

Pharmacy's future

ALL APP Conference 2018 attendees are being invited to participate in a research study to uncover trends, discover emerging opportunities and predict some of the challenges facing the pharmacy profession in coming years.

The research findings will be presented by a panel of industry experts at APP on Sat 05 May.

Participants will have the opportunity to win one of 10 Visa Gift Cards valued at \$200 each.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the survey.

Introducing

The BioCeuticals® Pain Management Range



Potent herbal and nutritional formulations specifically designed to assist in the management of various types of pain.

For more information

[CLICK HERE!](#)

or call 1300 650 455
www.bioceuticals.com.au

BioCeuticals

Cannabis claims challenge

CLAIMS that medical cannabis use has reduced opioid overdose deaths in the United States (*PD Friday*) have been challenged by a University of Queensland (UQ) drug abuse expert.

Professor Wayne Hall from UQ's Centre for Youth Substance Abuse Research said there was weak evidence to support the claims.

"The statements that legalising medical marijuana reduces opioid overdose deaths by offering a less risky method of pain management are based on studies with results that have not been confirmed through more rigorous scientific methods," Hall said.

"Although the studies show a relationship over time between the passing of medical marijuana laws and the reduction of opioid overdose death rates, they do not provide good evidence that the laws caused the reduction in deaths," he added.

"Access to medically assisted treatment programs for opioid dependence, such as methadone and buprenorphine, is known to reduce overdose risk."

Hall also urged caution around research claiming the pain relief action of medical cannabis.

"A recent review found that the analgesic effect of cannabinoids was modest, at best," he said.

"An Australian study found that chronic pain patients who used cannabis did not use lower doses of opioids or report less pain than those who did not."

[CLICK HERE](#) for Hall's commentary article published in *Addiction*.

Pharmacy chronic pain

DESPITE protestations by pharmacists that they have not been responsible for the price hikes of products containing codeine (*PD Friday*), Chronic Pain Australia national president Dr Coralie Wales has said the organisation "is disappointed about recent reports of pharmacies across Australia increasing the price of codeine-based medications since the 01 Feb up-scheduling".

Wales also supported the Health Minister Greg Hunt's instructions to the ACCC to investigate price increases to codeine medications, saying there was no reason for the costs of these products to increase.

Champix cardiac link

NEW research published in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* has confirmed an association, not necessarily causative, between the use of Chantix (in Australia Champix, generic name varenicline) and cardiac events.

The study involved data on 56,851 new varenicline users, who were observed from one year before to one year after varenicline use, prompting authors to say that "the risks should be weighed against the benefit of the drug for individual patients".

The same study looked at an association with neuropsychiatric events, but "this was found to be of questionable clinical significance and was not robust in sensitivity analyses" - atsjournals.org.

APC consultant call

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) is calling for applications from suitably qualified candidates to "provide an external lens over the business of the FARM Committee, a standing committee of the Council".

The role gives advice on financial reporting, risk management, audits and regulatory compliance.

Visit pharmacycouncil.org.au.

Low BC awareness

A NEW report published in *Public Health Research & Practice* has revealed dangerously low levels of awareness about bowel cancer (BC) risk factors and screening recommendations among Australians aged 18-85 years.

Nearly half (47%) of respondents aged 50+ were unfamiliar with the recommended screening test, while only 39% knew how often the test should be completed.

Fewer than one third knew the age to begin screening and only 24% could identify bowel cancer risks - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

APP 2018

GOLD COAST CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE
3-6 MAY

Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference & Trade Exhibition

www.appconference.com

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

REGISTER BEFORE 31 MARCH AND SAVE!

