

Board seeks member

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has issued a call for applications for appointment to the Board as a community member.

All appointments are made by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council, under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, which is in force in each state and territory.

Applications close on Mon 28 Nov, with appointments made for up to three years as decided by the Ministerial Council.

See pharmacyboard.gov.au.

Ley cites pharmacists

HEALTH Minister Sussan Ley has outlined her vision for the future of Australian general practice, and the role pharmacists might play in it.

In a parliamentary speech last Tue Ley told the House of Representatives she was constantly being approached by younger doctors who want to trial some innovative methods of practice.

She said these “modern” GPs have told her “I’d like to have the pharmacist more involved in my general practice...where I live is a low socioeconomic area; I would like to try having a pharmacist here every day, helping people manage their medicines”.

Ley said this is the type of thing that is “perfectly possible within the Health Care Homes model” which she contrasted with the current “very regimented, transaction based Medicare system”.

EBOS \$18m for TWC stake

SHAREHOLDERS in Terry White Group Limited have approved the company’s merger with Chemmart (PD 04 Aug) at an extraordinary general meeting held last Fri.

The vote was almost unanimous, with shareholders representing 99.98% of TWC shares voting in favour of the deal.

A presentation during the meeting also for the first time made public details of the deal, which will merge Chemmart into TWG creating “one of Australia’s largest retail pharmacy networks with approximately 500 pharmacies and \$2 billion in retail turnover”.



Better Together

225 of those stores come from the Terry White Chemists and Chemplus brands, with a turnover of about \$1.1 billion and approximately 7% market share.

Chemmart will contribute 268 stores turning over about \$900m, with the combined group to have a “comprehensive national footprint” and a 13% market share overall.

The merger will see EBOS Group Limited sell the Chemmart franchise business to TWG, as well as investing \$18 million in cash, in return for new shares in Terry White Group, which will see EBOS end up with a 50.000002% stake in the company.

At the same time Terry White Group will return \$13 million of capital to existing shareholders “from its own cash reserves and borrowings,” with this part of the transaction structured as an “equal access capital reduction of \$0.984 per share”.

An independent expert report commissioned as part of the deal has concluded that the merger is fair and reasonable to TWG shareholders - and notes that the merged entity is better positioned for a possible public share offering.

The report estimates TWG shares after the merger will be worth

\$3.94 each after the 98c capital reduction, on a “capitalisation of maintainable earnings basis”.

TWG chairman Terry White said “the size of this transaction is unprecedented in our industry and will create a new force within Australian pharmacy.

“Our vision is to become the leader in community pharmacy in Australia and customers’ first choice for health and value,” he told shareholders.

With the approval of the deal, the merger is now expected to be finalised on 31 Oct 2016, with existing TWG shareholders to receive their \$13 million capital reduction payout on 21 Nov.

MyChemist tops satisfaction ratings

MY CHEMIST and Chemist Warehouse have once again come out on top of the monthly customer satisfaction ratings collated by Roy Morgan research.

The Aug figures, which are based on a rolling annual survey of about 8,500 consumers, gave My Chemist a 91% satisfaction rating, the same as the prior month (PD 08 Sep).

Chemist Warehouse was in second place, followed by Soul Pattinson, with Priceline Pharmacy coming fourth and Terry White in fifth spot.

Monash manufactures

MONASH University is to lead the development of a world-class Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre (MMIC), as part of the Victorian Government’s Future Industries initiative, according to an announcement this morning.

The State Government will invest \$4m in the centre, Premier Daniel Andrews said.

Phcy-led reviews tick

PHARMACIST-LED medication reviews have a positive impact on drug-related readmissions and all-cause ED visits, according to a systematic review and meta-analysis involving 19 randomised controlled trials with 4,805 patients.

CLICK HERE to access the the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* paper.

HPS Pharmacies

Oncology Pharmacists

Hospital based Pharmacies - Brisbane

HPS have a number of Oncology Pharmacist positions available in Brisbane involved in clinical roles.

Why not have a confidential conversation with us around our opportunities?

We’d appreciate the opportunity to hear from you and discuss what you’re looking for in your oncology career.

To initiate this, please email us at careers@hps.com.au
HPS offers a range of employment benefits and competitive salaries, as well as career development opportunities.

