

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news including our **Weekly Comment** feature.

Contraception & DVT



THE contraceptive pill is one of the most prescribed medicines in Australia but has known adverse event of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) which the Pharmacy Guild of Australia says requires pharmacists to counsel accordingly.

To help with the issue, Guild Learning and Development has launched a new online course titled "Hormonal contraception and deep vein thrombosis: Know the risks".

On completing this CPD accredited course, pharmacists should be able to discuss DVT risk with patients who are prescribed hormonal contraceptives and provide information on the signs and symptoms of thromboembolic disorders as well as the actions patients should take if symptoms are experienced.

Visit myCPD.org.au for more.

Botanix capacity lift

ASX-LISTED medical dermatology company Botanix Pharmaceuticals has announced the appointment of two highly qualified global pharmaceutical industry executives to expand the company's clinical development capabilities.

Dr Stephane Levy has taken up the role of chief medical officer and Jillian Chapas-Reed is senior director of Clinical Operations.

Their appointments bring significant clinical expertise in acne, dermatitis and psoriasis and extensive late stage clinical development experience to Botanix, helping accelerate the BTX 1503 acne and BTX 1204 atopic dermatitis Phase 2 clinical trials.

Both Phase 2 clinical trials are fully funded, the company said in its ASX announcement (**PD** 28 Jun).

PSA accelerates its vision

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has pledged to deliver significant change for the pharmacy profession within five years, with the unveiling of the organisation's new *Pharmacists in 2023* discussion paper on Fri (**PD** breaking news).

Jackson said that initially PSA had envisaged a ten year plan, but "overwhelming feedback from members and the wider profession showed more urgent change is needed for pharmacists to retain their best and brightest, and be truly regarded as medicines experts".

Jackson released the paper at the PSA conference in Sydney following an opening address via video by Health Minister Greg Hunt.

The PSA national president said the plan aimed to empower the pharmacy workforce across healthcare, ensuring pharmacists are embedded wherever medicines are used, equipped with skills

and opportunities to enhance community access to health services, and enabled through "appropriate recognition and remuneration".

Belinda Wood, PSA Policy & Advocacy manager, said the document was based on feedback from pharmacists and consumers, as well as incorporating insights from international developments.

"*Pharmacists in 2023* highlights the need for pharmacists to transition to a consultation-based, patient-centric and collaborative model of care, where they take responsibility and accountability for medicines management," she said.

Wood said PSA's vision was for pharmacists to deliver services tailored to consumer need, at the right time, in the right setting and with the right skill set.

"By 2023, pharmacists will be more highly valued and their role optimised...they will practise to full scope, operate as normative members of the health team and receive more appropriate rewards and recognition," she promised.

The views of PSA members, consumers and key stakeholders to inform the delivery of an action plan by the end of the year are being sought, with submissions invited by Fri 07 Sep 2018.

The vision paper can be viewed online now at psa.org.au.

Chemists win pay rise

PROFESSIONALS Australia says it last week secured a major increase in pay and conditions for chemists working at the Integra Healthcare manufacturing plant in Queensland through an extensive negotiation and advocacy process.

Member chemists in the plant secured wage increases of 15% plus a classification structure that better recognises experience and seniority, the union group said.

Invest in staff - Kos

KOS Sclavos, convenor of the upcoming Pharmacy Assistant National Conference, has urged pharmacists to invest in staff education as a key way of investing in their business.

"Your front line determines your bottom line," he said, saying pharmacies who send staff to the event will be better equipped to succeed in the evolving industry.

PA2018 takes place 25-27 Oct on the Gold Coast and pharmacies sending two or more assistants will also receive a free APP2019 registration - see pharmacyassistants.com.

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Hunt targets MHR pharmacy take-up

HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt says he expects up to 80% of Australian pharmacies to join the My Health Record platform by the end of the year, with the government keenly focused on enabling pharmacists as primary carers through the system.

He said My Health Record (MHR) had the potential to play a key role in increasing patient understanding of medications, improve compliance and avoid unnecessary hospitalisations.

Hunt appeared in a video to address the opening of the PSA18 conference in Sydney on Fri, and said he was thrilled to have developed the \$600 million Pharmacy Trial Program through the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement in partnership with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild.

"This is helping patients, it's helping the role of the pharmacist in primary care, and it's helping the pharmacists themselves," Hunt enthused.

