

### Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, our regular health & beauty feature plus a full page from Ego.

### Women in leadership

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's upcoming PSA17 conference will showcase female pharmacy leaders in a special panel featuring federal MP Emma McBride, who is also a pharmacist.

The Women in Leadership Panel will be facilitated by PSA executive director of Policy, Advocacy and Innovation, Dr Alison Roberts, with participants including Pfizer Australia md Melissa McGregor; consultant clinical pharmacist Debbie Rigby; NAPSA president Shefali Parekh; Victoria Rutter, Commonwealth Pharmacists' Association executive director; and Rhonda White AO, co-founder of Terry White Chemists.

Dr Roberts said the panellists would reflect on the latest Pharmacy Board of Australia data which shows 61% of registered pharmacists are female - but the "boards and leadership of pharmacy organisations and pharmacy businesses don't seem to reflect this" - see [psa17.com](http://psa17.com).

## Pharmacy vaccine outrage

THE pharmacy sector had a huge reaction to comments by Influenza Specialist Group spokesman Professor Robert Booy in yesterday's *Pharmacy Daily*, quoting an *MJA Insight* article where he incorrectly claimed some chemists were offering "cheap flu shots this year using 2016 vaccine stock".

Shortly after *PD* was distributed yesterday *MJA Insight* published a correction, admitting this was incorrect and noting that "all 2016 stock had a use-by-date which prevented it being used this year, and it is likely that most leftover 2016 stock has been destroyed".

Pharmacists from across the country were furious about Booy's claims, with many noting they are offering the Afluria 2017 vaccination to eligible patients.

"We are of course telling those who would be eligible for the

government funded vaccines that they can wait for the doctors to receive their stock (remember these vaccines are free to the patient but not the tax payer!) which will be supplied once all the stock for the NIP is available," one pharmacist commented.

Another noted that the comments from Professor Booy were "completely incorrect," while vaccine manufacturer Seqirus confirmed the availability of the approved 2017 Afluria Quad seasonal vaccine (*PD* 10 Mar).

### Health IT consulting

THE Department of Health has issued a Request for Information seeking to identify innovative ideas and approaches to its proposed Digital Payments Platform.

The move follows last year's announcement that the government planned to replace the IT system for health, aged care and veterans' payments (*PD* 19 Oct 16).

The RFI foreshadows possible implementation timing and milestones with the aim of showing "how demonstrated progress could be achieved by early 2019".

See [tenders.gov.au](http://tenders.gov.au).

### Healthy ageing trial

THE University of Sydney's Charles Perkins Centre is seeking older Australians to take part in a new meal delivery trial, with the aim of testing how simple dietary changes can impact late-life health.

The four week program will see participants have all their meals and snacks delivered to their door, with recruits randomly assigned to one of four diets with varying amounts of fats and carbohydrates.

The researchers hope to find 220 participants aged 65 to 75 who have no food allergies or intolerances, with pharmacies able to refer suitable patients to the trial by calling 02 8627 0778.

### Animal justice

NEW legislation introduced by the Coalition and broadly supported by the ALP, the Greens and the Animal Justice Party will take effect as of 01 Jul this year to prohibit the sale of cosmetics and other personal products that have been tested on animals or contain animal-tested ingredients.

Roy Morgan research found that 46% of Australian women nominated 'Not tested on animals' as a feature important to them when purchasing make-up.

### New medicines listed

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has posted a list of 'Extension of Indications' registrations for medicines from late Dec, with the additions including Cubicin, Boostrix and Jardiamet/Jardiancemet - see [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

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## Guild Intern of the Year named

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia and MIMS Australia have announced that Morgan Kennedy from Capital Chemist Wanniasa in the ACT is the 2016 MIMS Pharmacy Guild Intern of the Year.

Guild National Intern Training Program manager, Tim Roberts, said Kennedy had demonstrated outstanding effort implementing a range of professional services projects in her pharmacy.

"It's clear Morgan is an integral part of her pharmacy, delivering diabetes checks, asthma inhaler checks, MedsChecks and over 200 immunisations (under supervision from her preceptor)," Roberts said.

She also drove the adoption of social media to promote professional services in the pharmacy, completed her Mental Health First Aid Training and volunteered for 30 out-of-pharmacy events across the year, helping raise over \$6,000 for charity.

MIMS spokesperson Dinah Graham said the organisation was delighted to sponsor the award which showcases the innovation and excellence of interns.

"The MIMS Pharmacy Guild Intern of the Year award is the perfect opportunity to highlight



the outstanding contribution and dedication of the next generation of pharmacists," she said.

The prize is a travel and educational scholarship to the value of \$4,000 courtesy of MIMS Australia.

Morgan is pictured receiving her award at APP on the Gold Coast last Sat with Dinah Graham, MIMS business development manager; and Pharmacy Guild national president George Tambassis.

## Paracetamol toxicity

**THE** Tasmanian Coroner has released a report on the death of a 64-year-old man who died in 2014 as a result of multiple organ failure due to paracetamol toxicity.

