

Today's issue of PD

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

Advancing Practice applications open

PHARMACISTS wishing to take part in the Advancing Practice credentialing program this year can now lodge applications for the first round of 2019, which closes on Fri 15 Feb.

After that date applicants will have four months to compile evidence and submit their practice portfolio for independent evaluation via the Advancing Practice online portal.

This is the fourth overall Advancing Practice round since the program formally launched last year, which saw the first credentials under the scheme announced (**PD** 01 Nov 2018).

Evaluator applications for 2019 will also open on 12 Mar.

Application forms and other resources including background, guiding principles, competency standards and a "Portfolio Building Guide" are available at advancingpractice.com.au.

Harvey heads FOSM

PROFESSOR Ken Harvey AM has been named as the new President of Friends of Science in Medicine, taking over the role from founding President Professor John Dwyer.

The organisation was founded in 2011 and has become a major critic of unscientific health practices and fraudulent health claims.

Advantage buys Nadglen

ADVANTAGE Pharmacy Group's Queensland-based wholesale offshoot Arana Pharmaceuticals has announced the acquisition of NSW pharmacy wholesaler Nadglen Pharmaceuticals.

The move will allow Advantage to enhance distribution services to an additional 80 pharmacies, enabling the group to service more than 390 outlets across Australia via the Advantage, Arana and Nadglen Pharmaceuticals network.

"As a 100% pharmacist-owned and operated group, we are excited to bring on board the Nadglen team and provide increased efficiencies and better margins for all the pharmacies, we serve," said Advantage Pharmacy Group CEO Steven Kastrinakis.

"With the acquisition our larger scale operations will allow our

member pharmacies to continue accessing cost-effective products and services from the Advantage Pharmacy Group's buying and distribution arm," he said.

Nadglen Pharmaceuticals will commence formal trading under the Arana brand from 15 Feb 2019, with Kastrinakis saying the acquisition was part of Advantage's collaborative approach, which is "fundamental to ensure the long-term sustainability and stability of independent pharmacies".

e-cigarette death

A VICTORIAN baby has died after ingesting some contents of a nicotine e-cigarette, according to the Melbourne *Herald Sun*.

The tragedy is the first such in Australia and the third reported globally following the deaths of a two year old in Israel in 2013 and a US one year old baby in 2014.

Vic Health Minister Jenny Mikakos said she had asked Safer Care Victoria to develop public health messages to alert consumers to the "extreme risk liquid nicotine presents to children".

Precision meds funds

HEALTH Minister Greg Hunt has announced an investment of \$10 million in research into "precision medicine" which holds out the promise of personalised treatments for a range of conditions including obesity, autism and type 2 diabetes.

The money is going to the WA-based Australian Phenome Centre at Murdoch University.

A person's phenome is a snapshot of their unique biology resulting from complex interactions between their DNA and their environment.

Researchers plan to map the phenomes of large sections of the population to gain an insight into underlying causes of disease.

Blue skies for Biostime



BIOSTIME, the parent company of Swisse Vitamins, yesterday hosted an event on the stunning Sydney coastline to formally launch its toddler and infant formula range into Australia (**PD** 21 Nov 2018).

Aussie supermodel Miranda Kerr has been appointed as a celebrity ambassador for the brand, which has secured distribution deals through major wholesalers and is being stocked in Priceline and

Chemist Warehouse alongside other major pharmacy banner groups.

Yesterday's event was billed as "the biggest ever launch of Paediatric Nutrition in Australia's history," highlighting Biostime's SN-2 BIO PLUS Premium Organic Toddler Milk Drink.

Pictured from left are Biostime Global Marketing Director, Severine Brichard with the company's Managing Director, Oliver Horn.

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Dispensary Corner

AT LEAST he died doing what he loved...

That's the possible conclusion of friends of a man whose body was found in America's Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Sep, after an autopsy revealed that he wasn't actually killed by the black bear that was eating him.

The results of the post-mortem, released this week, indicated that in fact William Lee Hill Jr died of "accidental methamphetamine intoxication," meaning he was already dead when the bear attacked him.

The finding wasn't such great news for the bear, which was euthanised in the interest of public safety following the grisly discovery of the body.

"VAPING" is increasingly being shown as risky to health - but a 24-year-old man killed in Texas in the USA last week probably didn't expect it to act so quickly.

The tragic case saw William Brown die after his vape pen exploded, with debris from the shattered device slicing open his carotid artery.

AUTHORITIES in Canada have hastily issued a retraction after earlier this week warning the public about bubble-gum allegedly laced with fentanyl.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police had said testing of the Hubba Bubba Bubble Tape found near a man treated with Naloxone after an overdose, had indicated the presence of fentanyl.

However further examination found the drug was only on the outside of the packaging, with "no linkages to gum purchased in retail establishments".

Guild slams GP "lunacy"

THE release of the recent Productivity Commission report on primary and community health in Australia (*PD* 31 Jan 2019) has "exposed the lunacy of suggestions by doctor commentators that prescription pack sizes be increased to reduce the need for patients to visit their local community pharmacy as often," according to Pharmacy Guild Executive Director David Quilty.

Writing in the Guild's regular *Forefront* update this week, Quilty also highlighted the new PSA-commissioned study from the Pharmacy Research Centre at the University of South Australia which found more than 250,000 hospitalisations and 400,000 emergency department presentations annually due to medicine-related problems.

Quilty said the reports clearly demonstrated the need for an increased commitment to medication management through Australia's community pharmacy networks.

"Every visit to a community pharmacy is an opportunity to

receive expert advice from the pharmacist who professionally dispenses their medicines.

"Government policies should be actively encouraging patients to be visiting their highly accessible local pharmacies more often to make full use of this pharmacist expertise".

He said if pack sizes were increased this would be a "false economy, exacerbating issues of medicine misuse and in turn increasing the need for more expensive interventions across the broader health system".

Quilty said responsibility for effective medication management rests with a patient's prescribing doctor and their dispensing community pharmacist working in collaboration.

"This model of general practice community pharmacy based primary care is the foundation of Australia's public health system, underpinned by Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

"It should be maintained, invested in and enhanced, not undermined, bypassed or fragmented," the Guild Executive Director concluded.

Win with Hawaiian Tropic

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Hawaiian Tropic are giving away a Silk Hydration prize pack to the value of \$45.

Let your senses take you with the NEW Hawaiian Tropic Silk Hydration range. A sunscreen that pampers you like no ordinary sunscreen! The range offers 12 hours of moisturisation while providing broad spectrum UVA/UVB protection, leaving your skin with a non-greasy, silky skin feel and the brand's signature mango and papaya scent.

Visit www.hawaiiantropicsun.com.au to find out more.

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

What is the brand's signature scent?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Deborah Caldera.



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 *Travel & Cruise Weekly*.

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