



TGA power to be expanded - Skerritt

THE government's decision to eliminate pre-approval for advertising of therapeutic goods will mean the Therapeutic Goods Administration requires "strong and timely compliance powers," according to John Skerritt, head of the Health Products Regulation Group which oversees the TGA.

Skerritt told yesterday's ASMI conference in Sydney the changes will see a new mechanism for managing complaints, while the TGA's investigation and enforcement programs will also be broadened as a result.

He said the TGA was currently developing options papers on areas such as S3 advertising and the new complaints process, with stakeholder workshops to be held in the coming months.

Codeine statement coming



HEALTH Minister Sussan Ley has confirmed her department is currently in the process of completing a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) on codeine-containing medications, which will be published before the next scheduling decision is to be made.

Speaking at the Australian Self Medication Industry conference yesterday, Ley said the proposal to up-schedule codeine products to

S4 (**PD** 02 Oct 2015) had attracted more than 260 submissions.

The industry has not been updated on the status of the codeine rescheduling since Mar.

Ley also hinted at an expanded role for pharmacists in minor ailments, citing the New Zealand situation where chemists can supply some medicines to treat influenza, migraines and urinary tract infections without prescription.

The health minister is **pictured** above at the conference with ASMI chairman Lindsay Forrest (left) and ceo Deon Schoombie.

Summer is coming...

PHARMACY Daily is set to launch a new page dedicated to all things summer, for suppliers wanting to promote their seasonal offers to pharmacists.

Four items will be featured on each page, with insertions able to include an image of the product along with a brief description and a call to action for phone, email or website ordering.

The themed page will be designed by the **Pharmacy Daily** team - suppliers wishing to have their products included can email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au or call 1300 799 220 for more info.

Stephen's big payday

OUTGOING Australian Pharmaceutical Industries ceo Stephen Roche was yesterday granted 268,007 shares in the company, after the vesting of performance rights under his short term incentive plan for 2014/15.

Based on the closing price of \$1.87 the bonus is worth just over \$500,000, and boosts Roche's total stake in the company to 944,674 ordinary shares.

Roche has announced he will step down as API ceo next Feb after ten years in the role (**PD** 06 Oct).

Bonus Oli⁶ Sippy Cup available now*



Valued at
\$22.95

*White stocks last

Discounters surge

DISCOUNT pharmacies are growing their sales much faster than traditional chemist stores, according to figures revealed at the ASMI conference yesterday.

Daniel Bone from IRI Australia said discounters were continuing to disrupt the sector, with community pharmacy growing by 4% overall in 2015/16 but sales in the discount segment up a whopping 19.3%.

The fastest growing sectors for pharmacy were VMS (vitamins, minerals and supplements) and baby care, according to IRI data, with pharmacies also not exhibiting the price deflation currently experienced in supermarkets.

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Monash honours Bill Scott

VICTORIAN pharmacist and Monash Pharmacy alumnus Bill Scott has been presented with the Monash Distinguished Alumni Award for his substantial contribution to the health of Victorian communities.

The annual Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements and exceptional qualities of Monash alumni worldwide, and are bestowed upon a single alumnus of each faculty each year.

Scott earned his Bachelor of Pharmacy in 1969, married a fellow pharmacy graduate and as husband and wife they purchased their first pharmacy at Whittlesea in 1972.

Mindful of his community responsibilities, Scott became a member of the Whittlesea Shire Council, and later Chairman of the Regional Organisation of Councils, until at one stage he was involved with 23 local committees.

He assumed responsibility of board membership of Bundoora Aged Care Centre, chair of Whittlesea Severance Committee and the Promote Whittlesea Association as well as presidency of the Whittlesea Health Centre.

Scott has also been recognised



by his peers through many awards including a Life Member and Distinguished Service Medal of the Pharmacy Guild, a Fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society and the Australian College of Pharmacy, and Medals of Excellence from the Pharmacy Practice Foundation of Sydney and MSD Australia.

