

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from **SNOREBEN**.

## 5.6m on MHR system

**MORE** than 5.6 million Australians, or approximately 23%, have now registered for the My Health Record (MHR) database. Over 18,000 new records are being created every week, with some 17m prescription and dispense records uploaded and 10,809 healthcare providers connected, including 1,515 pharmacies, as well as GPs, hospitals, aged care residential services and allied health.

To 11 Mar this year, more than 4.5 million clinical documents have been uploaded.

MHR converts to an opt-out scheme at the end of 2018.

More at [myhealthrecord.gov.au](http://myhealthrecord.gov.au).

## Apr PBS price cuts flagged

**THE** Pharmacy Guild says there are a number of "significant price reductions" on the general, chemotherapy and S100 Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme schedules for Apr 2018.

In an update to members last Fri, Guild president George Tambassis particularly highlighted price cuts of as much as 30% for some Symbicort products, due to the PBS addition of the "a-flagged" generic product DuoResp Spiromax.

## Top footy tipper

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Megan Cavill from TerryWhiteChemmart in Garran, ACT, who was the top tipper in last weekend's *Pharmacy Daily* NRL tipping competition.

Join the PD NRL and AFL tipping competitions for free at [pharmacydaily.com.au/footy-tipping](http://pharmacydaily.com.au/footy-tipping).

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## FDA to nix nicotine

**AS THE** leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States, tobacco use, mostly as cigarette smoking, kills more than 480,000 Americans every single year, according to a statement by US Food and Drug Administration commissioner Scott Gottlieb.

The data has prompted Gottlieb to announce an advanced notice of a proposed rulemaking which will see the agency explore a product standard to lower nicotine in cigarettes to non-addictive levels.

Supporting the proposal, Gottlieb said, "Tobacco use also costs nearly \$300 billion a year in direct health care and lost productivity.

"In fact, cigarettes are the only legal consumer product that, when used as intended, will kill half of all long-term users."

Some issues he flagged for consideration were how quickly the new standard should be implemented and what unintended consequences, such as the potential for illicit trade or for addicted smokers to compensate for lower nicotine by smoking more, might occur as a result.

Access the full Gottlieb statement at [fda.gov](http://fda.gov).

## Guild Vic vax training

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia's vaccination training program preparing pharmacists to provide vaccination services in Victoria is now open for bookings.

Visit [pharmacyguild.edu.au](http://pharmacyguild.edu.au).

## Vaccines in a pill

**SCIENTISTS** at Cardiff University, Wales, UK, have mimicked peptides from a real influenza-A virus to create a new vaccine that can be delivered in pill format.

The prototype triggered a "strong immune system response" and was found to be as effective as the standard biological influenza peptide when tested in mice.

The pill format will be easier to transport and will help people with a fear of needles - see [bbc.com](http://bbc.com).

## Zinbryta withdrawal

### CONSUMERS

and health professionals are advised that Biogen Australia, in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), will withdraw multiple sclerosis therapy Zinbryta (daclizumab) from the Australian market following a review of cases of serious inflammatory brain disorders in Europe (PD 05 Mar).

The TGA said it had not received any reports of inflammatory brain disorders occurring in Australian



patients who have been prescribed Zinbryta, but Biogen is coordinating

a worldwide withdrawal, with supply in Australia continuing until 31 May 2018 allowing patients time to gradually transition off the medicine.

The TGA further warned that adverse drug reactions to Zinbryta could potentially occur up to six months after discontinuation.

See more at [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

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# OVER THE COUNTER CODEINE CHANGES TO SUPPLY

## Information and resources for Pharmacists





## Dispensary Corner

**PLAYING** tennis is a great way to keep fit and active, however the health benefits also depend on the rules by which you play.

Alachua County Police in Florida arrested a man this week for allegedly attacking a dog owner with a tennis ball launcher.

The aggressor became irate when the victim wasn't accepting the umpire's decision to walk his dog on a leash, leading to a violent barrage of top spinners volleyed at the man's head in rapid succession.

Even if the dog owner in this case wasn't returning service and cooperating with the demands, it was no reason to give the poor chap such a big serve!



**THE** authorities in Memphis Tennessee are searching for a thief who stole more than US\$75,000 worth of medical screws from a parked car.

The owner of the vehicle went to grab his medical bag full of titanium medical screws when he realised they had been nicked.

The equipment is typically used to help repair the sternum after open-heart surgery, leaving police baffled to determine a motive.

You'd typically suggest someone who goes so far out of their way to steal thousands of superfluous medical screws to be a bit strange, but you have to admit this is one thief who, at very least, hasn't got a screw loose.

## G&M cracks China

**BEAUTY** brand Australian Creams, by family-run G&M Cosmetics, has topped a list of the most trusted national names among mainland Chinese consumers, according to a new index revealed by Monash University.

The brand ranked above Qantas and Crown Group from the survey involving more than 5,400 mainland Chinese people in relation to a total of 70 Australian brands.

Monash Business School senior lecturer Eugene Chan told *The Australian* the report was just the "tip of the iceberg" and had uncovered information that would become the subject of future research.

The Weet-Bix brand ranked fifth overall in China, followed by EMU Australia, Coles, Chemist Warehouse, Myer and Destination Gold Coast.



## Salary disparities

**FEMALE** pharmacologists earn much more than men according to the latest annual Employment and Remuneration Report from



Professional Scientists Australia. Although women in the sciences

are still being paid less than their male counterparts in general, the survey found a pay differential favouring female pharmacologists, whose average annual base salary and total package amounted to \$121,958 - versus males' \$99,727.

Other exceptions included female geologists, microbiologists, marine and veterinary scientists.

The total survey sample revealed a mean base salary of \$103,484 for females compared to \$118,196 for their male counterparts, female respondents earning on average 87.6% of males' earnings.

The annual survey tracks changes in compensation for full-time employees in Australia and was conducted online during Sep to Oct 2017 with member societies representing more than 70,000 scientific and technical professionals.

Incidentally, it appears PhD graduates earn slightly less than Masters grads among females, but this is not the case for males.

**CLICK HERE** to access the report.



## Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Greg Aspelung**, Owner, [gaps.solutions](http://gaps.solutions).



## Will you be my partner?

**HERE'S** an option for the first time pharmacy buyer..... consider a partnership! Easier said than done. BUT, it is an option worth investigating. The rate of enquiry appears to have increased lately. It may have something to do with the tightening of funding.

More and more brands are expanding their network. They recruit from within, however, sometimes they need to outsource. The lack of willingness of candidates to move to rural areas is also another issue. Therein lies opportunity.

I was recently asked to source a working partner for a group. I received many enquiries. Three suited the criteria. I requested the candidates forward their resume. To be honest, I was extremely surprised by the lack of quality of two of those resumes. Strike one. You have to sell yourself. Have someone write a professional resume.

Buying a partnership is just like buying a pharmacy. You need to do all the things you would normally do when buying a pharmacy. Most importantly you need legal representation. There could be a lot in play: shareholdings, if an entity, **your** obligations in terms of **their** obligations and more.

Buying a partnership is like dipping your toe in the water. It's a trust exercise.

## Win with Bellé Botanique

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Belle'Botanique are giving readers the chance to win a Collagene Triple Action Anti-Ageing Moisturizer Cream valued at \$79.75 each.

Developed by an expert in formulation-science, COLLAGENE cream provides optimum age-defying nourishment and protection for the skin, suitable for both young and mature women.

[www.bellebotanique.com.au](http://www.bellebotanique.com.au)

To win, be the first person from NSW or ACT to send the correct answer to the question below to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

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