

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from Arthrem.

## NMS 2018 rego open

NPS MedicineWise has announced that registrations are now open for its flagship event, the National Medicines Symposium (NMS) this year.

Individual, group or student registrations are available for the event running from Wed 30 May to Fri 01 Jun at the National Convention Centre, Canberra.

Details of registration fees and entitlements for registrants are available at [nps.org.au](http://nps.org.au).

## Opioid access summit

HARM Reduction Australia and ScriptWise are joining forces to host a national summit in Canberra on 23 May to "re-think outdated policies and increase access to opioid treatment".

The organisers noted that the cost burden of dispensing fees for opioid treatment medications such as methadone and buprenorphine is one of the most significant barriers to treatment for consumers.

Currently the ACT Government subsidises dispensing fees via a system that includes a modest consumer co-payment, but similar measures are not in place in other states and territories.

ScriptWise ceo Bee Mohamed said the new partnership is also an important opportunity to reduce the stigma around seeking treatment for both legal and illicit opioid dependency.

**CLICK HERE** for more details.

## WA trials NIP pharmacy vax

WA HEALTH has announced a two year statewide trial involving the administration of National Immunisation Program influenza vaccines in community pharmacies.

Under the trial, pharmacists in Western Australia will be able to vaccinate individuals aged 65 years and older with the higher immunogenicity influenza vaccine.

The project is being undertaken in partnership with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, with vaccine orders for the trial to be processed at no charge through Symbion, Sigma or API.

Pharmacies are permitted to charge a service fee, with Guild members advised to "note the success of this trial will inform future roles for community

pharmacy in immunisation.

"Success will be based on the impact community pharmacy has in increasing the level of flu vaccination coverage in the 65 and over cohort," according to a WA Guild communication to members.

The Guild has urged members to register to ensure that every immunisation is entered onto the Australian Immunisation Register at [humanservices.gov.au](http://humanservices.gov.au).

Pharmacies must also sign up to the WA Health Department conditions for NIP immunisation providers by **CLICKING HERE**, and the Guild is also urging pharmacy staff to raise the issue by identifying all customers 65 years of age and over and ensure they are offered the vaccination.

The move means Western Australia joins Victoria as the only jurisdictions which currently allow pharmacist administration of National Immunisation Program influenza vaccines.

For more information on the WA trial see [health.wa.gov.au](http://health.wa.gov.au).

## ASMI slams Hawaii sunscreen move

THE Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) regulatory and legal director Steve Scarff has expressed concern about reports the Hawaiian Government may ban the sale of sunscreen products containing oxybenzone and octinoxate without a prescription.

The move is apparently a reaction to claims that sunscreens with the ingredients damage coral reefs.

"This does not appear to be an evidence-based outcome and we note reports that the Hawaii Medical Association, the Hawaii Dermatological Society, the Hawaii Skin Cancer Coalition, and the Hawaii Department of Health have also expressed concerns with this legislation," Scarff said.



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GEORGINA TWOMEY  
- Alive Pharmacy Warehouse Innisfail

MedView



## Arthrem assurance

PROMISIA, the manufacturer of listed complementary medicine Arthrem, has stressed that the product does not contain turmeric/curcumin and is "generally safe to be taken with medications that affect bleeding like warfarin and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)".

The company issued a statement about Arthrem in response to an early warning alert from Medsafe New Zealand (**PD** yesterday) which cited a case where products containing turmeric/curcumin taken in conjunction with anti-platelet medications, NSAIDs and SSRIs could result in a very high INR and consequent risk of bleeding.

Arthrem is marketed as a joint support formula made from an extract of the plant Artemisia annua and is "clinically proven to be safe and effective when used as directed," according to Promisia.

For more information on Arthrem's safety profile see **page four** of today's **PD** or contact Pharmabroker sales on 02 8878 9777 or Promisia on 1800 256 966.



