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Unregistered pharmacists face prison

PHARMACISTS who practice without a valid Pharmacy Board of Australia registration could face three years jail time or fines of up to \$60,000, under tougher laws which came into effect from 01 Jul.

Speaking yesterday, Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) CEO, Martin Fletcher, said the strengthened sanctions would protect the public and health professions from impostors.

"All health ministers recognise that penalties need to be tougher for serious cases," he said.

"When someone pretends to be a registered health practitioner, they pose a significant risk to the public.

"We don't hesitate to act when someone is pretending to be a registered practitioner.

"And from today, I send a message if you claim to be registered when you're not – you will face serious consequences when you are caught."

Earlier this year two unregistered pharmacists were taken before the courts in NSW, with Michael Simon convicted of falsely presenting himself as a pharmacist at a family-owned store in Randwick between 25 and 29 Jun 2018 - receiving a fine of \$10,000 and ordered to pay costs of \$4,000 (**PD** 23 Apr), while David Le was fined \$24,000, when he was found to have continued to



practice as a pharmacist, for more than a year after the Pharmacy Council of NSW suspended his license (**PD** 29 Mar).

The new tougher penalties for practising without registration have been ratified in all jurisdictions except Western Australia.

Treating UTIs

URICIL is offering natural innovation in urinary tract infection treatment.

Powered by Turmeric the natural medicine contains antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties to relief symptoms. See the **cover page** for more.

Hunt to address Guild Dinner

FEDERAL Health Minister, Greg Hunt, will give the keynote address at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Annual Parliamentary Dinner in Canberra on 10 Sep.

Acting Guild National President, Trent Twomey, said the Minister's attendance at the event reflected the Coalition Government's commitment to the profession.

"Community pharmacies play a crucial role in Australia's health system, and with a new Community Pharmacy Agreement scheduled to be in place by mid-2020, there's no better time for the Guild and our members to hear first hand the views and priorities of Australia's Minister for Health," he said.

New ACP Pres

A PHARMACIST with over 10 years' experience in operational and strategic management roles within the healthcare industry, Chris Owen has been elected as President of the Australian College of Pharmacy Board.

He takes over the role from high profile pharmacist and educator Dr Treasure McGuire.

Rick Xynias was elected Vice-President and Matthew Harris as Director of Finance.

Owen thanked outgoing board members Sue Holzberger, Des Williams and Marina Holt for their contribution to the College and in supporting exceptional education for pharmacists.

"Prime" pharmacy opportunity

NEW UTS research has found there is "a prime opportunity for community pharmacists to support and deliver patient self-management in an evidence-based, structured capacity".

Supporting people to self-manage their health and care can improve clinical outcomes, reduce the economic impact of chronic disease and contribute to global healthcare, according to pharmacy practice researcher Sarah Dineen-Griffin.

Writing in the International Pharmaceutical Federation's (FIP) *International Pharmacy Journal*, Dineen-Griffin was referencing her findings as she presented to the FIP Special Interest Group for Pharmacy Practice Research's

first international conference in Lisbon, Portugal, last year.

Dineen-Griffin defined self-managed support in two ways: as a portfolio of techniques and tools and as a transformation of the patient-caregiver relationship.

The study showed that patients and providers can "work together to develop tangible and realistic healthcare goals" while providers can help patients develop these goals and monitor their health.

"Such evaluations will be of value to practitioners, policy-makers and researchers in terms of collecting clinical and economic outcome measures to generate a robust evidence base of pharmacists' impact in this area," she wrote.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news and a cover page from **Uricil**.

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Dispensary Corner

ONLY in America?
A woman from the state of Ohio has launched a lawsuit against department store giant Macy's, over claims that a make-up tester gave her a permanent facial mark. Judy Pleunik says she visited the cosmetics counter at one of the company's stores in Feb 2018, and during a consultation an employee drew an "X" on her right cheek. Now almost 18 months later the mark remains, with Pleunik saying "I want to figure out how to get this off my face". Her lawyer has recommended a biopsy so that scientists can figure out what was applied to her skin, while Macy's wasn't able to comment on the situation due to it being the subject of ongoing court action.

AN INDONESIAN baby boy has made headlines after his parents made the unusual decision to name him Google. The proud father, 31-year-old Andi Saputra, said he hoped to give his new son a moniker that would help him in life. "We considered religious names and also Albar Dirgantara Putra, but when he was born...I took a name from the technology category." Saputra told reporters he had also considered names such as Windows, iPhone, Microsoft and iOS, but eventually settled on simply Google, without a surname. He said just like the search engine, he hopes little Google can "be a useful person".

Petrie wins AACCP award



VICTORIAN accredited pharmacist Neil Petrie has been named as the 2019 MIMS Consultant Pharmacist of the Year by the Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy (AACCP). The award was presented in Melbourne last Fri night during the opening event of the 15th annual AACCP ConPharm conference. The award, which includes a medallion and certificate plus a \$5,000 travel grant to attend a pharmacy conference of relevance to the practice of consultant pharmacy, recognises an "outstanding contribution by an accredited pharmacist to the practice of consultant pharmacy". Petrie has been accredited with the AACCP since 1998, with

the organisation saying he was a "highly regarded and dedicated provider of Residential Medication Management Review (RMMR) services". His own *PRN Consulting* website provides a range of useful and practical resources to support staff working in aged care, including online education modules on a variety of clinical topics. "Neil's other roles include educator, mentor and researcher," the AACCP said. Petrie is **pictured** above with his award alongside, from left: AACCP CEO Grant Martin; Dinah Graham, MIMS Business Development Director; Robert Best, CEO MIMS Australia/NZ; and Kumar Singh from MIMS Australia.

GAIA Skin Solutions sold to Nice Pak

AFTER 17 years nurturing a fledgling product from "something that started on the kitchen stove for our son's skin" to a significant "Skin Naturals" brand, GAIA founders and owners Simon and Michelle Vogrinec have announced the sale of the business to baby



and healthcare products company, Nice Pak Products. The newly minted deal took effect 01 Jul with Nice Pak MD Danny Gunn reassuring staff and customers of a "seamless transition" while the Vogrinecs thanked staff and customers.

Gaba-drug risks

GABAPENTINOLIDS
pregabalin and gabapentin are associated with an increased risk of suicidal behaviour, overdoses, head/body injuries and more, according to new research out of Sweden. See the work at bmj.com.

Guild Update

Guild Pharmacy of the Year

ENTRIES for the 2020 Guild Pharmacy of the Year competition close at the end of this month. Pharmacies will have until Wednesday July 31 to submit their entry and supporting material. 2019 Guild Pharmacy of the Year winner Sarah Hazell said winning the competition had been the most wonderful experience for the whole Flannery's Pharmacy team. "It's a great acknowledgment that we are heading in the right direction in everything we are doing," she said. "The team has received a lot of positive feedback from the Forbes community as a result of being named Pharmacy of the Year. "The Forbes community were absolutely thrilled when our pharmacy won the award. I suppose it gives our patients the confidence that they are receiving the very best pharmacy service in their community," she said.