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Inter-professional communications

IT'S time to embed inter-professional communication into the education of pharmacy students to improve the patient journey and optimise the outcomes from medicines, Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) past president Professor Debra Rowett said during her speech at this year's Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom, AO Distinguished Lecture Series in Canberra last month.

Rowett said health systems around the world are changing to address a number of existing challenges in providing effective, timely, value-based care now and into the future, with team-based care a key component.

"The increasing array of diagnostic tests, complexity of illnesses, multimorbidity, interventions and care options combined with the number of health carers and organisations involved can make it difficult for patients and providers of care to negotiate the health care system," Rowett said.

"The longitudinal care required for an ageing population and those living with chronic disease requires consideration of effective oral and technical communication between health care team members, their patients and their carers and families," she argued.

"Successful inter-professional communication cannot be left to chance.

"It is a skill that needs to have the same amount of investment as that of the effort we put into communication with our patients."

MedAdvisor Thrivor stake

LISTED digital medicines management company MedAdvisor has announced a new partnership with emerging "software-as-a-service" platform Thrivor, assisting patients and their support networks when dealing with a serious illness.

Thrivor comprises two key components: an administration portal to help hospitals and clinical trial sites to manage communications, appointments and payments; and an app which acts as a support tool for life outside a patient's clinical care.

Under the collaboration MedAdvisor will receive a 5% stake in Thrivor as an upfront initial fee.

The companies said their goals were "highly complementary"

in that they sought to leverage technology to provide convenience and improve the lives of patients.

The Thrivor app includes functionality to help keep track of medical expenses and records as well as maintaining a health wallet allowing family and friends to contribute financially for patients to pay for services as required.

Thrivor founder Justin McLean said, "The journey during serious illness of a patient is disjointed and intimidating," with the firm's technology helping address complex issues during this time.

"The Collaboration of MedAdvisor and Thrivor platforms is a no-brainer to deliver benefits for the patient and stakeholders in the health system," he said.

MedAdvisor CEO Robert Read said the pact also broadened clinical trial opportunities by helping identify hard to reach eligible patients and manage compliance.

Amcal, Guardian welcome AZ move

MARC Clavin, Chairman of the Amcal Guardian National Council says the news that AstraZeneca is transitioning away from exclusive direct supply arrangements (PD Mon) is a "great win for consumers, pharmacists and the industry at large - helping to ensure a more robust and safer supply chain for the future".

Clavin said "as an industry, it's terrific that AstraZeneca have seen the light to recommit to a better delivery service within the framework of the existing CSO wholesaler network".

He said the change would make it easier for pharmacists to do business and ultimately positively impact the lives of patients.

St John of God research agreement

MEDICAL cannabis research and development activities are set to be undertaken at St John of God Subiaco Hospital in WA, under a two year Heads of Agreement signed with plant-based health firm Affinity Energy and Health Limited.

St John of God Subiaco has 578 beds and about 900 medical practitioners, with the pact set to see it partner with Affinity to identify and undertake research projects and the development of medicinal cannabis products.

APC accredited

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has confirmed its re-appointment as the Accreditation Authority for pharmacy for a further five-year period.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) confirmed this tenure until 2024 in August.

The APC was first appointed to the role in Jun 2010.

PPI + NOAC tick

NEW research has confirmed the importance of administering proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) concomitantly with warfarin or non-vitamin K oral anticoagulants (NOACs) such as rivaroxaban (Bayer's Xarelto), dabigatran (BI's Pradaxa) and apixaban (Pfizer's Eliquis).

Researchers from the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine investigated data relating to 1,643,123 patients with 1,713,183 new episodes of oral anticoagulant treatment included in the cohort and 1,161,989 person-years of follow-up.

Past studies have shown apixaban to be associated with the lowest rate of upper GI bleeding, while rivaroxaban and warfarin had the highest rates.

This study was said to be consistent with all previous data around these products and authors said the information should "inform assessment of risks and benefits when choosing anticoagulant agents".

