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Today's issue of PD
Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news.

FRED IT to evaluate digital records impact

THE FRED IT Group has been named by the Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) to lead a new medicines safety project to explore the impact of digital health records in improving patient medication safety.

The medicines safety project is one of 15 Digital Health Test Beds announced Tue by Minister for Health Greg Hunt (**PD 05 Jul**).

The project, to be conducted in partnership with Monash University and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, will "research, measure and produce evidence of the benefits available through more effective medications management at the point of admission and discharge from hospitals".

It will also demonstrate scalability using FRED IT's MedView platform for health practitioners across Vic and the ACT.

Other trials funded under the \$8.5 million Test Beds program include an Eastern Health project with the PSA, Guild and Monash and Deakin Universities which will increase the engagement of patients after hospital discharge with their community pharmacists, and optimise the use of medicines information from the discharging hospital using My Health Record.

More than 290 community pharmacies and 5,000 patients will be involved - for more details see www.digitalhealth.gov.au.

Pharmacists' judgement

A RECENT inquest into the death of an elderly patient in Victoria has put a spotlight on a pharmacist's duty to exercise independent judgement when dispensing medication, according to a practice alert from Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL).

On 29 January 2015, at a routine visit with his GP, a 77 year old patient complained of a flare-up of psoriasis, for which the doctor prescribed a daily dose of methotrexate.

The patient's daughters presented the prescription at their usual pharmacy, and the pharmacist on duty immediately recognised that the prescribed daily dose appeared to be incorrect.

She correctly contacted the GP to query the prescription and advised the doctor that methotrexate was usually taken once per week.

The pharmacist expressed 'extreme concern' at the daily dose, describing it as 'potentially lethal'.

The GP nevertheless confirmed the prescription and dose, advising the pharmacist that he had checked the product information on the Monthly Index of Medical

Making kids high

SOME parents are unknowingly giving their children the potentially intoxicating cannabinoid THC in attempts to relieve their epileptic seizures with illicit cannabis extracts, a new study has revealed.

The findings highlight "profound variation" in extracts currently being used in Australia, the authors wrote - see nature.com.

Specialties (MIMS).

After some hesitation, the pharmacist dispensed the drug at a daily dose, as prescribed.

The patient took the methotrexate for several days, which ultimately led to his decline, and two weeks later, his death.

"The unfortunate events that transpired in this case emphasise that pharmacists need to exercise independent judgement when dispensing medication," PDL said.

"Pharmacists are independent health care professionals."

In an inquest into the case the state coroner found that the facts "compel an adverse finding against both the GP and the pharmacist... the patient died because a dangerous drug was inappropriately prescribed and then dispensed."

Erlyand approved

THE Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson have announced the approval of Erlyand (apalutamide) by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), and its entry on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) for the treatment of patients with non-metastatic, castration-resistant prostate cancer (nmCRPC).

The product was granted a priority review determination by the TGA on 17 Jan 2018 and was the first medicine to be evaluated under the Australia-Canada-Singapore-Switzerland (ACSS) Consortium's New Chemical Entities Work Sharing Pilot.

CLICK HERE for the PI.

Drug misuse survey

PHARMACISTS with 10 or more years of pharmacy practice experience are invited to take part in a Monash University study on the issue of patients and drug misuse in the community pharmacy setting.

The data collected will be de-identified, managed confidentially with anonymity and contribute to a masters research project.

"This is an important area of work, given the current focus in the pharmacy environment with the rescheduling of codeine, the issues related to opioid misuse and the implementation of a real time prescription monitoring system and My Health record," the researchers said, with more info available via dimi_hoppe@yahoo.com.

Gabapentinoids fail

A UNIVERSITY of Sydney study has demonstrated that gabapentinoids (topiramate, gabapentin or pregabalin) are no more effective than placebo for chronic low back pain in the short term or for lumbar radicular pain in the immediate term.

The systematic review and meta-analysis was published in the *Canadian Medical Journal*.

Authors say their findings are significant given reports of increasing use of anticonvulsant medicines as prescribers seek alternatives to opioids, with the the prescription of anticonvulsants for back and neck pain, including radicular pain in primary care, having increased by 535% in the last 10 years.

Access the study at cmaj.ca.

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Dispensary Corner

PEOPLE having emotional crises in Dexter, Iowa, in the USA now have an extra something to worry about, with a massive shipment of chocolate going up in smoke.

