



WA Government forward thinking: PPA

PHARMACISTS need to be fully integrated into the health system and not treated as a separate entity, Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA) President, Dr Geoff March, believes.

Responding to the West Australian State Government's moves to expand pharmacists' scope of practice, March said the moves to allow pharmacists to provide limited repeat prescriptions for selected medications, alongside chronic disease management and mental health care, was "forward thinking".

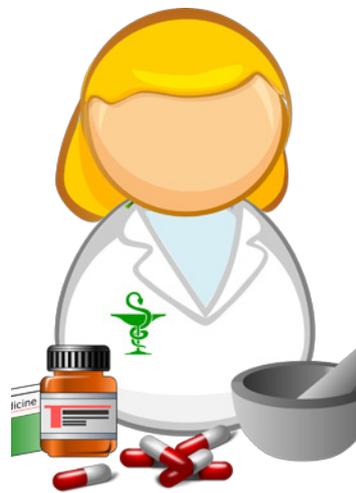
"Pharmacists aren't looking to 'creep' into medicine, we are calling for pharmacists to be given the opportunity to practice to the full scope of their education and training," he said.

"We believe that broadening of practice settings will result in more employment opportunities, and more importantly, go a long way to improving patient care and professional satisfaction.

"Pharmacists aren't looking to 'devalue [doctors] by stepping on their toes for an extra buck,' we're looking to add value back to the profession by affording pharmacists the opportunity (should they wish) to practice to their full scope.

"An expanded role will go a long way to reducing the strain on the health system by encouraging pharmacists, doctors and other health professionals to work collaboratively, for the benefit of the consumer."

March also called for greater collaboration between GPs and



pharmacists to enable pharmacists to monitor the progress and outcomes of medication management programs.

Spring Spotlight



THE next *Pharmacy Daily* Spring Spotlight feature launches 20 Aug and will showcase exciting products for the upcoming season.

The Spring Spotlight promotion page features four items, with insertions including an image, a brief description and a call to action for phone, email or website ordering.

Call 1300 799 200 or email Mel: advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Teen overdoses flag meds safety fears

PHARMACISTS are being urged to remind patients of the need to store their medicine safely, after two teenagers were hospitalised last week following overdosing on prescription pain medicines belonging to one of their parents.

The incident was the second case of students overdosing on prescription medicines at St Stephen's College on the Gold Coast, in the last 18 months, *The Guardian* reported.

The early incident occurred when a group of students ingested phenibut.

NPS Medicineswise told

Pharmacy Daily that pharmacists should remind parents that regardless of the age of their children, medicines should be kept in a safe place away from children.

"This especially applies to restricted medicines including S8 drugs and drugs of dependence," a spokesperson said.

"It is important for parents to tell their children about the risks of taking medicines, and that taking medicines not intended for you, can cause unwanted and potentially dangerous side effects."

CSANZ grants

THE Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (CSANZ) Scientific Committee announced the recipients of its research innovation grants.

The inaugural \$50,000 CZANZ-Boehringer Ingelheim and Eli Lilly Cardio-metabolic Research Innovation Grant was awarded to Dr Sean Lal from the University of Sydney.

The \$50,000 CSANZ-Boehringer Ingelheim Cardiovascular Research Innovation Grant was presented to Dr Sion Stub of Monash University.

FIP congress 2019



THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) urges those interested to ensure they register for the FIP World Congress in Abu Dhabi, UAE by 28 Aug 2019 to secure a discounted fee, saving up to €360 (around AU\$600).

Pharmaceutical practitioners, scientists, educators and students are all invited to discuss emerging trends, share experiences, learn innovative concepts and be inspired for new achievements in a changing world of pharmacy.

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Killer pharmacist barred

A BRITISH pharmacist who subdued his wife by injecting her with insulin before strangling her with a plastic bag has been found to be unfit to practise.

The pharmacist was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment in Dec, for his wife's murder, after data from his smartphone's health app was used to secure the conviction.

Forensic evidenced was produced during his trial revealing he had researched strangulation and the effects of insulin for a number of years, before he committed the crime, *Lexology* reported.

The pharmacist ransacked the family home in an effort to make it appear to have been a result of a botched burglary.

However, his iPhone was actively monitoring him, with data showing he was running up and down the stairs shortly after his wife was murdered, while her phone had no recorded movement until after her



death, when he dropped it outside their house as part of his effort to fake a break-in.

In Jun the General Pharmaceutical Council Fitness to Practise Committee met to consider his registration status following his conviction.

The committee ruled that his fitness to practise was impaired due to his criminal conviction.

Bunbury assistant wins WA PATY gong



PHARMACY Assistant Catherine Brandis (pictured above) from Bunbury Drive-In Chemist has been chosen to represent Western Australia at the National Finals of the 2019 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY).

Judges chose Brandis from 17 other state finalists at the Western Australia workshop last week, where each participant demonstrated their pharmacy knowledge and showcased their skills in customer service and leadership.



Brandis will represent Western Australia at the National Finals to be held at the 2019 Pharmacy Assistant National Conference on 12 Oct in Brisbane.

The Western Australia winner of the Glucojel Super Star Award was also announced at the workshop, with Marianne Polkinghorne (pictured above) from Atwell Community Pharmacy taking top spot.

Polkinghorne will be in the running for the Glucojel Super Star Award National title, also awarded at the 2019 Pharmacy Assistant National Conference.

