

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news including our weekly events calendar.

Botanix antimicrobial



LISTED medical dermatology company Botanix Pharmaceuticals has announced it has signed a research agreement with the University of Queensland's (UQ) Institute for Molecular Bioscience.

The research collaboration is part of an Innovation Connections Grant awarded to Botanix and UQ by the Federal Government's Department of Industry to investigate the antimicrobial activity of Botanix's pipeline product, BTX 1801.

The collaboration will also explore the antimicrobial activity of cannabidiol and Permetrex skin delivery technology.

Clinical studies are planned for the fourth quarter of this year, the company said.

Cyber security threats



THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced that the ceo of cyber security consultancy firm Hivint, Nick Ellsmore, will present a session at Pharmacy Connect to help pharmacy owners protect their pharmacy from malicious and unintentional data breaches of highly sensitive patient and financial information.

With the introduction of My Health Record and advanced health web and mobile applications, ensuring pharmacies are safe from a cyber-attack is now more important than ever, the Guild said.

According to an Australian Cyber Security Centre 2016 study, 90% of Australian businesses have been victims to a cyber security breach or threat, with a rise of breaches in recent times, making cyber security a top priority for any pharmacy business.

Sigma awards top suppliers

NOVARTIS has been named Sigma's 2018 Supplier of the Year during a gala awards dinner in Melbourne last night.

Sigma ceo Mark Hooper presented Novartis customer service manager Australia/NZ Denys Patterson with the award, in recognition of the supplier's

commitment to promoting strong business partnerships with Sigma, its pharmacy brand members and to improving patient engagement.

Novartis also took out the 2018 Wholesale Ethicals Supplier of the Year category.

"The Sigma Supplier of the Year award has become a very important annual industry award because it recognises the continued efforts and support shown by our business partners to achieve shared goals and outcomes," said Sigma ceo Mark Hooper.

"It is only when we work effectively with our suppliers that we can ensure we deliver the best outcomes for consumers and our member pharmacies," he said.

It was the seventh annual Sigma Supplier Awards, with the other



major winner on the night being Proctor & Gamble, which took out the National Retail Supplier of the Year award as well as the FMCG Supplier of the Year category.

Special guests included model and TV personality Rachael Finch, who is also Amcal's Beauty Ambassador, along with the entire Sigma Healthcare board of directors, with highlights including a performance by comedian Dave Hughes.

During the evening funds were raised for the Summer Foundation, Sigma's charity partner which supports young people with disabilities in independent living. Hooper presented the foundation with a cheque for \$55,600 at the end of the evening (pictured).

Other category winners included Bayer (Medicinal Supplier of the Year); Blackmores (Health & Wellbeing Supplier of the Year); Natio (Cosmetics/Skincare Supplier of the Year); Ego (Wholesale/OTC Supplier of the Year); ProQuest (Services Supplier of the Year); and Australian Pharmacy Sleep Services (Health Services Supplier of the Year).

NSW ERRCD review

NSW Health has confirmed a three month review of the state's Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs (ERRCD) capabilities, with the \$351,796.50 contract to be undertaken by consulting firm Deloitte.

The project aims to help NSW create a roadmap towards a national real-time prescription monitoring (RTPM) system, with the analysis to assist with future decision making by eHealth NSW.

Deloitte will report back by 05 Oct 2018, with the response to include an evaluation of the required business change, a planned ICT delivery approach, and support and governance requirements of the national RTPM system and NSW ERRCD capabilities.

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Ketoacidosis risk

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a safety advisory around the administration of sodium glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors (dapagliflozin and empagliflozin) and increased risk of diabetic ketoacidosis especially perioperatively - medicine information documents are being updated - see tga.gov.au.

Non-script antibiotics



WITH increased use of antibiotics worldwide linked to growing antibiotic resistance, a world-first study co-authored by a QUT researcher has highlighted the growing impact of non-prescription supply of antibiotics in community pharmacies, and the urgent need for better enforcement of laws.

The research has just been published in *The Journal of Infection*.

QUT Postgraduate Research Award Scholarship recipient with the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation Emmanuel Adewuyi said, "Studies from 24 countries were analysed and to our alarm we discovered that antibiotics are frequently supplied without prescription in many countries".

Australia was not included in the study, but of the 24 countries only Thailand did not classify antibiotics as prescription only, but supply was "commonplace" throughout.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Central Coast, NSW (Job# 200015980)
Less than an hour north of Sydney; working Monday to Friday.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Melbourne CBD, VIC (Job# 200015965)
\$35-\$40/hr; Mon-Fri with alt weekends; supported role.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Gladstone, QLD (Job# 200015958)
6-12 month contract; good \$\$\$ plus accom assistance.