Professional Officer, Pharmacy - Registration Team

AHPRA’s Brisbane office has an opportunity for an experienced, practitioner with strong problem solving, analytical and conceptual skills to join their Pharmacy Registration Team as a Professional Officer.

This part time, temporary position will enable you to make a difference for the community as you work to ensure the practice and conduct of health professionals is of a high standard.

This opportunity includes an attractive salary, genuine work life balance and flexible work arrangements, a collaborative and supportive team approach and positive work environment.

For more information and to apply please click here.



EMA transparency impact

EFFECTIVE immediately, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has announced open access to clinical reports for new medicines for human use



authorised in the European Union. Vytenis Andriukaitis, European commissioner for health and food safety said, "Transparency is an essential component in clinical research.

"Its outcome – whether positive or negative – should be made publicly available.

"EMA's transparency initiative will make Europe a true front runner with respect to release of data concerning clinical trials."

In addition, this move will create a "bridge from now until the new Clinical Trials Regulation", he said, when further milestones towards transparency will apply.

By freeing up access to the data, patients and healthcare professionals will be able to find out more information about the data underpinning the approval of medicines they are taking or prescribing.

It will also support researchers

and academics after approval of a medicine, increasing scientific knowledge, and potentially further inform regulatory decision making in the future.

The EMA also believes this will enhance innovation as shared knowledge about a medicine helps developers learn from the experience of others and can lead to more efficient medicine development programmes.

The EMA says it consulted "extensively" with all stakeholders concerned, aiming to integrate their "sometimes divergent views", some innovator companies expressing fears around commercial-in-confidence data.

Visit ema.europa.eu for more.

Lung function tests

NOVEMBER is Lung Health Awareness Month with Lung Foundation Australia encouraging all Australians to take their lung health seriously and recognise symptoms early in both themselves, and loved ones.

A series of activities are available through the community and participating community pharmacies, including walks, information stands, free lung function screening.

Other activities include BBQ events, morning tea gatherings for 'Shine a Light on Lung Cancer' and World COPD Day set for 16 Nov.

For resources or participation, visit www.lungfoundation.com.au.

Health Stars shine

MORE Australians are choosing healthier packaged foods, thanks to the Health Star Rating (HSR) system, according to new campaign evaluation research released by the Assistant Minister for Rural Health, Dr David Gillespie.

For more details [CLICK HERE](#).

Can't swallow it?
Can you crush it?

eMIMSCloud can answer the question. The "Don't Rush to Crush" guide is produced and maintained by The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia and published electronically by MIMS. Call 1800 800 629 to subscribe.

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International BioFest

THE Premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews, has opened the International BioFest 2016 today at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, bringing together three major life science conferences in one week in one place as one integrated network.

With international researchers, clinical experts, industry members, senior executives and investors attending, CSL ceo and md Paul Perreault will deliver the opening plenary presentation, 100 years ... and just getting started.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the program.

Paediatric epilepsy med cannabis trial

EPIDIOLEX (cannabidiol 100mg/mL oral solution) is one of the first medicinal cannabis pharmaceuticals to be trialled in Queensland specifically for children with treatment resistant epilepsy.

Researchers hope to begin recruitment of patients for the trial in Nov with a maximum of 30 children to be included.

Qualification criteria include being under the care of a paediatric neurologist as well as other stipulations around length of treatment and severity of disease.

Anyone who thinks they are eligible and is interested in participating in the trial can talk to their treating doctor or call 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84) to register an expression of interest.

Families will be advised if they meet the criteria and will be invited to take part in the trial.

Carrot v stick nutrition

AS PART of National Nutrition Week, a study surveying 1,000 adults found only 6% of adults consumed enough vegetables.

Author, University of Sydney PhD student Reetika Rekhy, was published in *Nutrition & Dietetics* - [CLICK HERE](#) for the article.

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to PD's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is Carl Gibson, CMA ceo.