Guild QLD director resigns

PHARMACY Guild of Australia Queensland Branch Director, Robyn Ede, has resigned after 25 years with the organisation.

Branch President, Trent Twomey, described Ede as "a strategic and thoughtful leader".

"I know she will be missed by staff and members," he said.

Compliance hub

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has assembled news and information about its compliance activities.

It contains resources and tools for consumers, health professionals and industry.

These include publications, fact sheets and forms for reporting suspected non-compliant activity.

See them at tga.gov.au.

Helping parents with children's meds

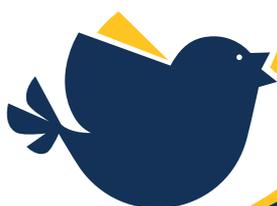
NPS MedicineWise and the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network have partnered to give practical tips for parents and carers giving medicine to children this winter cold and flu season.

NPS MedicineWise spokesperson and pharmacist, Sarah Spagnardi, who presents in one of the videos, says

it's common for medicine misadventure to be a cause of poisoning in little ones.

Three videos are available featuring a pharmacist, a child life therapist and a nurse.

Copies are available for sharing in your pharmacy - write to media@nps.org and **CLICK HERE** to preview them.



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Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is Michelle Vienet, Intern Programs Manager, Experiential Development and Graduate Education, Monash University.



The Monash University Pharmacy Intern Foundation Program: Preparing pharmacists for future practice

THE Monash University Pharmacy Intern Foundation Program (IFP) is an innovative postgraduate education program for intern pharmacists designed to recognise, support and enhance workplace learning. The program maximises the benefits of the intern year through structured workplace learning. Interns receive academic credit for work-integrated learning activities (tasks they would normally be undertaking in the workplace) and receive structured feedback from a Monash Credentialed Clinical Educator. Monash University offers free accredited CPD for preceptors to assist them in undertaking their supervisory role. IFP will become increasingly important for workplaces from 2021, when the first cohort of students from the new Monash Pharmacy course, the BPharm (Hons)/MPharm, commence their intern year. To meet the requirements of the MPharm, students must undertake the ITP and IFP concurrently during their internship. Monash University also credentials workplaces and provides additional resources such as bespoke workplace learning plans, and tools for preceptors to use when providing intern feedback. The ability to offer the IFP to enable interns to complete an MPharm will make credentialed workplaces highly sought after. For more information: Pharmacy-IFP.Enquiries@monash.edu.

Importer fined

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has fined an Australian traveller returning from China, for allegedly importing unapproved therapeutic goods for cosmetic procedures - see tga.gov.au.

Dispensary Corner

US INVESTIGATORS believe a pharmacist may have helped to crack a multi-state drug ring, after he received a call from a "Dr Barry Buls" requesting he dispense unusually high quantities of painkillers for a patient.

Having been warned about a fraudulent prescription drug group using the names of real out of state doctors to con pharmacists into dispensing medications, Donald Sherman from Ephrata, Pennsylvania, smelt something funny was going on when Dr Buls asked him to provide refills of scripts for promethazine with codeine, ibuprophen, benzonatate and relenza, for the patient, who had "recently moved" to the town.

After the initial call, Sherman made contact with the real Dr Buls in New York, who revealed his name had been used by fraudsters looking to access prescription drugs across the US in Apr, and Sherman's call was the second he'd received on Tue.

At 7pm that evening a woman by the name of Rayel Fleming arrived at Sherman's pharmacy to collect the medications ordered by the fake doctor.

Fleming had no ID or health insurance card when police swooped.

She is currently being held in a local prison having failed to post the \$200,000 bail.

Police have yet to confirm if the woman is part of the drug ring, or if she has been using a false name.

True story... no bull.

Webstercare earns praise

MEDICATION management group Webstercare has been recognised as one of the most innovative companies in Australia and New Zealand in a ceremony last week.

Webstercare was ranked fourth on the Health Industries list out of more than 800 nominated organisations for its Webster-pak Adherence Monitor (WAM) prototype, an interactive device (pictured inset) that stores a patient's Webster-pak medication pack and reminds them when their medications are due.

Patients, carers and loved ones can also receive reminders and alerts through customisable visual and audio cues from the device itself as well as a mobile app.

When it is time to take their medications, the patient removes the Webster-pak and takes their medicines as usual, before returning the pack to the holder.

The WAM then records the date, time and location of the broken blister bubble, using sensors and patented infra-red technology to



detect that the medications have been taken at the right time.

Importantly, this can give carers and loved ones peace of mind knowing that they will be alerted directly via SMS in the event of a medication misadventure.

The WAM is currently being trialled by a select group of users, the company said.

The annual innovation list is published by the *Australian Financial Review* and *Boss Magazine* and the judging process is managed by innovation consultancy, Inventium.

Pictured are Webstercare MD Gerard Stevens and wife Ethe.

Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away the NEW 125ml Plunkett's Vita E Natural Vitamin E Quick Dry Oil and a 100g Vita E Natural Vitamin E Cream valued at over \$40.

Introducing Plunkett's High Potency Vita E Natural Vitamin E Quick Dry Oil, enriched with Rosehip Oil and infused with Mandarin Oil. The quick dry formula leaves the skin feeling beautifully soft. Ideal to help soften scars, stretchmarks and dry, damaged skin. Visit: www.Plunketts.com.au for more.

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

Name the 3 main ingredients in Plunkett's Vita E Natural Vitamin E Quick Dry Oil.

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

