

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news.

Migraine burden

MIGRAINE headaches cost the Australian economy almost \$36 billion annually, according to a new report prepared for Novartis Australia which will be released today in Canberra.

The Deloitte Access Economics "Migraine in Australia Whitepaper" is claimed to be the first time the economic cost of the condition has been tabulated.

It reveals that the number of Australians who suffer from migraine headaches now stands at 4.9 million, with the economic burden comprising \$16.3 billion in lost productivity along with \$14.3 billion in health system costs.

More than twice as many women as men suffer from migraine (28.7% versus 12%), while the vast majority (86%) of sufferers are of working age, with some losing up to 30 productive working days per year.

The report's release follows the recent Australian registration of Novartis' Aimogiv (erenumab) (PD 23 Aug) which is a novel migraine prophylaxis treatment targeting the calcitonin gene-related peptide.

NSW councillors sought

THE Pharmacy Council of NSW has opened nominations for election, with five places up for grabs for pharmacists with a NSW principal place of practice.

Members are elected for a three year term commencing 01 Apr 2019, with NSW pharmacists voting for the pharmacy positions.

The Pharmacy Council of NSW manages complaints that relate to the conduct, performance and health of pharmacists in the state, as well as conduct and health matters involving NSW pharmacy students.

Regulation of NSW pharmacies is also part of the Council's function.

Prospective members "should have an understanding of their public duty, and in undertaking their functions must promote confidence in the integrity of public administration," the Council said.

The Council meets once a month, and also has six subcommittees on which members sit which meet either on the same day as the full Council meeting or other ad-hoc days as required.

In addition Council members sit on panels and hearings, and



Pharmacy Council of New South Wales

Protecting the public
Regulating pharmacists and pharmacies

conduct counselling sessions and interviews as part of the complaints management process.

Nominations close at 12:00 noon on Tue 23 Oct 2018, with the formal election notice online at pharmacycouncil.nsw.gov.au.

Voting will be conducted by a postal ballot taking place in Nov.

Pharmtechs have GRIT

TODAY the pharmacy community celebrates Pharmacy Technician Day and to mark the occasion, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is including in its official magazine *Pharmacy GRIT* an article about an advanced scope pharmacy assistant role.

With the theme of patient-centred care, the report outlines the wide range of duties allotted to technicians, from stock control, outpatient medication supply and management of patient erythropoietin, to continuing education, patient handover, attendance at multidisciplinary team meetings and pre-clinic preparation.

Vit D controversy

VITAMIN D supplementation may be worthwhile in spite of a recent meta-analysis, according to Professor Rebecca Mason, professor of endocrine physiology at the University of Sydney.

The analysis had "lumped together" studies of high- and low-dose vitamin D, and those investigating vitamin D in people with and without adequate calcium intake.

So although the systematic review and meta-analysis of 81 randomised controlled trials covering 53,000 participants suggested that vitamin D supplements do not prevent fractures or falls, nor have any clinically meaningful effect on bone mineral density, the data sources are challengeable.

Mason also criticised the mix of studies in the review, which included trials of vitamin D alone, and trials with vitamin D plus calcium.

"This is a problem because several earlier meta-analyses also showed that where it works, it is vitamin D plus calcium, not vitamin D alone, that reduced fractures and falls," she said.

Mason also identified other limitations - **CLICK HERE**.

New Osteoporosis screening program

Screening patients at risk of osteoporosis just got easier.

Screen patients & earn \$ +

GuildCare NG



Authorised Representative
of Steadfast Group Ltd

AFS Licence 254928
ABN 98 073 659 677



Call us on: 1300 227 655

Register your interest or renewal date at:
carollohorton.com.au/more



Business Insurance

Professional Indemnity Insurance



Bose® Noise-masking Sleepbuds™
Engineered for sleep.

Now available in pharmacy.

To place an order for your pharmacy contact
Kimberley@instigo.com.au or call **02 9248 2619**

FIND OUT MORE



Tassie pharmacists to the rescue

“KEEP Calm and Get a Free Meningococcal Vaccine” has been a key message for the Tasmanian public in recent weeks.

Pharmacists were enlisted to help address an increase in prevalence of the disease, with Health Minister Michael Ferguson extending the state’s free meningococcal vaccine program (PD 27 Jul) to make it available via pharmacies and clinics to those aged 6 weeks to 21 years.

The Tasmanian community pharmacy sector rose to the challenge, including this trio from Davey Street Discount Pharmacy in Hobart who are pictured sporting their special government-supplied T-shirts.

On LinkedIn Tasmanian Pharmacy



Guild Branch Director, Monique Mackrill hailed the industry’s response, including support from API, Sigma and Symbion in helping with vaccine distribution and immunisation services to keep Tasmanians safe.

Idaho prescribing

PHARMACISTS in the US state of Idaho have been authorised to prescribe more than 20 categories of medication, with new regulations being phased in covering cold sores, motion sickness prevention and uncomplicated urinary tract infections.

Pharmacists screen and refer patients, and are required to notify primary care providers of any prescription within 24 hours.

Leukaemia cure?

A REVOLUTIONARY new treatment that has the potential to cure leukaemia might soon be available in Australia’s public hospitals, according to the Minister for Health Greg Hunt.

In various appearances this week he has explained that “CAR-T therapy” involves using the body’s own immune system by removing T cells, “supercharging them” and returning them into the patient to be more capable to fight the cancer.

In some of the childhood leukaemias this can actually cure the disease making the process a single treatment.

The approach is being used in the US and is being urgently assessed by Australian regulatory authorities for its use in this country, possibly as soon as Nov this year, Hunt said.

The cost of a treatment could be up to \$500,000 but would replace 10 years of very expensive therapy.

