

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from Pharmacy 4 Less.

\$5m for GBMA

THE government has awarded a Biosimilar Educational Grant to GBMA Education Ltd, the educational arm of the Generics & Biosimilar Medicines Association.

The three-year grant will fund activities to further promote the appropriate prescribing, dispensing and use of biosimilar medicines.

Initial activities under the grant will launch at APP2018 and the upcoming RACP Congress, with the aim of facilitating debate and discussion among stakeholders.

"As the use of biosimilar medicines increases, lower prices for biological medicines could provide PBS subsidies for broader access to biological medicines and further drive continued innovation in life-changing medicines," GBMA said in a statement this morning.

"GBMA Education welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Australian Government through this grant and looks forward to contributing to the discussion and debate in making these favourable outcomes a reality."

PDL vaccination warnings


PHARMACEUTICAL Defence Limited has highlighted the importance of pharmacists administering the correct influenza vaccine based on their patients' age, with Afluria Quad, dispensed to children, the most frequently recurring vaccine involved in PDL incident reports last year.

Afluria Quad is contraindicated for those younger than 18 years, but a PDL Practice Alert issued on Fri related several "case scenarios" where customers aged under 18 presented with scripts for Fluquadri or Fluarix Tetra and were dispensed with the Afluria injection instead.

PDL also said pharmacists should beware of generic prescriptions, which have seen Afluria Quad incorrectly supplied to children where the script was written generically as "Influenza Vaccine".


Other incident reports relating to flu vaccinations last year included incorrect technique or incorrect site of administration, some of which led to "longer term consequences for the patient".

PDL noted that the high dose trivalent influenza vaccine which is available through the National Immunisation Program this year for people aged 65 years and over.



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Come roast James

BRISBANE pharmacist James Delahunty is set to be the subject of ridicule and mocking on 29 Apr - but it's all in a good cause.

A special "roast" event will take place at 11.30am at the Victoria Park Function Centre in Herston, Brisbane, with participants including former Guild president Kos Sclavos, missionary and pharmacist Frank Evans from Aitape, PNG, and pharmacist Jocelyn Wilson, who has helped spread the word of Rotary Donations in Kind, an organisation started by Delahunty and wife Carmel almost 40 years ago to send medical aid and educational items to Australia's near neighbours.

All are welcome to attend the event which aims to raise much-needed funds for the group - RSVPs and more info from Jacqui Page on 0409 719 516.

TGA code seminars

THE Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) will host Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code Seminars in Melbourne on 30 May and Sydney on 06 Jun, covering the evolving advertising framework, approvals & complaints mechanisms - asmi.com.au.

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1. Faergemann et al. Journal of Cosmetics, Dermatological Sciences and Applications 2011, Vol:59-63.



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Dispensary Corner

THE American family who welcomed their 14th son into the world last week (**PD Fri**) have come up with an appropriately unusual middle name for the baby.

Kateri and Jay Schwandt from Michigan have decided to call the infant Finley "Sheboygan" Schwandt, claiming the middle name is related to the story of a Native American chief who had fathered many boys.

Believing his last child would finally be a girl, when that turned out to not be the case the chief named him Sheboygan for "she is a boy again," *Yahoo* reports.

Jay Schwandt also affirmed that there is "no chance" the pair will have another child, saying "this realistically is the end of the road as far as making babies".

The family will be featured in a new documentary to be screened on the *Lifetime Network* this year.

A LOCAL council in Britain has confirmed that the street lights in its area do not cause cancer, after being accused of involvement in secret government trials.

A Facebook post by Gateshead Council also clarified that antennas on telegraph poles "will not induce miscarriages in pregnant women or cause insomnia, or nosebleeds, and they are not killing birds or insects".

The council was responding to social media conspiracy theorists claiming it was experimenting with 5G technology.

The response said the council had taken advice from several bodies including Public Health England and the World Health Organization "and they have confirmed that there is no risk".

Nicotine gum, lozenges onto PBS

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) has recommended the PBS listing of nicotine gum and lozenges, as monotherapies as a "restricted benefit for treating nicotine dependence in cigarette smokers who wish to quit and enter into a behavioural support program".

Previously nicotine patches were PBS listed, and the committee has now accepted a submission regarding non-inferiority in terms of comparative efficacy and safety for gum and lozenges vs patches.

The PBAC also made a number of recommendations regarding new biosimilars for etanercept, follitropin alfa and rituximab.

With rituximab, the PBAC recommended the addition of a note encouraging prescribing of the biosimilar brands to treat naive patients for all indications.

FDA opioid plan

THE US Food and Drug Administration has released a new draft guidance to aid industry in developing new drugs for use in "medication assisted treatment" (MAT) for opioid dependence.

The document explains the FDA's current thinking around passive-compliance modified-release "depot" buprenorphine products for injection or implantation.

See www.fda.gov.

Targin packaging to be modified

PHARMACEUTICAL Defence Limited has welcomed confirmation from Mundi Pharma that it will change the packaging of Targin 2.5 to differentiate it from Targin 40.

PDL raised awareness of the similarities of the packaging of the different Targin strengths in a Practice Alert issued last Oct.

Pharmacy vaccinations profiled

VICTORIAN Senator Bridget McKenzie (**pictured**), the Deputy Leader of the Nationals and Minister for Rural Health, has profiled the need for flu immunisation by getting her flu vaccination administered by a local community pharmacist.

McKenzie received her flu vaccination from pharmacist and proprietor Jim Cominos at TerryWhite Chemmart Wodonga, highlighting the importance of vaccinations ahead of this winter season.

"This demonstrates the ease of access to vaccinations through pharmacies, making it that much simpler for anyone to get their flu shot," Cominos said.



Running festival open

REGISTRATIONS are now open for the 2018 Blackmores Sydney Running Festival on Sun 16 Sep, with 33,000 entrants expected to run the scenic courses across the Sydney Harbour Bridge in four events ranging from a 3.5km Family Fun Run through to the 42.2km Sydney Marathon - **CLICK HERE**.

Weekly Comment



Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature. This week's contribution is from **Carl Gibson CEO**



Complementary Medicines Australia (CMA).

Encouraging Research in Complementary Medicines

ONE of the recent amendments made to the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 implements a new intermediate pathway for including a product on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

This 'Assessed' pathway will sit between Aust L listed products and Aust R registered products and will provide the ability for complementary medicines to make intermediate health claims up to health benefits for serious diseases.

It will also include a much needed and long overdue protection for propriety research and clinical trials, encouraging industry investment in research and product innovation.

Australia already holds major potential to be an international leader in complementary medicines research, and this pathway will further support translation of complementary medicines research into both commercial and health policy outcomes.

It will also help Australia to meet the growing international demand for high-quality, evidence-based complementary medicines and natural health products.



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