SEMINAR

SYDNEY Wed 28th Feb 2018
MELBOURNE Tues 6th Mar 2018
BRISBANE Thurs 15th Mar 2018

Join the world first in

Medical Cannabis

NanaBis™ Clinical Trial for Advanced Cancer Pain

Visit www.medlab.co/nanabis/seminar or call 1300 369 570 to register

Speaker: Kos Sclavos AM
Past National President The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

FREE REGISTRATION*

*Free Registration exclusive to Medical Practitioners, Registered Nurses, and Pharmacists

presented by

medlab.co

FDA beats EMA

FROM 2007 to 2016, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved more new drugs and biologics first than its European and Swiss regulatory counterparts, according to a comparison in the *European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* - [CLICK HERE](#).



Weekly Comment

Welcome to PD's weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Belinda Jeffries**, Locum Recruitment Consultant at Raven's Recruitment.



Why Locum?

WHEN attending the recent NAPSA congress in Sydney, I met some of the pharmacy industry's brightest future professionals. Speaking with students I noticed some had pinpoint precision for their career path whilst others were still considering the diversity the pharmacy industry has to offer. I found myself very often discussing the benefits of locum work for early career Pharmacists. And I stand by these two key points:

a) Seizing the opportunity to locum as a supporting Pharmacist will enable you to develop invaluable pharmacy connections but also to be mentored by a range of professionals - all with their own strengths and teaching styles to further develop your skills.

b) If you have the confidence, and experience to back it up from your internship, rural locum roles can be the most challenging and rewarding! You will typically see a broader demographic of patients which will test and grow your knowledge.

If you want to assess your options with some hands-on experience, locum is a great way to job hop without looking flighty on your CV; as being seen as a flight risk could make you overlooked for your future dream job.

You can be sure that the experience you gain as a locum will serve you well when applying for that permanent role in the future.

Dispensary Corner

REPRODUCTION experts have long held the view that to ensure ongoing male fertility men should wear boxer shorts and not briefs, but what if you think a patient is a little too fertile?

Well this definitely appears to be the case for a young Indonesian boy by the name of Akmal who claims to have laid more than 20 eggs in the last two years.

His dad Rusli told local media that "in two years he laid 18 eggs and two today...I cracked the first egg open and its content was all yellow, no white."

Some observers have suggested the story is nothing more than just one big yolk...we mean joke.



QUICK somebody call an ambulance, a man is in urgent need of some apple cinnamon-flavoured vaping - stat!

Thankfully there is now an ambulance in circulation to service this need in Taranaki, NZ.

The 1987 Bedford ambulance, better known as the Naki Nekta Vape Rescue Vehicle (VRV), was once a conventional ambulance but now travels around educating smokers on vaping.

"It's all about the smoking sensation, it's all about health," said owner Graham Peters.

Well, at least this is one unique business idea that is almost guaranteed not to go up in smoke.

Beauty Prescription bash

PRICELINE Pharmacy transformed Sydney's Randwick Racecourse into a spectacular health and beauty playground last week at its annual 'Beauty Prescription' signature event where around 200 guests gained insights into the latest trends in new products.

Media were introduced to Priceline Pharmacy gm Tamalin Morton, who started with the brand in late 2017, when she explained her top product picks.

A highlight was panel sessions with Priceline Pharmacy Sisters Ita Buttrose and Sam Harris (pictured above right with Tamalin Morton), and celebrity brand ambassadors including Ian Thorpe (BLAQ), Giaan Rooney (Lifespace), Blair James (Bondi Sands) and Tim Robards



(Handsome Men's Skincare) along with influencers with their branded trolleys (pictured below).



Win with Dermal Therapy

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Dermal Therapy are giving away a selection of the pictured products to the value of \$30.



Dermal Therapy Lip Balm is clinically tested to be fast acting, providing visible results in one day to dry and chapped lips. The concentrated formula contains a synergistic blend of ingredients designed to soften and alleviate severe dryness and discomfort, keeping them smooth and healthy all year round. Dermal Therapy Lip Balm is also ultra - moisturising providing intensive hydration to severely dry and chapped lips. Visit www.dermaltherapy.com.au to find out more.

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

True or False. Dermal Therapy Lip Balm leaves lips feeling soft and smooth.

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.