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No safety in delaying care: Tambassis

LIMITATIONS on pharmacists' ability to practice to their full scope are not in the best interest of patients, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, George Tambassis, believes.

Speaking at the launch of the Guild's *Community Pharmacies: Part of the Solution* policy document yesterday, Tambassis (pictured) called for pharmacists to be empowered to do more for their patients.

"There's a safety issue when a patient walks in and doesn't get the appropriate therapy from us in our pharmacies, because our hands are tied," he said.

"We know what the appropriate therapy is, and we refer to the GP [and] that's fine if they can get to the GP straight away, but where's the safety if they have to wait at the GP surgery or there's no GP surgery in some rural areas?"

"There's no safety there, because we're not really looking after the patient, so where's the health

outcome?" Tambassis asked.

"We're saying 'focus on the health outcome'."

He said the expansion of pharmacists' capabilities would need to be delivered in collaboration with other healthcare professionals.

"Everyone has to collaborate now, so when we say in our policy document, and when I say personally, 'I want pharmacists to practice at their full scope', I always mean that regardless of if it's autonomous or not, or whether it's obviously initiated by the pharmacist, it is always in collaboration with other healthcare professionals," he said.

"Nothing is done in isolation; nothing is done in a silo; we're always sharing and collaborating.

"It's never [going to be] a case where we in some way shape or form won't be able to refer; it's always going to be part of the plan, regardless of when anyone comes into our pharmacies.



"Right now we don't have the ability to practice to our full scope; we're referring all the time, but there will always be an opportunity to refer to the GP at the appropriate time."

He added that there was no reason why pharmacists could not provide patient care for minor ailments, administer injectable medications or dispense oral contraceptives, should patients wish them to.

"We're already doing emergency contraception," he noted.

Today's issue of PD

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

Quilty advises

FORMER Pharmacy Guild of Australia Executive Director, David Quilty, who stepped down from the role in Mar, after seven years, has launched a new strategic consultancy firm, National Advisory P/L.

Working in conjunction with Richard Alston AO, Neville Stevens AO, and Genevieve Quilty, David Quilty said National Advisory would provide "high-level strategic advice and personalised support" to companies, industry organisations and not-for-profits.

The broad Australia-wide expertise of the group is available for hire - see nationaladvisory.com.au.



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Dispensary Corner

LET'S hope these chaps didn't mix up their shower products.

A pair of pig farmers from Western Australia have been convicted of illegally importing Danish pig semen concealed in shampoo bottles, in an attempt to gain an unfair breeding advantage.

The Perth District Court convicted Torben Soerensen and Henning Laue, both of whom now face time in prison for breaching quarantine and biosecurity laws.

The semen was brought in illegally from Denmark several times between 2009 and 2017, for use in an artificial insemination program operated by their company, GD Pork.

The farmers were arrested after police raids in Pinjarra which included the taking of hair samples from some of the stock for genetic testing.

BELIEVE it or not, drinking bleach will not cure autism.

That's the blunt warning which was issued by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), in relation to a chlorine dioxide solution, which is also being promoted online as a remedy for HIV, cancer and other conditions.

Marketed under various brands including MMS, Miracle Mineral Solution, and the Chlorine Dioxide Protocol, an FDA spokesperson said "ingesting these products is the same as drinking bleach," noting they were not approved.

Recently reported side effects included severe vomiting, diarrhoea and acute liver failure.

Zero suicide goal

TACKLING mental health issues is the "great national challenge" with more than four million Australian's affected by some form of mental illness every year, Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, believes.

Speaking at the National Press Club yesterday, Hunt announced the Federal Government has set a zero suicide target for the nation, while launching a National Children's Mental Health Strategy.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, George Tambassis, welcomed the announcement, saying community pharmacists have a vital role to play in helping patients, noting many pharmacies already provide services to assist patients living with mental health issues.

He added the accessibility of pharmacy services was important for patients.

"It makes sense to make the most of pharmacists as part of the solution to the healthcare concerns of Australians, including around mental health," he said.

CSL profits up

ASX -LISTED biotech business, CSL, has posted a \$1.9 billion after tax profit for the 2019 financial year, up 17%.

The full year figures revealed revenue was up 11%, with continued growth in CSL's immunoglobulin and albumin therapies, increased demand for Haegarda and Kcentra, the evolution of its haemophilia therapies portfolio, and the success of its vaccine division, Seqirus.

CSL announced a total full year dividend of \$2.68 per share, up 18% on 2018.

The company said it is expecting another strong year in 2020, forecasting a 7-10% increase in post-tax profits to \$2.1 billion.

CSL also noted that the growth forecast took into account a "one-off financial headwind of transitioning to a new model of direct distribution in China".



Travel Specials

WELCOME to Pharmacy Daily's travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by Flo Travel Nasal Spray.



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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 SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Does Plunkett's Vita E Natural Vitamin E Quick Dry Oil leave an oily residue on the skin?



Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Song Huan Eow.



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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper
Senior Journalist – Nicholas O'Donoghue
Reporter – Mal Smith
Contributors – Jasmine O'Donoghue, Adam Bishop, Sarah Fairburn, Myles Stedman
info@pharmacydaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi and Melanie Tchakmadjian
advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper
accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

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GuardianANGEL

Guardian Gives Back

Guardian Pharmacy partnered with the North Melbourne Vinnies Soup Van to help support those experiencing homelessness during the coldest month of the year.

The initiative, part of Guardian Pharmacy's 2019 Guardian Angels campaign, aimed to support Vinnies Soup Van volunteers help break through the barriers of loneliness and isolation that many experience whilst homeless. Providing meals, blankets, toiletries, snacks, hot beverages and most importantly, companionship.

Guardian Pharmacy donated over 300 bags of essential items with knitted garments from the 2019 Guardian Angels Knitting for Good campaign, along with hygiene and food products from a range of donators including BMX, Colgate, Beiersdorf Australia, P&G, KCA and Applauder.



To donate to the Vinnies Soup Van program visit donate.vinnies.org.au/donation-hub-winter-appeal or learn more about the Guardian Angels program, visit: www.guardianpharmacies.com.au/guardian-angel



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