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### DDS satisfies in Mar

**DISCOUNT** Drug Stores was the leading pharmacy brand for customer satisfaction in Mar, according to a Roy Morgan poll. The monthly figures saw My Chemist in second place, followed by Priceline, TerryWhite Chemmart and then Chemist Warehouse.

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## NanaBis available on MCMP

**COMMUNITY** pharmacies are being invited to open accounts with Medlab Clinical in order to access the company's new NanaBis oromucosal pain spray, which is available via the Medicinal Cannabis Medicines Portal (MCMP) effective from today.

NanaBis is a non-ARTG schedule 8 medication which is indicated for the improvement of systems related to intractable pain in cancer patients.

The product is currently in clinical trial (**PD 24 Apr**) and is available under the Approved Prescriber Scheme and Special Access Scheme Category B through the MCMP.

The MCMP is an initiative of PharmaPrograms, developed by Sinapse Pty Ltd as an IT-enabled health system that helps

### Chemo EHR boosts pharmacy info

**ST VINCENT'S** Health Australia will expand its use of Elekta's MOSAIQ Medical Oncology electronic health record (EHR) to encompass five additional medical oncology clinics operating in four hospitals located in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria.

The organisation's flagship St Vincent's Hospital Sydney has already been using the MOSAIQ platform since 2015.

With the system, a single database aggregates all of the clinic's patient data, clinical regimens and pharmacy information so providers can deliver the best possible care for every patient.

patients by improving access to pharmaceutical treatments and programs with the support of their doctor and pharmacist.

Prior to ordering NanaBis for patients, pharmacies will need an account with Medlab, with Sinapse urging that this be set up as soon as possible to ensure the pharmacy is ready for the first request.

Account opening procedures require the pharmacy to demonstrate its qualification for storing and handling Schedule 8 controlled drugs, in the form of a Pharmacy Registration Certificate or an Agreement with Medicare and the matching owner pharmacist's AHPRA registration certificate.

In addition to facilitating supply of NanaBis, a structured pharmacy support program is an integral part of the MCMP, which provides a streamlined process for medicinal cannabis prescribing and dispensing.

Sinapse noted there were also additional pharmacy and prescriber resources available via the MCMP website, including a CMI document and a NanaBis pricing table.

More information is available on 1300 364 231 or via email on [mcmp@pharmaprograms.com.au](mailto:mcmp@pharmaprograms.com.au).

### Qld Guild vax supply

**THE** Queensland branch of the Pharmacy Guild has received Preferred Supplier status with the Qld Government for its members to provide flu vaccinations to government employees during the 2018 flu season.

Twelve government departments have confirmed their participation in the program, involving more than 106,000 employees.

There have been more than 1,530 completed vaccinations and over 2,400 bookings made since the program commenced on Mon 19 Mar, the Guild said.

The Queensland Branch has also confirmed the involvement of RSL Queensland and is liaising with other state government departments and private entities to participate in the 2018 program.

Guild Queensland president Trent Twomey said "We are thrilled to facilitate this remunerated service to our members and increase recognition of community pharmacies throughout Queensland as a health destination".

The Guild has partnered with GuildLink to create an online booking system for vaccinations using the GuildCare NG platform.

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

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## SHPA urges recognition

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia says there is no question that the scope of work of pharmacists is expanding - contradicting the position held by the Pharmacy Guild which opposes pay rises for pharmacists under a "work value claim" sought by union group APESMA (PD 24 Apr).

Responding to last week's **Pharmacy Daily** report, SHPA ceo Kristin Michaels said evidence of the growing impact and influence of pharmacists continued to build across the sector.

"New pharmacy roles are emerging and core pharmacy roles are expanding in scope - SHPA continues to advocate for growing recognition of this unique expertise

and its criticality to patient care," Michaels said, adding that optimal care for all Australians depended on a national pharmacist workforce that was well-trained and appropriately valued.

"As well as attracting the best and brightest students to a long and successful career in pharmacy, fostering pharmacists' excellence is particularly important to supporting patients as they move from the community into hospital and back to the community again, a time when poor medicines use can have grave ramifications."

Michaels noted SHPA's commitment to the Advanced Practice Collaborative as a strategic driver of the new Advancing Practice program (PD 05 Mar), along with the Society's specialty practice streams which are harnessing the collective expertise of pharmacists to develop and deliver new and enhanced resources to improve all areas of pharmacy practice.

"As Australia's number two most trusted professional group, pharmacists must be valued by the health system as much as they are valued by the public," she urged.

## AusCann supply deal

**MEDICINAL** cannabis company AusCann Group Holdings has received an import permit under its existing import licence, with the firm saying it will soon receive finished cannabis oils from its major shareholder, Canopy Growth Corporation, which also plans to supply AusCann with Spectrum Cannabis branded products for Australian distribution.

## Guardian private label challenge

**GUARDIAN** Pharmacy has launched a national "sales challenge" which will empower member pharmacies to support their local communities.

