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Pharmacy future fears

WHILE positive attitudes towards future employment and rural pharmacy placement characterised the findings from the National Pharmacy Students Survey (NPSS) 2017, hospital pharmacy placements, concerns regarding



internships and wages continue to trouble students. SHPA national president, Professor Michael Dooley,

also believes this is a matter that needs to be addressed, saying, "It is imperative that we continue to provide greater guidance and access for students to hospital pharmacy practice, as this is now the preferred professional choice for students".

More than three in five respondents said they did not feel adequately exposed to the hospital pharmacy environment in preparation for the workforce, despite 44% of respondents having ambitions to be employed in this field in five years.

At the same time, it was encouraging to see 90% of these respondents have strong desires to undertake an SHPA Hospital Residency Program, which was launched in 2017, said NAPSA executive director of Research and Transformation, Vasilios Sotiropoulos.

Findings from the survey drive NAPSA's agenda for change, said national president Sandra Minas, adding that some of the consequent initiatives will be announced at the NAPSA Congress to be held in Sydney next month.

WardMM cannabis trial

WARD Medication Management (WardMM) has signed a clinical trial agreement with LeafCann Research & Advisory, which will see the cannabis group sponsor research and provide medicinal marijuana extracts for a WardMM project looking at a potential new option for the treatment of dementia.

As well as looking at the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD), the organisations will also work on the development of a foundational medicinal cannabis R&D program to investigate safer medication use of other derivatives for a range of clinically important outcomes.

WardMM group ceo Stuart Ward said with the company's "exciting clinical decision support systems and our clinical capability we may be able to reduce the side effects, shape safer medication regimes and provide a better quality of life for patients living with BPSD, as well as their families".

Prominent pharmacists involved with WardMM include Chris Alderman and Natalie Soulsby - more info at www.leafcann.com.au.

MedAdvisor gets Zest

EBOS-OWNED healthcare communications agency Zest has announced digital medication management company MedAdvisor as its "preferred technology partner" in a move to help increase medication adherence, reduce hospital readmissions



and provide better continuity of care for patients.

The announcement follows the move in late Oct by Zest's parent company, EBOS Group Limited, to take a 14.1% stake in MedAdvisor.

As part of the \$10.5 million strategic investment, MedAdvisor signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Zest where the parties agreed to work together on strategic opportunities, including in relation to the Zest Connect Pharmacy Network.

MedAdvisor now boasts more than 2,600 Australian pharmacies and connecting around 6 million patients, with nearly 1 million connected digitally.



Guild memories

THE Pharmacy Guild is seeking contributions of photos from members of the last 90 years, as it prepares to celebrate the organisation's ninth decade in 2018 with a presentation at APP2018 - tina.scrine@qldguild.org.au.



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Dispensary Corner

A SUPER-SIZED superfood?

That's possibly an appropriate name for a gigantic avocado grown in Hawaii which was harvested this week.

The enormous fruit - probably big enough for a whole loaf of smashed avo on toast - was discovered by Pamela Wang on Hawaii's Big Island when she went for a Sunday afternoon stroll.

Weighing 2.3kg, the item (pictured) was "as big as my head," she said, and is now waiting to find out from the Guinness World Records whether it's the world's biggest avocado.



WHEN you have to go, you just have to go.

That was the experience of a whole planeload of passengers on a Delta Air Lines flight in the US this week, when the aircraft had to be diverted for a group comfort break because the on-board toilets stopped working.

The aircraft was flying across the country, from New York City to Seattle, but ended up having a stopover in Billings, Montana, because passengers just couldn't hold it in any longer.

A statement from Delta said upon landing the plane taxied to a cargo area because there was no available gate.

Ground crew rolled a stairway to the door so those on board could "disembark to find relief of built-up pressures," the airline said.

GSK Voltaren disappointment

GLAXOSMITHKLINE says it is disappointed that the ACCC has launched Federal Court proceedings against it around the marketing of Voltaren Osteo Gel and Voltaren Emulgel pain relief products (PD yesterday).

The company said it had been in ongoing discussions with the Commission, "proactively trying to understand their concerns related to our products, however to date they have not provided clarity about the basis for their concern."

The ACCC alleges that despite Voltaren Emulgel and Osteo Gel both containing the same active ingredient, the company represented that Osteo Gel was specifically formulated for treating osteoarthritis conditions, and was more effective than Emulgel to treat those ailments - with a significant price premium.

GSK contended, "Recent actions by the ACCC provided greater clarity around the expectations of industry regulators and consumers...we responded to this and proactively made changes to

Voltaren Osteo Gel 1% packs to make it clearer that the formulation is the same as Voltaren Emulgel and to seek to ensure we continue to meet the expectations of regulators and consumers".



The company said its experience was that people self-selected pain relief based on their

symptoms and/or a healthcare professional's recommendation.

While admitting the products were the same, GSK said "we believe the design of the packaging helps people with osteoarthritis open the cap more easily and the instructions for use reflect the TGA approved instructions for use in osteoarthritis."

The ACCC is also pursuing Novartis in the matter, after GSK acquired the Voltaren portfolio in 2016.

\$1.16m cancer study

CANCER Council Australia has hailed a new \$1.16m research grant from the Australian Government which will see ANU's Professor Emily Banks track the physical, mental, social & economic impact of cancer on over 70,000 survivors.

WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away 3 x shades of the Absolute Brow Pencil - valued at \$36.

Designer Brands Absolute Brow Pencil is the do-it-all brow hero. This versatile product includes a precision, triangular tip to define and feather-in brows and an integrated spoolie to groom and shape, before and after applying. With a soft, yet smudge-proof formula this brow pencil can transform brows, adding natural-looking thickness for all day wear. Available in 3 shades; Taupe, Hickory and Chocolate. **CLICK HERE** to see more.

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



Can the Absolute Brow Pencil be used to create both natural and sharp brow looks?

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Travel Specials

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