The minister thanked the PSA for its ongoing cooperation as the government develops more trials, such as the Health Care Homes extension.

"We are increasing the role of pharmacy as being a front line in cooperation and collaboration with our GPs and allied healthcare professionals," he said.



NEW

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THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has named Victorian pharmacist John Jackson as the 2018 Pharmacist of the Year, with the accolade announced on Fri during the PSA18 conference which took place in Sydney.

Also acclaimed during the PSA Excellence Awards was Dr Jacinta Johnson from South Australia, Early Career Pharmacist of the Year, while the 2018 PSA Lifetime

Achievement Award went to pharmacist Ross Brown.

Each winner receives a Symbion Education Grant worth \$9,000, with Symbion ceo Brett Barons saying the awards provide "much deserved recognition of those pharmacists who have contributed so much to the profession".

Barons is **pictured** above with Jackson, Brown, Johnson and PSA national president Shane Jackson.

Smart syringe wins Shark Tank



A TEAM of Sydney University pharmacy researchers have taken out the Pharmacy Shark Tank session at PSA18 on the weekend, with a "smart syringe system" which aims to eliminate liquid medicine dosing errors.

The SetDose system developed by Professor Lyndal Trevena and her colleagues was commended for tackling a significant issue in the healthcare system via a threefold solution incorporating software, individualised encoded keycards and a device that attaches to standardised syringes.

The pharmacy 'sharks' - PSA national president Shane Jackson, Cathie Reid from Epic Pharmacy and Katrina Nielsen of Step Change - chose to invest \$6,000 in the SetDose system.

Other finalists included Samuel Keitaanpaa from the Northern Territory, who was awarded \$2,000 along with the People's

Choice Award for his innovation, VeriPharm Medicine Tracking, which is an electronic system linking physical medicine packets to their contents to create a universal record of when stock is transferred between parties.

The sharks said Keitaanpaa's passion for improving quality use of medicines shone through, with his product having a "strong opportunity to increase oversight around medicine supply in Australia".

The third place award of \$1,000 went to Michelle Cassumbhoy and Carson Au's M&C's Cream with Concentrated Oatmeal.

The panel congratulated all three of the finalists for their "courage and dedication to bringing their groundbreaking projects to life".

Pictured above from left are Cathie Reid, Katrina Neilsen, Professor Lyndal Trevena, Philip Boughton and Shane Jackson.

Joint MIMS intern winners

ALSO honoured during PSA18 were two talented intern pharmacists, Angelica Lagoda of Qld and SA's Deanna Mill, who were named joint winners of the PSA MIMS Intern Pharmacist of the Year award for 2018.

The award recognises intern pharmacists who demonstrate outstanding performance in their development as professional pharmacists, acting as role models for their peers.

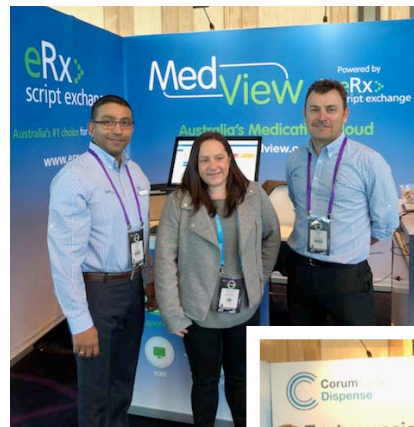
Lagoda completed her internship at LiveLife Pharmacy Keppel Bay Plaza, while Mill did hers at Flinders Medical Centre in Bedford Park.



MIMS Australia contributed the major prize of \$5,000 for the winners to put towards attending any pharmacy or educational conference approved by the PSA.

The excelling interns are pictured with PSA national president Shane Jackson and MIMS ceo Australia/NZ Robert Best.

Trade turn-out strong for PSA18



KEY pharmacy suppliers were out in force at the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's PSA18 conference and exhibition on the weekend, with the event's trade show featuring a range of exhibitors including Dinesh, Danielle and Roger from Fred IT (**left**) showcasing the eRx and MedView platforms.

Corum Health (**right**) was also there, with Vickie, Mark, Chris, Eric and Glen demonstrating the features of the soon-to-launch Corum Clear Dispense flagship product, which will be ready for approval next month.