The new Caring4Community program is a monthly competition focusing on the in-house Pharmacy Care range, in which the top selling Guardian pharmacy each month will win the power to give back via a \$500 community donation courtesy of Guardian.

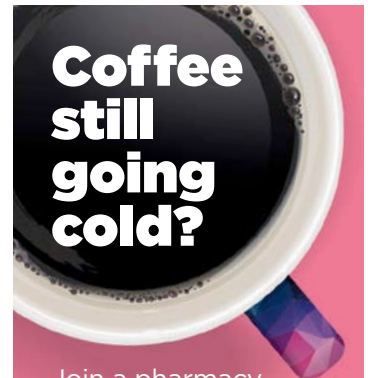
The first winner was Bellerive Quay Pharmacy in Tasmania, which donated \$500 to 65 Roses, a charity that supports on-going care for cystic fibrosis patients.

Guardian head of marketing & digital, Tasha Harp Kennealy, said one of the main goals of the Caring4Community Program was to inspire teams with engaging sales tools that empowered them to "proudly own the program in-pharmacy, drive sales and support a good cause in the process."

"The future of private label sales is dependent on the relationship that stores are able to build between these brands and their

customers," she said.

"A promotion like Caring4Community will help drive store and private label loyalty if customers feel they're getting a good product for a fair price and are supporting the community."



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## Spill closes pharmacy

**FOUR** staff from the pharmacy at Cairns Hospital were treated for minor symptoms after a vapour leak caused the facility's closure, the *Cairns Post* reports.

Emergency services attended the incident last Fri which related to a small bottle of bone cement.

The spill was quickly contained and the pharmacy was able to reopen after about 90 minutes.

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## Dispensary Corner

**STOMACH** upsets, respiratory problems or just about anything medical - no problems, six billion cockroaches will fix anything, or so a Chinese company believes.

Chengdu-based Gooddoctor Pharmaceutical Group is breeding these little miracles in a multi-storey building the size of two sports fields, according to the *South China Morning Post*.

Inside the artificial intelligence (AI)-controlled breeding site, the environment is described as "warm, humid, and dark" all year round, with every detail of food and moisture monitored by AI, which learns from historical data to determine the best conditions for peak roach reproduction.

The billions of roaches are crushed to create a healing potion sold to more than 4,000 hospitals across China and being used by some 40 million patients, the report says - like snake oil, most likely not crawling with evidence.

**A UNIVERSITY** in China has come up with a unique way to encourage more physical activity from its students.

The uni's upcoming annual sports day will feature a new "500 gram grenade toss" event, which has been introduced after a noted reluctance to participate in traditional athletic activities such as javelin and discus.

When replaced with grenade tossing, "students rushed to sign up," officials said.

Participants will be throwing weighted replicas of a Type 23 stick grenade, which was originally used by the German military in World War 2 and later adopted by the Chinese army.

## Blackmores ramps capacity



**BLACKMORES** has announced a strategic acquisition of 100% of the Catalent Australia tablet and soft-gel capsule manufacturing facility in Braeside, Vic, for \$43.2 million (**PD** breaking news Tue), expanding the company's ability to respond to changing market conditions.

The 30,000 square metre site is licensed to produce medicines by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) as well as by international regulators.

"Our strategy will be to continue to source a significant proportion of our products from our existing contract manufacturing partners and we will supplement this with our own manufacturing capacity through the Braeside facility," Blackmores chief executive officer Richard Henfrey explained.

In an ASX announcement, Blackmores also reported net sales for the nine months to 31 Mar of \$434 million, up 8.5% compared to the prior corresponding period, with net profit after tax at \$52 million, up 19.3% on the prior period.

Additionally, the announcement included the appointment to the Board as Non-Executive Director, of Jackie McArthur, 2016 Telstra NSW Businesswoman of the Year, with "extensive operational expertise across the Asia Pacific Region".

Commenting on the reported results, Henfrey said, "We made solid market share gains in Australia over the last quarter and remain

the clear number one brand in Australia in both total market and domestic sales."

He added that recent structural changes in the sector had affected supply continuity of many smaller lines as well as export sales in the second and third quarters.

"The Board expects our current growth trajectory will continue and that we will deliver good profit growth for the full year," Henfrey concluded.

## MHRA plots Brexit

**BRITAIN'S** Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has released a new five-year corporate plan which includes an outline of how it plans to deal with the uncertainty around the UK's exit from the EU.

MHRA says it plans to boost its use of real-world data to support regulatory decision making, with the 2018-2023 plan also highlighting ongoing technological and scientific challenges, including genomics and increased personalisation of products.

New areas of regulation are likely to include digital/AI-based products as well as novel supply chains.

Despite the looming impact of Brexit, MHRA notes that pharmaceuticals is a key sector where, in the interests of public health, an "ongoing active regulatory partnership with Europe" makes sense.

## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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