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Pharmacists must lead meds care

PHARMACISTS should be given a lead role in patient care whenever medicine is used in their treatment, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia National President, Dr Chris Freeman (**pictured**) believes.

Commenting on a report released by researchers from the University of NSW and the University of Western Australia, which raised concerns over the rate of polypharmacy in Australia, Freeman said it highlighted the need for pharmacists to be given a greater role in the management of patients.

The report found more than a third of Australians aged 70 and older were taking five or more Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PSB) listed medicines on a continuous basis, with rates of

polypharmacy highest amongst women and those over 80.

"Polypharmacy can be appropriate, but there is substantial evidence for its potential for harm and the importance of rationalising unnecessary medicines, particularly in older people," the authors said.

Freeman called on the Federal Government to provide funding to support pharmacist-led interventions.

"It is PSA's firm view that pharmacists must be more involved in the care of patients whenever medicines are part of their health management plan, and particularly in the context of chronic disease management," he said.

"Access to additional funding models, such as the Medicare Benefits Schedule, will ensure



pharmacists can fulfil this vital role in Australia's healthcare system.

"PSA and the pharmacy profession stand ready to work with government and consumers to ensure medicine safety is addressed for the benefit of all Australians."

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news and a full page from Flo Baby.

Guild Connect

PHARMACY Guild members attending the upcoming Pharmacy Connect 2019 conference in Sydney will receive a confidential briefing from Guild National President, George Tambassis and NSW President, David Heffernan.

A Guild Member Only Breakfast at 7am on Fri 06 Sep will include an analysis of the current trading environment, trends in the pharmacy sector and negotiations for the 7CPA.

Scope of practice 10 years behind

AUSTRALIA'S pharmacy scope of practice is 10 years behind that of Canada's, according to Ross Tsuyuki (**pictured**), Professor and Chair of the Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta, Canada.

Pharmacists in Canada are able to prescribe, repeat scripts with adjustments, order laboratory tests and perform other patient care activities based on evidence of positive outcomes, he said in an interview.

Tsuyuki was speaking to the moderator of the *Pharmacist*



Business and Career Network podcast (**CLICK HERE**) ahead of his hotly anticipated presentation at Pharmacy Connect this year.

CLICK HERE to see more.

Footy Tipping

CONGRATULATIONS to our weekly footy tipping comp winners, Peter Balram from the Department of Human Service, who topped the NRL comp, while Scott Newsum of Delorain Amcal Pharmacy, took out the top spot in the AFL.

Fathers' Day feature

WITH Fathers' Day coming up, advertisers looking to highlight the perfect gifts for Dad can book a space in our Fathers' Day Spotlight.

For more information contact Hoda or Melanie on 1300 799 220 or advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Corum Clear out

CORUM Group Limited has confirmed that its new Corum Clear Dispense software will be available for commercial sale from this month.

The company has been developing the platform for some years, and is rolling it out after "thousands of hours of successful testing and trials in operating pharmacy settings".

Corum said it was inspired to create Corum Clear Dispense after seeing a gap in the market for "a solution that improves dispensing efficiency and productivity, with enhanced support for patient safety".

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Dispensary Corner

HEAVY metal music may not be everyone's cup of tea but it captures the hearts of a higher proportion of people in Finland, than any other country.

The deep north has more than 50 bands per 100,000 people, the highest number per capita in the world.

So where else could you hold a heavy metal knitting contest? Yes, knitting - the bizarrely unpredictable combination is held competitively every year drawing fans from across the globe.

Armed with (metal) needles and a ball of wool, Russia's Natalia (pictured) competes on stage - there is certainly something about the Finns - they also host world championships in air guitar, swamp soccer, and wife carrying.

What's this got to do with pharmacy? Nothing.



IN ANOTHER puzzling yet unrelated competition, speed jigsaw-solving is a hobby that continues to intrigue many.

Every niche has its hero and Britain's reigning jigsaw queen is Sarah Mills, 37, winning this year's competition held this month, the UK *Telegraph* reports.

The 'sport' is also the theme of a new feature movie "Puzzle", starring Kelly McDonald and Irrfan Khan, who bond together over the obsession.

Babinda wins Qld PATY



PHARMACY assistant, Bridgette Atkinson, from Babinda Pharmacy has been chosen to represent Queensland at the National Finals of the 2019 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/ Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY).

Judges chose Bridgette (pictured) from 20 other State Finalists at the Queensland workshop last Fri where each participant demonstrated their pharmacy knowledge, and showcased their skills in customer service and leadership.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia's acting National President, Professor Trent Twomey, congratulated Bridgette for her valuable contribution to community pharmacy in Australia.

The Queensland winner of the Glucojel Super Star Award was also announced at the workshop with the award going to Katie Godwin from Amcal Pharmacy Caboolture.

Both ladies will represent their state in the national finals to be awarded at the 2019 Pharmacy Assistant National Conference.

Methotrexate dosing errors

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) has recommended new measures to avoid dosing errors that have led to some patients incorrectly taking methotrexate-containing medicines daily instead of weekly.

Visit ema.europa.eu for more.

Guild Update

Pharmacists urged to spread message on hepatitis

COMMUNITY pharmacists are being urged to take part in World Hepatitis Day on 28 July this year.

World Hepatitis Day in Australia this year is focusing on some simple key messages which cover the following:

- Testing for hepatitis B and/ or hepatitis C
- Vaccinations to protect against hepatitis B
- Regular monitoring and treatment as needed for hepatitis B
- Getting cured of hepatitis C

To help community pharmacists and others get involved, Hepatitis Australia has made material available on the World Hepatitis Day website under the heading of 'Get Involved'.

Win with John Plunkett

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away the Superfade Accelerator plus a John Plunkett cosmetic bag.

Superfade Accelerator can be used for quicker results with Superfade Creams or alone to help remove superficial pigmentation. Contains a blend of AHAs including Ferulic acid cytoectors to gently exfoliate. RRP \$19.95.

Visit: www.Superfade.com.au for more.

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

Name an acid in Superfade Accelerator.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Marina Atanasovska.



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