And **pictured** at left are Carli and Neta from Swisse, promoting the company's Ultivite and Ultiboost supplements to PSA18 delegates.

More pics from the event now online at facebook.com/pharmacydaily.



Dispensary Corner

A PERSPICACIOUS pooch in Colombia has been reportedly targeted by one of the country's major drug cartels - simply because it has a nose that knows.

Sombra (pictured) is a six-year-old German shepherd that works with law enforcement authorities and has so far helped detect more than two tonnes of cocaine hidden in suitcases, fruit shipments and boats.

Police recently revealed that the Gulf Clan cartel was offering a US\$7,000 reward to whoever kills or captures the clever canine.



SOME people in Finland had a rather rude awakening last Fri, as the country celebrated the curiously named "National Sleepy Head Day".

Apparently a time-honoured tradition, the 27 Jul ritual involves rousing the last person caught sleeping in each house by lifting them out of bed and throwing them into a lake or the ocean.

In situations where that's not feasible, it's also permissible to just pour water on them instead.

The day honours the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus, a myth about some people accidentally locked in a cave for two centuries.

Despite the fact that a solid eight hours is good for your health, the early morning heart starter is due to a perception that the person who sleeps in is lazy.

Immunisation register training

THE Department of Human Services has launched five new education modules to assist vaccination providers to use the newly updated Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

The resources provide information on registering and requesting access to the site, accessing the register for the first time, submitting information to the AIR, recording overseas immunisations and notifying the AIR of immunisation medical exemptions.

The AIR was recently enhanced to allow providers to view immunisation history immediately it has been recorded, view and print an Immunisation History Statement for patients, record a planned immunisation catch-up and correct any errors.

The training is available online 24/7 meaning pharmacists who provide and record immunisations can work through the modules at their own pace and revisit them at any time for a refresher, with the eLearning program now available for access at humanservices.gov.au.

DDS tops Roy Morgan Jun figures

DISCOUNT Drug Stores has taken out top spot in the Roy Morgan Customer Satisfaction Awards for Jun 2018, with a 93% rating.

Priceline Pharmacy was in second place this month, followed by My Chemist, Amcal and then Chemist Warehouse in fifth position.

The ratings are based on a moving annual survey of 9,084 consumers.

Biologics guide update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has released an update of its Australian regulatory guidelines for biologicals (ARGB), with the restructure in line with new legislative changes.

The guidelines provide information on the supply and use of human cell and tissue-based therapeutic goods and live animal cells, tissues and organs.

Regulations, supply and standards are summarised - tga.gov.au.

\$5m for mental health

THE Federal Government and mental health charity Beyondblue will provide a total of \$5 million for research to help improve mental illness in older Australians.

Seven innovative projects are being funded with the aim of reducing depression, anxiety and suicide in elderly people through evidence-based approaches - including one trial to reduce the prevalence of depression in Australian nursing homes.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Heidi Dariz, General Manager at Ravens Recruitment**.



Community

Pharmacist Shortages

RECENTLY, there has been significant media attention regarding the viability of community pharmacy as a career path, with particular regards to whether pharmacist salaries are reflective of the level of education and commitment required.

One study found that despite their years of University training, Community Pharmacists are amongst the lowest paid workers, with only artists having a lower graduate wage. Even after the intern year, the pay barely improves, falling well below the average nurse or optometrist wage.

With this in mind, it is hardly surprising when speaking with pharmacy students at recent University career days, less than ten percent have indicated that they are planning to pursue a career in community pharmacy, with many citing Hospital or Industry as where they would be looking for intern roles.

Having spent the last 16 years in pharmacy recruitment, I understand that wages are just one of the issues effecting the exodus in community pharmacy.

High stress environments with few breaks and support, as well as the rise of large discount chains, and industry rules that make it difficult for pharmacists to start their own businesses, or envisage a clear career progression plan, all play a part.

A few proactive community pharmacy employers are starting to address these concerns, paying pharmacists over the minimum rates, addressing concerns of overwork, and offering real career progression, and I'm hopeful more will follow.

For employers looking to attract the best talent, or employees looking for advice on current workforce trends, please contact heidi@ravensrecruitment.com.au.

WIN WITH MICRODACYN

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Microdacyn are giving away **Microdacyn Hydrogel 60ml** AND **Microdacyn Solution 120ml**, valued at over \$30.

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Check back tomorrow for today's winner!