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## Pharmacy big-data mining

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced a new initiative



**GuildData**

GuildCare NG sites which use Fred Classic, LOTS, Minfos,

called GuildData, a system by which the Guild will access members' pharmacy data to support the Guild's ongoing advocacy work.

GuildData will operate via the Guild's wholly-owned subsidiary GuildLink.

This is in response to feedback from members on how data from pharmacies can be used by the Guild to promote the value of community pharmacy.

In return for consenting to the Guild extracting their data, members will be provided with a number of pharmacy scorecards and dashboards that will provide insight into pharmacy activity and performance.

Simple or Z-Software for their POS and/or Dispense systems can access GuildData from Mar 2018.

GuildCare Classic & Non-GuildCare Subscribers can access GuildData by requesting a GuildCare NG account by registering their interest at [ng.guildcare.co.au](http://ng.guildcare.co.au).

GuildCare subscribers will be kept updated via GuildLink through GuildCare NG, while all Guild members will be kept updated from the Guild as to the progress of the GuildData initiative.

Guild national president George Tambassis said he hoped members would consent to GuildData on the basis of support for the Guild's objectives on behalf of all community pharmacy.

"There is also a tangible benefit for Members in the form of pharmacy scorecards and dashboard that will provide business insights," Tambassis said.

Anthony Tassone, Victorian Guild Branch president presented on the initiative at APP last weekend, urging pharmacies to participate and share their de-identified data.

### Spinraza PBS funded

**EFFECTIVE** 01 Jun, spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) life-changing lumbar-puncture administered medication Spinraza (nusinersen from Biogen) is to be funded on the PBS, according to an announcement by Federal Treasurer Scott Morrison on the weekend - info at [biogen.com.au](http://biogen.com.au).

### Droperidol use in Oz

**PARAMEDICS** in Australia have become the first to use new antidopaminergic drug droperidol to quickly and safely calm patients who have become violent under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

The innovation follows a comparison of the standard sedative, midazolam, with droperidol in a pre-hospital setting conducted by the Queensland Ambulance Service.

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To find out more go to [www.amh.net.au](http://www.amh.net.au)

**AMH**  
AUSTRALIAN MEDICINES HANDBOOK

## Two wins for Life Pharmacy



**THE** partners and team at Life Pharmacy Group (LPG) have warmly congratulated Tim Stewart (Guild Intern of the Year - pictured right) and the team at Cooleman Court Pharmacy (GuildCare Pharmacy of the Year Finalist and runner up Brad Butt

pictured above with Guild national president George Tambassis) on their recent successes at APP2018, with LPG group professional manager Mark Silcock saying, "being part of such a supportive and innovative pharmacy group means anything is possible".

### NICE cancer support

**THE** UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has recommended that cancer patients in the UK have access to three blood cancer drugs, brentuximab vedotin, midostaurin and arsenic trioxide via the NHS.

Brentuximab vedotin and arsenic trioxide are both PBS funded here.

### Irish pharmacy crisis

**SOME** pharmacies in Northern Ireland may end up closing their doors for good, with representative group Community Pharmacy Northern Ireland highlighting a £20 million funding gap.

Authorities are being called on to act, including urgently introducing an interim rescue package.



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## Win with Bellé Botanique

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Belle Botanique are giving readers the chance to win a L'elixir Rose Radiance Mist/Spray valued at \$64.50 each.

Developed by an expert in formulation-science, L'elixir Rose Radiance Mist provides optimum protection for the skin against indoor and outdoor pollutants whilst gently hydrating and uplifting with its natural fragrance.

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

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

Air pollutants with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres are tiny particles in the air that reduce visibility, and have implications in overall air quality. What is their common abbreviated name?

