?

[Check here tomorrow for today's winner.](#)



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