As well as being involved in the training of pharmacy assistants and technicians in Australia and the USA, Scott was invited by Health Minister Sussan Ley to be one of the three member panel reviewing Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation.

Male contraception

CONTRACEPTION, usually the domain of women, may soon be equally shared by men, with the arrival of an effective male contraceptive injection, *The Guardian* reports.

Injections of hormones given to 350 men dramatically lowered their sperm count by "switching off" the male reproductive system with a 96% success rate, but were often accompanied by trial-threatening side-effects - [CLICK HERE](#).



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3.5m MedsASSIST sales recorded

THE Pharmacy Guild's MedsASSIST online codeine tracking system has recorded more than 3.5 million transactions since its launch earlier this year, with Guild president George Tambassis hailing the system as a "great success" at yesterday's ASMI conference in Sydney.

Tambassis said he believes sales of codeine products have declined as a result of patients being counselled about the use of codeine for acute rather than chronic conditions, saying it was an example of pharmacists putting "patients before profit".

He urged governments to mandate use of the system which has seen a take-up rate of up to 90% of pharmacies in some jurisdictions, while in NSW it's more like 70-75%.

The Guild president also spoke about proposed S3 advertising reforms, saying if they go ahead he would urge suppliers to engage with the Guild and the PSA to ensure pharmacists are educated on any items before they are promoted to the public.

Trials cheaper in Aust

TAX incentives for researchers are making clinical trials in Australia up to 60% more cost-effective, according to a new report by Frost & Sullivan, which estimates the clinical trials market is growing at an annual rate of 12% and will be valued at \$615m by 2019.

To view the report [CLICK HERE](#).

Blackmores profit dip

BLACKMORES has been hit hard by regulatory changes in China, with the company's shares briefly dipping below \$100 yesterday as it announced its quarterly results.

Group sales dropped 8.1% and net profit after tax dived 46.6% to \$12 million - but ceo Christine Holgate was upbeat.

She said the nutritional foods partnership with Bega had been "sluggish" (*PD* 26 Oct) as the Australian market adapts to overstocking, but "we finished the quarter in a stronger position than we started with improved sales and profitability momentum."

"Importantly, consumer demand remains high, though our profit result for the first quarter was impacted by softer sales in Australia primarily as a result of changes in the export market which previously was largely serviced through Australian retailers," she said.

Investments in operational infrastructure were also cited as impacting on the lower profit.

Holgate highlighted major growth in the company's China business with in-country sales and sales from the new export division servicing the China market at \$31m, up 220% on the prior corresponding period.

In-country Asia sales were reported up 37% and Blackmores' launch into Indonesia in Sep has returned "encouraging early sales".

Holgate said that overstocking appears to be easing, consumer demand remains robust and the growth of China business points to a strong future, consistent with "the Group's strategic focus and long-term growth prospects".

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 VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What makes the DU'IT Baby Liquid Powder so unique?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Vicki Whalland from Green Dispensary Pharmacy.



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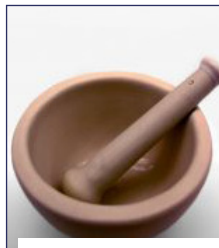
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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - Perth Region, WA (Job# 200013274)
Great team environment offering career development opportunity.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Central Highlands, VIC (Job# 200013389)
Fantastic sole charge opportunity in a small popular community Pharmacy!
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Canberra, ACT (Job# 200013028)
Full Time or weekend hrs avail medical centre close by.

Share your career vision with us and we'll help get you there!



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Cannabis licenses

THIS Sun 30 Oct marks a “big day in Australian pharmaceutical history,” with the government’s Office of Drug Control able to issue the first ever licenses for the cultivation of medical marijuana.

Health Products Regulation Group deputy secretary John Skerritt told yesterday’s ASMI conference he expects between 5 and 25 licenses to be issued in the first 12 months.



Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily*’s events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you’d like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

9 Nov: PBI Brisbane Workshop; Customs House; visit: www.pharmacybusinessinsight.com.au

11 Nov: Pharmacy Needle and Syringe Program Webinar; register here: www.guild.org.au

16-19 Nov: Medicines Management 2016; Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre; for more info visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

21 Nov: QCPQ Quality Assessment Webinar; register here: www.guild.org.au

23 Nov: QCPQ Refresher Training; Level 2, 40 Burwood Road, Hawthorn; details and to register: www.pharmacyguild.edu.au

2-5 Dec: Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association (APSA) Scientific Meeting; The University of Sydney; more info at: expertevents.eventsair.com

9-12 Mar: APP 2017; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; for details visit: www.appconference.com

Compounder found guilty

THE NSW Health Care Complaints Commission in April this year had prosecuted Nicholas Bova, a compounding pharmacist and the proprietor and pharmacist-in-charge at Bova Compounding Chemist in Sydney’s southern suburbs (**PD** 15 Apr) before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal which has now found him guilty of professional misconduct.

The Tribunal found that Bova failed to take reasonable steps to clarify whether Dextran T(500) sulfate was appropriate and safe for use in the human eye and dispensed ten bottles for a single patient when he should have been aware that the supply of ten bottles was an excessive quantity for a single patient and that he ought to have known that the bottles were to be used for other patients.

Bova’s pharmacy was also found to have failed to comply with



a large number of regulatory requirements including issues around supply and storage of restricted substances including S8 products as well as the keeping of a drug register for drugs of addiction or for dexamphetamine, codeine and ketamine.

The Tribunal ruled that Bova’s registration have certain restrictions on his practice: he is not to personally compound any pharmaceutical products for human use, not to allow the bulk extemporaneous compounding of any pharmaceutical product for the purposes of supply for human use nor is he to allow the compounding of codeine, dexamphetamine, testosterone, ketamine or oxytocin for either human or veterinary use.

In addition, he has been ordered to prepare a CPD plan for a period of three years, submitted annually to the Pharmacy Council of NSW and accrue 60 or more points during each 12 month period.

The council is also to appoint an auditor to conduct two audits over eighteen months to ensure compliance with the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 1966 and the Poisons and Therapeutic Regulation 2008.

Sanofi Zika vax hunt

FRENCH pharmaceutical manufacturer Sanofi has struck a deal with leading Brazilian research institute, Fiocruz Public Health Center, to hasten development of a Zika vaccine.

In Jul the company had linked with a US Army research institute, to access one of the furthest advanced vaccines in development, and now all three organisations will collaborate to speed the outcome, the company said.

\$190m research fund

THE Australian Government has announced a further \$190m in health and medical research, including a \$10.6m investment supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research.

Minister for Health Sussan Ley said these new grants, awarded through the National Health and Medical Research Council, would help Australia’s research community to make discoveries that improve the diagnosis, treatment and cure of illnesses that can affect Indigenous Australians.

The announcement includes \$2.5 million for a Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) to build Indigenous research capacity and to find solutions to alcohol-related health problems.

CLICK HERE for the details.



Dispensary Corner

GRASSHOPPERS, crickets and worms could be included in the next wave of superfoods.

Researchers at the American Chemical Society who spent months analysing the nutritional benefits of the insects discovered that grasshoppers and crickets were a far better source of iron than beef.

Crickets came out on top with not only the highest levels of iron - but also in a form that could be better absorbed by the human body than beef.

While creepy-crawlies are already a staple part of the diet for many cultures around the world, the west may take a while to digest the concept, although a range of cricket flour products is already available in the US.

Deep fried cricket skewers (pictured) anyone?



COULD you please stop fainting in rush hour?

That’s the message Portuguese commuter rail operator Fertagus is broadcasting in a bid to cut delays caused by passengers collapsing in the mornings.

In the first half of this year 46 commuters passed out on the company’s trains causing 209 minutes of delays.

Fertagus has deduced low blood sugar in people who have not eaten for several hours may be the cause of the problem.

They have now launched a campaign with an appeal for customers to eat their breakfast and are even giving out apples and yoghurt to passengers as part of the push.