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Josephine De Lucia from Galston Village Pharmacy*





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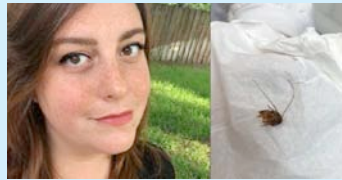
## Dispensary Corner

**ANYONE** who says you should keep an ear out for signs of a bug infestation should think about revising their advice, after a 29-year-old woman from Florida had a cockroach take up residence in her aural canal.

The victim of the unauthorised insect invasion says she suspected something was wrong when she could hear "a rhythmic movement" living in her left ear.

When she began to experience bad headaches, she sought urgent medical treatment and it was then that a nurse armed with a long pair of tweezers pulled out parts of a large roach.

Perhaps she could've prevented the incident if she used a few roach traps; then again, they would make really bizarre looking ear rings. Perhaps not.



**PROVIDING** a drug-free urine sample for a prospective employer caused a woman from Colorado to make an unorthodox trip to 7-Eleven recently.

In the pursuit of a clean sample and not necessarily using grounded science as a guide, she popped her liquid waste into the store's microwave in the hope of eliminating signs of drug use, however, the stunt instead resulted in a yellow plume of vapour when it exploded.

Needless to say, this was one 7-Eleven where the Slurpees were not the only hazardous liquid in store.

## Coughing attack

**THE** Federal Government will up its attack on the whooping cough bacterium by offering free vaccination to all pregnant women, with details to come in the budget.

While some states already offer the vaccine to expectant mothers, the offer will soon be extended to all pregnant women in Australia.

The \$39.5 million initiative means the National Immunisation Program schedule will be updated to include the addition of whooping cough for pregnant women.

The initiative aims to boost immunity in their unborn children who are vulnerable because they cannot be vaccinated themselves until six weeks of age.

## Biosimilars push

**HUMIRA** (adalimumab) biosimilars will have significant uptake in the EU with pricing at 10-20% lower than the originator brand across the EU, according to a report from analytics company GlobalData.

This will be further facilitated by the quotas that healthcare authorities have in place for biosimilar prescription, says the report, referencing UK quotas at 80%-90% of patients within the first 12 months of a biosimilar launch.

## VPA revises trust processes

**THE** Victorian Pharmacy Authority will charge a \$1,500 additional fee for the preparation of a Trust Certification Checklist and Schedule of Amendments in the case of applications by trusts which are deemed to be non-compliant with the relevant legislation.

The revised processes mean that if amendments are required, they must be actioned before the authority can consider the licence applications.

Commercial arrangement guidance on pharmacy trusts has been revised, and conditions are also being imposed on the renewal of all pharmacy business licences in 2018 requiring licensees to inform

the authority of any changes to the commercial arrangements under which the business is conducted.

Updated application fees incorporating new fees were also loaded on [pharmacy.vic.gov.au](http://pharmacy.vic.gov.au) last week, with renewals due to be paid before 01 Jul 2018.

## Guild Update

### Guild Pharmacy winners saluted

**HEARTY** congratulations from all at the Guild to the winners of the Guild Pharmacy of the Year for 2018.

To all the team at Southcity Pharmacy in Wagga Wagga, NSW, well done for being confirmed as the overall winner of the competition. We look forward to learning more about your fabulous pharmacy through the course of the year.

The Guild Pharmacy of the Year awards honour those pharmacies that are leading the way for the profession in the provision of the best and most innovative healthcare for members of their community.

The other category winners announced at APP were:

- Gerald Burns Pharmacy Bicton WA – Professional Innovation
- Friendlies Pharmacy Busselton WA – Business Management

Congratulations also to the winner of the 4th Annual MIMS Guild Intern of the Year Award – Tim Stewart, from Lanyon Pharmacy in the ACT.



**PD NRL  
ROUND 9 WINNER**

Congratulations  
**CHRIS ACCORNERO**  
from Royal Brisbane  
Hospital Pharmacy



**PD AFL  
ROUND 7 WINNER**

Congratulations  
**JOHN OAKLEY**  
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