A semi-trailer full of confectionery from Hershey, Pennsylvania, caught fire last week while being transported on the nearby Interstate 80, reports local TV station KCCI.

Police officers said the truck had problems with its brakes which eventually caught fire.

Luckily the driver managed to escape the flames by pulling the vehicle off the road and unhooking the cab before it exploded.

Unfortunately the trailer - and all its contents - was lost, with one commentator quipping "that's certainly one heck of a way to burn calories".

THEY say when it's very hot you should keep your temperature down, but a man in the US state of Vermont took things to extremes last weekend when he took a stroll in the nude.

Forecasters had warned of an "extreme" heat index of close to 40°C, but police officers were nevertheless surprised at reports of the man wearing only a hat and sneakers carrying a shopping bag in the city of Burlington.

When asked why he decided to go outside with no clothes on he simply replied "It's very hot," according to the *Burlington Press*.



Pharmacy GRIT out

THE latest issue of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists' *Pharmacy Growth, Research, Innovation and Training (Pharmacy GRIT)* features a special student supplement, ahead of the inaugural SHPA-NAPSA Student Symposium this week.

The 20-page supplement provides a snapshot of the research being undertaken by pharmacy students and interns across the country, "showing what's possible when early-career energy is embraced by leadership," said SHPA chief executive Kristin Michaels.

The Winter 2018 issue also features articles on emergency resuscitation, case studies on the SHPA Residency Program and a guest editorial from community pharmacist Elise Apolloni on her Advancing Practice journey.

The SHPA-NAPSA Symposium this Fri in Melbourne has had an overwhelming response, according to Michaels, who said the turnout demonstrated how engaged and energised pharmacy students are to maximise their impact on pharmacy practice and patient care.

GPs seek money for MHR participation

DESPITE the Practice Incentive Payment eHealth Initiative (ePIP) which pays general practices for uploading information to the My Health Record (MHR) platform, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners is still calling for extra financial incentives to be paid to GPs for participation in the digital health system.

An RACGP position statement on MHR referred to the "time and effort" required to upload records" which might appear to have no initial direct benefit to the general practice, as the relevant information is already in the local clinical information system.

"There is, however, a potential benefit to other healthcare providers and therefore the patient.

"As a key contributor to My Health Record... general practice should be financially supported to participate through an appropriate incentive scheme," the RACGP said.

The College said incentives should be service-based, paid to individual healthcare providers responsible for uploading, and support the upload of accurate, high quality data onto the system.

At last count, on 01 Jul, there were 6,483 GP organisations registered, 3,233 pharmacies and around 24% of the general population, MHR data shows.

See the full position statement at www.racgp.org.au.



Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Leanne Virtue, Recruitment Consultant at Raven's Recruitment.**



Top 5 Returning to the Workforce Job Interview Tips

CONGRATULATIONS, you have bubbled into a perfect routine and you are ready to return to the workforce.

Firstly, not too much has changed while you have been away so be confident, it may be your first interview for a long time - below are some tips to help you leave a lasting impression and gain an offer of employment:

- **First Impressions:** We only get one chance so dress to be remembered for the right reasons. Professional outfits are best for pharmacy culture.
- **Do your research:** While your consultant will give you an overview of the position and team culture check out the pharmacy website & presence.
- **Practice your answers:** Expect to be asked about your experience and the skillset you bring to the role & make a list of reasons why you should be considered for this role.
- **Enthusiasm:** You should always have some questions to ask at the interview; this demonstrates your interest in the position.
- **Finally:** Be calm and smile, arrive a few minutes before the scheduled interview, have the correct address and the full name and position of the person/s that will be interviewing you. Congratulations and welcome to the team!

Win with John Plunkett

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and John Plunkett are giving away a John Plunkett Collagen Eye Lift 15g prize valued at over \$40 each.

The New John Plunkett Collagen Eye Lift is a day and night eye cream packed with peptides including Matrixyl 3000 and Eyeseryl to boost collagen by 100%, and hyaluronic acid to provide cushioning hydration, while rosehip oil softens and smoothes delicate skin around the eyes. It effectively targets three causes of ageing - fine lines and wrinkles, eye bags and puffiness and dark circles.

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

Name one of the ingredients in John Plunkett Collagen Eye Lift.

Check back tomorrow for today's winner!

