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GBMA appointment

THE Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) has announced Renée Richardson as the new project manager for its educational arm, GBMA Education. Originally trained as a pharmacist, Richardson is currently based in Sydney and has recently completed her tenure as change manager for the natural healthcare company Soho Floridis International.

Renflexis streamlined

ADULT patients with severe Crohn's Disease who are stabilised for at least nine months on any brand of infliximab can now receive a Streamlined or Telephone Authority prescription for MSD's biosimilar Renflexis.

In 2015, the Federal Government estimated that the increased use of biosimilar medicines will deliver \$880m in PBS savings by 2020.

PD footy winners

CONGRATULATIONS to NRL Round 15 winner **Chris Parker** (no company identified) and AFL Round 13 winner **Brendan Power** from

Ormond Amcal - be sure to get your tips in for the next round.



Pharmacists chart vaccines

NEW Australian research published in the latest issue of the *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research (JPPR)* has strengthened the case for pharmacist-led influenza vaccination in hospital inpatients, revealing they more consistently chart their vaccinations.

In addition, a long-term study showed increased uptake of Home Medicines Reviews among Australian veterans.

The influenza research, published in the Jun issue of *JPPR*, the flagship journal of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA), explored pharmacists' assessment of appropriateness and charting of influenza vaccination in Emergency Short Stay Unit (ESSU) and General Medicine Unit (GMU) patients in a partnered pharmacist charting model.

The researchers, led by Erica Tong and Professor Michael Dooley from the Alfred Hospital, found that among inpatients with partnered pharmacist charting who were eligible for vaccination, 60% had their vaccination charted, compared to zero inpatients who had their medication charted by a medical officer only.

The release of the research comes

just weeks after Tong was honoured as the lead author of research that collected the prestigious *MJA*, MDA National Prize for Excellence in Medical Research (*PD* 28 May).

Other research into uptake of collaborative medicines reviews, by researchers from the Sansom Institute for Health Research at the University of South Australia, found positive effects derived from nationwide campaigns promoting Home Medicines Reviews (HMR) in 2004, 2006 and 2011.

The June issue also highlights the need for collaborative pharmacy practice to minimise fragmentation of patient care.

SHPA Primary Care and Transitions of Care chair Deirdre Criddle says it's time to prioritise hospital pharmacist-led models of care targeting timely post-discharge medication management services for high-risk patients.

Laugh without leaking

AGED Care Minister and Indigenous Health Minister Ken Wyatt today called on the one in four Australians affected by incontinence to make sure they seek help and receive the support available to "live life to the full" and learn to "laugh without leaking".

Launching World Continence Week in Australia, 18-24 Jun, Wyatt said the condition affected more than five million people across the country but was a silent burden for too many people.

The Continence Foundation offers more info on continence.org.au.

Business plan finalists

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced the quarter finalists in the Guild's annual National Student Business Plan Competition with nine teams from five different universities in Australia and New Zealand still in the competition.

Universities represented are the University of Technology Sydney, University of Tasmania, University of Sydney, University of Auckland and University of Otago.

Entrants were to develop two innovative services to implement in their pharmacies: one was to be 'new to the market' or 'highly differentiated' from current offerings, while the other offered a social or community benefit.

The quarter-final round commenced 18 Jun and concludes 01 Jul 2018.

Successful teams will progress through to the semi-final round, and compete for a chance to be selected as finalists: receiving complimentary registration, travel and accommodation for Pharmacy Connect in Sydney in Sep.

The National Student Business Plan Competition is designed to promote creative entrepreneurship among pharmacy students and encourage the development of viable, innovative, pharmacist-owned community pharmacies.



The Guild competition is sponsored by Sanofi Consumer Healthcare (Principal), EBOS (Major), Gold Cross Products and Services and Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL).



PHARMACIST

The Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) is responsible for the regulation of pharmacy businesses, pharmacy departments and pharmacy depots in Victoria and is currently recruiting a pharmacist. This is a flexible part-time position, three to four days per week (negotiable up to 30 hours per week).

The pharmacist's primary role will be to visit, assess and advise pharmacies and pharmacy depots throughout Victoria. Applicants must be registered as a pharmacist with AHPRA, have extensive experience in community practice and a good working knowledge of pharmacy legislation, guidelines and practice standards. A current Victorian driver's licence and own vehicle is essential.