The patient suffered from a range of conditions including a 2013 diagnosis of dementia, but evidence cited by the Coroner found he had been taking a regular daily dosage of paracetamol for over 12 years before his death.

Coroner Ron Chandler noted that diagnosis of chronic paracetamol intoxication was often difficult, with symptoms "insidious in onset, often nonspecific, and easily confused with alternative diagnoses".

To view the report **CLICK HERE**.

## Pharmacy Trial to be announced in May

**THE** Health Department has updated the timeline listed on its website for the \$50 million Pharmacy Trial Program, advising that successful applicants for the tranche 2 funding process will be notified in May this year, about five months after bids closed on 15 Dec.

The website advises that "key activities for the PTP in 2017" will include the assessment process for the funding, which is now scheduled for Apr/May 2017.

## ASMI hails Canadian switch study

**NEW** research out of Canada has shown that almost \$1 billion could be freed up from the country's healthcare system and the broader economy simply by switching three categories of medicine from prescription to over-the-counter.

The Canadian categories include erectile dysfunction drugs, oral contraceptives and proton pump inhibitors, with the savings including \$458 million in drug costs, \$290 million in doctor visits (6.6 million fewer appointments) and \$290 million in labour productivity.

The report was released by the Conference Board of Canada, with the financial support of Consumer Health Products Canada.

The authors concluded that OTC switches can be an important policy tool for increasing access to medications, especially for drug categories for which a significant proportion of the population is untreated and the condition can be managed with limited doctor supervision.

Other consumer advantages cited include better knowledge of treatment options and greater empowerment to self-manage minor ailments.

"All Canadians would benefit from easier access to medicine they need and the reduced burden on our strained healthcare system," said Consumer Health Products Canada president Karen Proud.

"Allowing people to choose a trip to the pharmacy instead of missing work to see a doctor just makes

sense," she said.

The report can be viewed online at [selfcare.ca](http://selfcare.ca).

The Australian Self-Medication Industry welcomed the report, saying it reinforced a call for a 'Switch Agenda' made by ASMI chairman Lindsay Forrest at APP last week (**PD** yesterday).

APP also included a presentation by NZ Pharmacy Guild president Graeme Blanchard, who described the success of the New Zealand experience where some erectile dysfunction medications had been downscheduled, along with oral contraceptives.

## Busy year for Board

**THE** Pharmacy Board of Australia has released a summary report detailing its activities over the 12 months to Jun 2016, providing a snapshot of the profession, outcomes of criminal history checks and segmentation of registrants by gender, age and principal place of practice.

The report shows that of the 657,621 registered health professionals in Australia in 2015/16, 4.5% were pharmacists and during the year 3,324 new applications for registration as a pharmacist were received.

570 notifications were lodged, equating to 1.9% of the profession and immediate action to suspend or limit a pharmacist's registration was taken 20 times in 2015/16.

See [pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://pharmacyboard.gov.au).

## WIN WITH PLUNKETTS

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To win, be the first from WA to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

In which country is John Plunkett Dark Spot Eraser made?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Joss Beare from Blooms the Chemist Kingaroy.

## Dispensary Corner

**A SWEET-toothed thief** (try saying that three times quickly) has been put behind bars in the US state of New Jersey, after he robbed the same convenience store three times in four days.

The Newark man pleaded guilty to the robberies, in which he brandished a knife and demanded candy from the Seven-Eleven.

**AND** you thought 'Open Sesame' was just the stuff of fantasy.

The world's first 'lip password' has been created using a user's unique mouth motion.

Professor Cheun Yiu-ming from the Department of Computer Science at Hong Kong Baptist University was looking for an alternative to existing systems such as fingerprints or face scans.

He conducted a study which adopted a computational learning model to extract visual features of lip shape, texture and movement to characterise lip sequence.

Anyone from any country can use the system, which even works for speech-impaired individuals.

"The same password spoken by two persons is different, and a learning system can distinguish them," Professor Cheung said.

The technology was granted a US patent in 2015, with the professor saying it will be able to be used for financial transaction authentications such as credit card user passwords and transactions at ATM machines.



## Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy. Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

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**Stockist:** 02 9684 6555  
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**Website:** [www.southernature.com.au](http://www.southernature.com.au)

### UltraBiotic Pregnancy Care



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**Stockist:** 1300 650 455  
**RRP:** 30 caps \$33.95, 60 caps \$60.50  
**Website:** [www.bioceticals.com.au](http://www.bioceticals.com.au)

### Instinct by David Beckham

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**Stockist:** 1800 812 663  
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**Website:** [www.coty.com](http://www.coty.com)

### Birthday girl gift set - by Philosophy



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**Part of the Business Publishing Group.**

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**References:** **1.** Numit Product Information, June 2016. **2.** Shah V, Taddio A, McMurtry CM, Halperin SA, Noel M, Riddell RP et al. Clin J Pain. 2015; 31(10S):S38-S63. **3.** Kleiber C, Sorenson M, Whiteside K, Gronstal BA, Tannous R. Pediatrics. 2002; 110(4):758-61. **4.** Based on the average retail price of Emla 30g. Data held on file, January 18, 2017.