2019 flu vax makeup

THE Australian Influenza Vaccine Committee has issued its recommendations for viruses to be included in influenza vaccines in the 2019 southern hemisphere influenza season.

For egg-based quadrivalent influenza vaccines the constituents include an A/Michigan/45/2015 (1N1) pdm0-9-like virus; an A/Switzerland/8060/2017 (H3N2)-like virus; a B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus (B/Victoria/2/87 lineage); and a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata/16/188 lineage).

Egg-based trivalent vaccines will have the A/Michigan, A/Switzerland and B/Phuket-like viruses, and non egg-based vaccines will have an A/Singapore/INFMH-16-0019/2016 (H3N2)-like virus along with the other components indicated for egg based vaccines.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has accepted the committee’s recommendations.

Lifespot vaporiser

ASX-LISTED Lifespot Health has launched a new inhaler product for medical cannabis which allows users to monitor their use via integrated software.

The Seng-Vital Cannabed Bluetooth system can also record data on edible and soluble forms of medical cannabis via the mobile app, with the information available to patients and their doctors.



We’re GROWING!

Maintain your community identity and independence and join the growing number of healthSAVE community pharmacies nationally.

- ✓ Affordable branding and signage
- ✓ Store performance reports
- ✓ Marketing and category management support
- ✓ Operations and field support
- ✓ Buying value
- ✓ Communications hub
- ✓ Pharmacy incentive program
- ✓ Consumer loyalty program
- ✓ Consumer website



Contact us **1800 036 367** or visit us online www.healthsave.com.au





Dispensary Corner

IMAGINE a Christmas get-together with this family. Those who believe in karma may be comforted by an incident in Tennessee, USA last week where a man was run over by a lawn mower while attempting to kill his son with a chainsaw. The *Bristol Herald Courier* says 76-year-old Douglas Ferguson had to have his leg amputated due to severe injuries caused by the mower, which his son was operating at the time of the attack. Detectives said the pair had an ongoing bitter feud, with the not-so-happy family unlikely to get together for the upcoming festive season because the father will be awaiting trial for second-degree murder and violating probation.



THE inclusion of erectile dysfunction drugs in some liquids sold in the USA for use with electronic cigarettes has seen the Food and Drug Administration issue a stern reproof - not to mention sparking a host of predictably pun-riddled reports about the incident. The unapproved products were reportedly advertised along with labels and images using drug brand names, such as "E-Cialis HelloCig E-Liquid," with some news outlets saying the FDA was "throbbing with rage" as a result. That's not all - another story said the agency had a "bone to pick" with the vendor, further warning that a stiff penalty was likely to be imposed.

BMS appointment

NEIL MacGregor has been named as the new head of Bristol-Myers Squibb for Australia and NZ. MacGregor has been with BMS for six years, relocating to Melbourne from Tokyo where he is currently Chief Financial Officer for Japan, Korea and Taiwan. He replaces Brent Pfeiffenberger who moved to BMS US in Jun.

NHS scam probe

THE National Health Service (NHS) in the UK has launched a campaign targeting pharmacists claiming payments for services they have not carried out. Data-sharing between the NHS Counter Fraud Authority and the NHS Business Services Authority will help crack-down on "large scale scams by a minority of pharmacists and dentists" as part of a wider move which estimates total NHS fraud of up to £300 million. Health Secretary Matt Hancock said the initiative sends a "clear message" that the NHS is "no longer an easy target," according to *Chemist and Druggist*.

UK, India fake meds collaboration

BRITAIN'S Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) will work together with India's Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) to target regions suspected of sending unlicensed medicines into the UK. "Rapid mutual intelligence-sharing will help to combat the illegal cross-border trade in medicines," according to a statement issued following a meeting in Delhi. Recently the DRI intercepted over 350,000 diazepam, Tramadol and Zopiclone tablets destined for the UK, European and US markets.

Novotech purchase

CONTRACT research organisation Novotech has purchased Clinical Network Services (CNS), giving it an expanded presence across Australia and New Zealand as well as the US. CNS has about 140 staff in Australasia, with expertise in studies of infectious disease, immunology and respiratory therapeutic areas.

Guild Update

Community Pharmacy Programs – we need your help

UNDER the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement, all continuing pharmacy programs are required to undergo a cost-effectiveness assessment. There is currently an assessment underway of four important programs: Dose Administration Aids; Staged Supply; MedsCheck; and Diabetes MedsCheck. The evaluation project requires 120 volunteer pharmacies, and the Guild is encouraging Members to become involved through contacting the provider, HealthConsult. There are four key questions that the evaluation of the in-scope programs will seek to answer:

- Do the programs improve patients understanding of their medications and the importance of adhering to the prescribed medication?
 - Do the programs improve the defined health outcomes of patients?
 - Are the programs cost-effective?
 - What are the barriers and enablers to providing an effective patient-centred 6CPA funded service and how can it be strengthened?
- For further information or to enroll, please contact Geoff Hammond, Manager at HealthConsult on (03) 9081 1640 or geoff.hammond@healthconsult.com.au.

Win with SkinB5

This week **Pharmacy Daily** & **SkinB5** are giving away each day the NEW SkinB5's Clear Skin Superfood Booster valued at \$63.90.

Skin wellness starts from the inside with skinb5's clear skin superfood booster. Your body responds to the goodness you put into it, and so does your skin. With the power of 63 premium nutritional ingredients, our uniquely formulated superfood booster is the all-natural supplement your skin will thank you for.

Follow www.facebook.com/skinb5pro for more.

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

Guess the root on SkinB5 Facebook Professional feed

Congratulations to yesterday's winner Jane Vukojevic.