Written applications should be forwarded to the Registrar, Victorian Pharmacy Authority, Level 2, 15-31 Pelham Street, Carlton 3053 by not later than 29 June 2018.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Helen Newett on (03) 9653 1700 or enquiries@pharmacy.vic.gov.au.



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Dispensary Corner

WHY would a 73-year-old man choose to be entombed in a mini-shipping container with the road resealed above him?

Apparently he considered it a work of "art" - performance artist Mike Parr had himself sealed into a container under a road as part of the Dark Mofo Festival on the island of Tasmania.

The container had oxygen pumped in and Parr had access to water, light, heat, reading and writing material as well as a stress button and a bucket for sanitary use, but no food.

The burial act was designed to highlight violence perpetrated by colonialists against Aboriginal communities, the festival said on its website.

Parr's previous art included wrapping himself up in fusewire, then setting it alight, and sewing up his face - inspired, no doubt.

MOST parents like to encourage their kids to be more cultured, however, when the only thing your son picks up from the Renaissance era is a rare case of Cowpox it can make the ambition rather spotty.

A 15-year-old boy from Britain was recently diagnosed with the extremely rare condition after feeding calves on his family farm.

Cowpox was most commonly caught by milking maids in the 18th Century and thankfully is not contagious from person to person.

"My son was quite embarrassed, it looked quite a mess and the lesions wasn't pleasant for him," the boy's mum said.

After finding out the condition was caused by cows, the boy said he was dairy, dairy sorry.

WA S8 drug management

THE Western Australian Corruption and Crime Commission has published its supplementary Report on the Supply and Management of Schedule 8 Controlled Drugs at Certain Public Hospitals in Western Australia, adding to its 2017 report by that name (*PD* 04 Jul 2017).

That report described the Commission's investigation of the repeated theft of drugs by a senior pharmacist at Fiona Stanley Hospital (*PD* 21 Oct 2016).

The Commission considered the security procedures for handling Schedule 8 controlled drugs at FSH and at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital where the pharmacist had formerly been employed.

The purpose of this new report is to consider more broadly the issue of theft and misuse of dangerous and addictive pharmaceutical drugs by employees of WA Health, and provide direction around preventing serious misconduct.



The report outlines nine recommendations for improving the security and management of Schedule 8 and Schedule 4 Restricted drugs.

The report calls for consistency of policies for drug management, recording and reporting discrepancies along with

clearly defined accountability roles related to drug management.

Records of stock holdings, transactions and audits need to be frequently enforced and audited while patients' own drugs also need tight security, and all drug discrepancies need to be reported immediately and investigated.

Ongoing education and training around drug management, record keeping, reporting discrepancies and investigating discrepancies are to be provided for relevant staff.

Use of technology to help secure and monitor S8 drug management is also recommended.

See the report at ccc.wa.gov.au.

Tampon tax axed

LIBERAL Democrats Senator David Leyonhjelm has helped drag the Australian Parliament into the 21st century by successfully pushing for the removal of women's essential sanitary products such as tampons and sanitary pads from the list of "luxury" items on the GST register.

Guild Update

Getting ready for My Health Record

THE Guild has been working with the Australian Digital Health Agency to develop three modules which will provide pharmacists with education on using My Health Record to access:

- Information about prescribed and dispensed medicines
- Clinical information contained in Discharge Summaries and Event Summaries
- Clinical information contained in a Shared Health Summary

The third module titled 'Making the most of the My Health Record system: Using Shared Health Summaries and other clinical information to deliver better patient care' is now available.

This activity has been accredited for one hour of Group 1 CPD (or 1 CPD credit), suitable for inclusion in an individual pharmacist's CPD plan, which can be converted to one hour of Group 2 CPD (or 2 CPD credits) upon successful completion of relevant assessment activities. To enrol in this course please visit www.guild.org.au/training.

Win with Mater

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Mater Baby Products are giving away the pictured prize pack valued at \$44.

Parents love Australia's first hospital range of skin care products. Developed by Mater Mothers' Hospitals, the high quality, low irritant skin care products are designed to soothe and care for sensitive newborn skin. Products are Australian Made, pH balanced and dermatologically tested. For details visit: www.materbabyproducts.com.au.

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

Name one of the products in the Mater Baby Products' skin care range.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Janine Hando from Pharmacy - Parkes Hospital.