Love your work? ...SO DO RAVEN'S!

Dispensary Corner

VEGIES aren't always good to your health - a lesson painfully learnt by a woman in the US state of Vermont this week.

Charlotte Murphy ended up being admitted to hospital with serious skin blisters and burns after brushing up against a so-called "poison parsnip".

The invasive plant (**pictured**) is found across North America, and has pretty yellow flowers which can apparently cause a very painful, highly light-sensitive rash.

The roots of the plant are edible and closely related to the parsnip vegetable, but "the sap is toxic and basically strips the body's ability to control the UV radiations from sunlight," according to a Cornell University expert.



THE US Food and Drug Administration has declared war on non-dairy milk alternatives, with FDA commissioner Scott Gottlieb confirming the launch of new guidance on the use of the term "milk".

He pointed out that soy milk, almond milk and other similar products are actually in breach of labelling guidelines.

An FDA "standard of identity" formally defines milk as coming from a lactating animal.

"And, as you know, an almond doesn't lactate, I will confess," he said, adding that it was time to get abreast of the labelling language for the products.

Arrow-Apotex deadline today

SUBMISSIONS to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's informal enquiry into the proposed merger between Arrow Pharmaceuticals and Apotex (**PD 10 Jul**) must be lodged by 5pm AEST today.

The ACCC is seeking views on how the deal will impact competition, with stakeholders invited to comment on how closely Arrow and Apotex compete with each other in supplying prescription and OTC pharmaceuticals.

The Commission would also like to understand whether the price of prescription and OTC pharmaceuticals would be likely to increase as a result of the proposed merger, and whether the companies' customers would have sufficient alternative sources of supply after the proposed merger.

Also in question is how easy it would be for existing competitors to expand, and/or new competitors to enter the market.

When the deal was announced in May the companies said it aimed to "create a sustainable platform for future growth and development,"

with the merger said to create Australia's largest generics business by both volume and revenue, with an estimated 50% market share.

The legal test applied by the ACCC in considering the proposed merger is in section 50 of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* which "prohibits mergers that are likely to have the effect of substantially lessening competition in a market".

The provisional date for announcement of the ACCC's decision is 13 Sep 2018, and this may be either a final decision or the release of a Statement of Issues.

See registers.accc.gov.au.

EU, Japan collaborate

THE European Union and Japan have extended a mutual recognition agreement, with the new pact broadening the range of medicines for which they will recognise each other's inspections of manufacturing sites.

The scope has been extended to include sterile medicines, vaccines, immunologicals, homeopathic medicinal products & more.

Victorian Guild AGM

THE Victorian branch of the Pharmacy Guild has announced it will hold its Annual General Meeting at 7pm on Tue 18 Sep at Guild House, 40 Burwood Road, Hawthorn.

The agenda, voting rights and proxy voting arrangements are available at guild.org.au.



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.

27 - 29 Jul: PSA18; The Hyatt Regency Sydney; register now: go to www.psa18.com

9 - 10 Aug: Pharmacy WA Forum 2018 Conference and Trade Exhibition at Crown Perth. Register at eventandconco.eventsair.com.

12 - 15 Aug: Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2018; Mt Buller, Victoria; register your interest here: www.medici.com.au

7 - 8 Sep: Pharmacy Connect; Hilton Hotel Sydney; register at: www.pharmacy-connect.com.au

16 - 19 Oct: Pharmacy Alliance Members' Forum; Hamilton Island; early bird registrations now open: www.pamembersforum.com.au

25 - 27 Oct: Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; Sea World Resort, Gold Coast; for details see: www.pharmacyassistants.com

Win with Blessed by Nature

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Blessed by Nature are giving away a skincare prize pack valued at more than \$25 that includes:

Blessed by Nature Antioxidant Night Restoring Cream:

This antioxidant rich formula contains nature's best natural anti-ageing ingredients that work together to fight free radicals and promote healthy, glowing, younger looking skin. Apply at night and allow the formula to work with your skin while it rests and recovers as you sleep.

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With Aloe Vera, Macadamia, Mandarin, Cocoa Butter and Vitamin E. This formula has been created with nature's most effective natural moisturisers to revive hard working hands.

For details visit: www.blessedbynature.com.au.

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



What colour is the Blessed by Nature logo?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Anna Phan from Pooraka Compounding.