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Herbal consultation

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is seeking input on a proposal to discontinue the process for the pre-market evaluation of Herbal Component Names which are used in relation to listed complementary medicines.

Interested parties should respond to the consultation document by Fri 12 Jan 2018 - more details online at www.tga.gov.au.

SHPA mentoring program

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has launched a new Mentoring Program which will “empower pharmacists to build their confidence, sharpen their focus, dismantle barriers and grow job satisfaction”.

Launched on Fri morning during the opening plenary session of Medicines Management 2017, the

43rd SHPA National Conference in Sydney, SHPA president Michael Dooley announced the opening of applications for a limited-placement pilot year of the program in 2018.

SHPA ceo Kristin Michaels said the development of the program had been driven by society members.

“The need for an SHPA-guided mentoring program aimed at mid-career hospital pharmacists was confirmed as part of members’ recommendations made at the 2016 SHPA Future Summit.

“When members talk, we listen, and it is fantastic to see a program - targeted at all hospital pharmacists, technicians and pharmacy assistants - up and running one year later, ready to empower mentors and mentees to fulfil their potential,” she said.

Michaels said the SHPA Mentoring Program ultimately aims to enhance outcomes for Australian patients by nurturing the pharmacy workforce, particularly in light of the evolving health landscape.

“The SHPA Mentoring Program will help pharmacists - whether their careers are just beginning, changing shape, or at a fork in the road - navigate this environment to ensure they can have the strongest impact on excellent medicines management and patient care,” Michaels added.

Apo-Perindopril recall

HEALTH professionals are advised that Apotex, in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), is recalling eight additional batches of Apo-Perindopril Arginine (**PD 10 Nov**).

Batches include 2.5mg, 5mg and 10mg tablets with batch numbers specified on the TGA website.

Go to tga.gov.au for details.

Staged supply snags

THE Small Pharmacies Group has told *Pharmacy Daily* it has received a “lot of complaints” from members about the government’s staged supply payment system.

The system is intended

to support the provision of PBS medicines in instalments when requested by the prescriber.

The frequency of Staged Supply dosing instalments should be determined by the prescriber in consultation with the pharmacy and patient/carer.

However pharmacists are finding that they are spending too long filling out forms and on the phone to 6CPA staff sorting out issues.

The amount pharmacists are paid for these time-consuming services “does not justify the effort of claiming” some pharmacists are saying, leading some to not bother, the organisation said.

Those that do invest in the process often find it takes a long time to get paid, the Small Pharmacies Group spokesperson said.



SHPA honour for Stowasser



QUEENSLAND hospital pharmacist Dr Danielle Stowasser has been named as the recipient of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists’ Fred J. Boyd Award for 2017.

Society president Professor Michael Dooley presented the award on Fri during the 43rd SHPA National Conference in Sydney.

He said Stowasser’s PhD thesis had had “ground-breaking impact” in establishing pre-admission clinical pharmacists and developing a system of medication delivery

liaisons, while other initiatives she has led include standardised prescription and administration services to reduce adverse events.

“This has been instrumental in improvements across Queensland,” Professor Dooley said.

He also acknowledged Dr Chris Alderman, Elizabeth Anderson and Karen O’Leary as “worthy nominees for this prestigious award” and evidence of the high calibre of innovative SHPA member pharmacists.

Pharmacists know the value of 6CPA medication adherence and medication management services.

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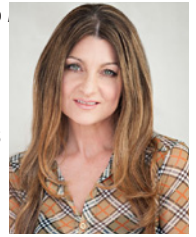
Guild Ramsay alert

THE Pharmacy Guild is having urgent conversations with the Qld Government over whether the purchase of 18 Malouf pharmacies by Ramsay Health Care (PD 23 Aug) complies with the Pharmacy Business Ownership Act which mandates pharmacist ownership.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to comment feature. This week's contributor is Catherine Cervasio, Director Aromababy



Baby massage oil support for parents

THERE are numerous baby massage oils to choose from, which can become a little confusing for new parents. Many pharmacies have a good selection of products containing a wide variety of ingredients.

Whilst some parents like to use vegetable oils from home to massage newborns, care should be taken to ensure the oil will not lead to future sensitisation*. If parents wish to purchase a baby massage oil, various infant massage associations suggest using a natural product which has a short list of ingredients, is free from petro-chemicals/mineral oil and is fragrance (essential oil) free.

A bland, unscented product is also best to help minimise the likelihood of an allergic reaction. The more ingredients present in a baby product, the higher the risk of an infant being allergic to an ingredient.

In any baby oil formulation, the oil which makes up the majority of the product will be listed first; jojoba is an ideal primary ingredient. Added ingredients should be at a minimum and include, natural vitamin e or evening primrose oil.

Parents should be encouraged to store organic and natural oils in the fridge to keep fresh, particularly over the warm, summer months.

* <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-09-food-skin-care-products-linked-allergies.html>

Dispensary Corner

FOOD poisoning, anyone?
A British bakery has been fined more than \$250,000 over health and safety violations, after council inspectors found a host of problems including a filthy tennis racquet being used to mash potatoes (pictured).

Doce Bakers and its sister business Sweet Mahal shared premises in Edmonton, North London, where they made products including desserts, sweets, samosas and baked goods. Officials said they believed staff rested the racquet on top of the bowl and mashed potatoes by pushing them through the strings.



AND while we're on the subject of potatoes, scientists at the University of Western Australia are thrilled to have discovered a new species of grass which tastes like salt and vinegar chips.

The ABC reported the researchers were doing "late night experiments" handling specimens of *trodia scintillans*, a type of native spinifex which has sparkling drops on its stems - and found it was finger-lickin' good.

"Someone licked their hand at some point and tasted that flavour," Dr Matthew Barrett said.

Dr Barrett did not recommend that people with a salt and vinegar craving seek out and lick the spinifex - presumably because they might cut their tongue.

ACCHO committee meeting



THE National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) along with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has hosted the first meeting of a new Special Interest Group relating to Aboriginal health service pharmacists.

The meeting took place during the NACCHO annual conference this month, with committee members including pharmacists from every state and territory who will provide peer support, advocacy and input into key

medicines-related policy items for NACCHO and PSA, as well as contribute to the development of PSA's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service Pharmacist Career Pathway.

Pictured above back row from left are: Sophie Lawson, Gina Adams, Chastina Heck, Mike Stephens, Chris Braithwaite, Himali Kaniyal, Tinu Abraham and Lucky Zeniou.

Front row from left: Hannah Mann, Joanna Martin and Alice Nugent.

Win with dreambaby

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