See jamanetwork.com for more.

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References: 1. The aftercare for fractionated resurfacing consists of applying a cooling, wound-healing gel supplemented with cooling thermal water. Crevin B, Tempo Medical April 2012. 2. Censabella et al., Management of radiotherapy-induced skin reactions: Retrospective comparison of a hydroactive colloid gel and a deparaffinized cream on the development of moist desquamation in breast cancer patients. Eur J O N 18 (2014) 499-504.

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Pharmacy Daily



Dispensary Corner

ARE you one of those men who has discovered a growing balding patch on the top of your head?

You may have just self-identified as a candidate for a hearty McDonald's French fries feast.

Researchers from Japan have named a chemical that can regrow hair, at least in mice so far, and it's the very one that is added to the fries in order to keep the cooking oil from frothing up when making those crunchy caloric catastrophes.

Scientists said the next step is to try it on human skin.

McDonald's wisely chose not to comment - maybe not everyone wants to be overly hirsute.



SERVING jail time is meant to be rehabilitative, right?

Perhaps some are just slow learners - one 36 year-old inmate of Westmoreland County Prison, Pennsylvania, reportedly proved he should get back into custody to get his "free" three meals a day and a roof over his head.

Moments after Thomas Lee Williams was released on Tue, he attacked a woman in the prison parking and stole her car, complete with the victim's one-year-old in the back seat.

The *Tribune-Review* reports Williams crashed about 15 minutes later and ran into the woods, where he was soon apprehended. He's back in the clink, and victim and baby are OK.

Chemists' Own happy helpers



A TOTAL of 336 pharmacies across Australia participated this year in the Chemists' Own 'Help Us Help Our Local Community' initiative (**PD** yesterday), with state winners announced as:

NSW: Greta Pharmacy, raising funds for Tillys Play & Development Centre

VIC: Yea Pharmacy, raising funds for Yea Preschool

TAS: Warrane Pharmacy, raising funds for Cambridge Rd Play &

Learn Centre

QLD: Stratford Village Pharmacy, raising funds for Redlynch Daycare Centre

SA: Loxton Guardian Pharmacy, raising funds for Loxton Preschool Centre, and

WA: Rangeway Guardian Pharmacy, raising funds for Magic Cottage Child Care Centre.

Pictured are beaming staff from Rangeway Guardian Pharmacy in Western Australia.

Probiotic risks

JUST because a label on a bottle of probiotic supplements has some details around the live organisms included with estimated numbers per capsule, health professionals cannot assume the information is adequate to assure consumers of a positive risk-benefit ratio, according to an article published in *JAMA Internal Medicine* this month.

Somerville Hospital Primary Care physician Pieter A Cohen wrote that identifying and eliminating potentially transferrable antibiotic resistance genes for all bacterial strains prior to marketing should be mandated by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as is already required in Canada.

Cohen challenged the FDA's "underdeveloped regulatory framework" - jamanetwork.com.



Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

22 - 28 Jan: NAPSA Congress; University of South Australia, Adelaide; for more info see: www.napsacongressadelaide19.com

07 - 10 Mar: APP 2019; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; early bird registration now open: www.appconference.com

22 - 24 Mar: NSW/ACT Annual Therapeutic Update 2019; Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley; early bird tickets available from 03 Dec: www.psa.org.au/atu

Win with Nutri-Synergy

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away NS Protective Hand Cream 80g, NS Hands and Nail Cream 80g and NS Cuticle & Nail Repair Treatment 15g valued at \$30.

Plunkett's have just released a new hand care product - NS Hand and Nail Cream which is a light yet intensive cream delicately scented with natural essential rose oil. It is non-greasy and absorbs quickly leaving your hands soft and silky and your nails strong and supple. Visit: www.NutriSynergy.com.au.

To win, be the first from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



Which skin nutrient in the NS Hand and Nail Cream helps promotes healthy, strong nails?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.