Complementary medicines and evidence

THE high proportion of the Australian population that uses complementary medicines (approximately 70 per cent) is resulting in this increasingly becoming a topic of discussion amongst health care professionals. One element of the discourse, as indicated by the nature of the questions raised in the recent King Review discussion paper, is that there are those who are quick to make the blanket statement that complementary medicines aren't supported by scientific evidence. Not true. A quick search of PubMed for any particular popular herb will produce a number of scientific studies linking these phytotherapeutic agents to research on a wide range of health conditions. Many complementary medicines have a robust evidence base, with further analysis being conducted on the cost effectiveness of their use in preventative health strategies. This is particularly the case for major products like multi vitamins, vitamin B and Omega-3 fatty acids, which together account for about 50 per cent of complementary medicines selected for use in Australia. Healthcare choices should be based as much as possible on sound scientific evidence and the fact remains that all health disciplines need to continue to expand their evidence base. With continued investment in complementary medicine research, and the translation of evidence into clinical practice and relevant policy, the health of all Australians will continue to benefit.

Larger S8 safes required

PHARMACIES in Victoria have been urged to consider the installation of larger drug safes, as a result of the introduction of new Schedule 8 poisons as well as the addition of new strengths of existing S8 products (*PD* 23 Sep 16).

A communiqué issued late last week by the Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) cited some cases where stock had outstripped safe capacities, with inspectors finding insecure cupboards or even filing cabinets had been used.

The VPA reminded licensees that the keys to the S8 safes must be secured at all times.

"Many pharmacies do not have multiple keys for the S8 safe(s) and it is recommended that a key safe (combination lock) be considered for the secure storage of the keys.

"The keys must not be left in a locked drawer or hidden in a supposedly secret place, especially when the pharmacy is closed."

Movement detector sensors to cover safe doors are also required, the Communiqué said.

In addition, the Authority said it has written to Australia Post to confirm previous advice that the supply by post of controlled drugs

within the meaning of the Crimes Act 1914 (in effect, S8 poisons) is illegal - however "supply by a private courier company is acceptable".

The authority also warned pharmacists about the storage of patient data, after several cases of 'ransomware' where pharmacies were the subject of extortion with fraudsters requesting money for the decryption of information.

Campaign for Pain

PAINAUSTRALIA has released its latest newsletter with a special focus on children with pain, drawing on the first round of data from the Electronic Persistent Pain Collaboration (ePPCC), from seven participating paediatric pain clinics. Painaustralia's #campaignforpain is calling on the Federal Government to recognise pain as a national health priority and to urgently address the issue of untreated chronic pain, especially in children.

CLICK HERE for the newsletter.



Dispensary Corner

A GLASS of red wine a day keeps the reproductive specialist away?

The benefits of red wine have been in the public eye before, but now a new study by American and Polish researchers is claiming that a daily dose of resveratrol - a natural compound found in red wine - can boost women's fertility.

The study purports that resveratrol does this by lowering steroid hormone levels in women who suffer from polycystic ovary syndrome.

Maybe that explains why so many babies are conceived after a night out on the wines?



EVER think you'd hear a firsthand account from someone who has dined on human flesh?

One adventurous Aussie eater with a desire to taste every animal possible decided human was not off limits.

In a convenient twist this Melbourne man happened to have a close friend who was fascinated by body modification and wanted to sacrifice one of his fingers to "fulfil his body image".

The pair used a cigar cutter to amputate the finger, before the appendage was cooked up at a celebratory barbecue.

He says the meat was very sweet, rich and chewy with a "distinctive taste".

The bizarre dietary experience is the subject of an intriguing podcast created by Bonnie Tai, one of our colleagues at **Pharmacy Daily** - **CLICK HERE** to listen.

Win with DU'IT

This week Pharmacy Daily and DU'IT are giving away each day a prize pack of their products.

New DU'IT Baby is Australian-made and owned, enriched with natural botanicals and pure organic oils to pamper and protect babies' skin and eliminate any concerns for parents. The DU'IT range of extra gentle baby products are completely FREE of all known irritants with a Nasty Free Guarantee and are scientifically formulated to enrich, nourish, deeply hydrate and provide calming relief to Baby's entire body. The range consists of five products: Baby Liquid Powder, Baby Nappy Change Cream, Baby Body Moisturiser, Baby Facial Serum, and Baby 3-in-1 Wash. For more information, **CLICK HERE**.

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

What is the DU'IT Baby promise?

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