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AMA 'Looney Tunes' about pharmacy

ACCUSATIONS that some in the community pharmacy sector put money ahead of their patients' needs, are being staunchly rejected by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Responding to claims made by Australian Medical Association (AMA) Western Australian President, Dr Andrew Miller, that "big business interests" were pushing for pharmacists to "become GPs", Guild WA Branch President, Andrew Ngeow (pictured), compared Miller to gunslinging *Looney Tunes* character, Yosemite Sam.

Ngeow accused Miller of being disrespectful of pharmacists during an interview on *ABC Breakfast (PD yesterday)*.

"Every day up to 140,000 West Australians visit and trust the advice and help they get from their community pharmacists. In towns with no GP. In places no other service exists. In metropolitan settings when getting in to your usual GP is difficult," he said.

"Instead of looking to work with

other health professionals – and respecting them - Dr Miller's approach is to denigrate and insult."

Ngeow was also critical of Miller's views of those running community pharmacies.

"Accusing community pharmacists of being motivated purely by commercial interests is pretty rich coming from a member of our overwhelmingly corporatised medical profession," he said.

"To listen to Miller, you'd think GPs in WA were like Buddhists monks – ministering to the poor for food and alms.

"Fortunately, GPs and local community pharmacists continue to work together closely and collaboratively in the interests of patients, all over WA.

"Sensible GPs recognise the potential for pharmacists to make an even bigger contribution to the health system, just as pharmacists do in comparable countries all over the world.



"This year we've seen tens of thousands of West Australians receive the benefit of accessible affordable vaccination against influenza at their local pharmacy – despite the opposition of the AMA, which has had to be dragged kicking and screaming into modern times.

"To Miller we say this: the 1990s phoned – they want their arguments back. Get with the times, work collaboratively with community pharmacy, and put patients first."

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news including our weekly **Health & Beauty** feature plus full pages from:

- Eagle Shared Services
- Sigma Healthcare

Sigma's stars

SIGMA Healthcare has highlighted its best performing Amcal, Guardian and Discount Drug Stores pharmacies in Vic, Tas and SA as part of the Sigma Pharmacy Assistant Annual Conference and Gala Awards.

The winners are listed on **page five** of today's *PD*.

PBS Oct update

THE Health Department has unveiled indicative 01 Oct 2019 prices on the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme (PBS) resulting from the 2019 Oct Cycle of Price Disclosure - pbs.gov.au.



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TGA \$10 million ad fine

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has hailed a Federal Court order yesterday requiring Peptide Clinics Australia to pay \$10 million in penalties for breaches of medicine advertising rules.

The substantial fine “reflects the very real dangers to public health and safety and the egregious conduct of Peptide Clinics,” the TGA said, particularly highlighting the “charade” of medical practitioners’ involvement with the business which gave consumers the false impression those practitioners were acting in their best interests.

The Court accepted submissions from the Health Department that Peptide Clinics “deliberately and recklessly pursued its own financial self-interest, at the expense of its legal obligations and the interests of public health”.

The ruling found that Peptide Clinics had breached the Act and the Advertising Codes every single day that its advertisements



appeared on social media channels and on the company’s website.

The website promoted prescription-only products for a range of “inappropriate and misleading” indications such as anxiety, bodybuilding, tanning, weight loss, hair loss, insomnia relief and premature ejaculation.

“The TGA advises that interfaces that allow consumers to review and self-select prescription-only medicines for subsequent prescribing and supply, and websites that promote general classes of prescription-only medicines, will generally be considered in contravention of the Act,” a TGA update advised.

New Rx drugs



THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has added a new swathe of prescription medicines to the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

Thirteen medicines already listed have registered new or extended indications and 19 new generic and biosimilar medicines have also been added.

The TGA has also included five new chemical entities (NCEs) in the ARTG making a total of 15 new NCEs this year.

See the updated lists of prescription medicine additions at tga.gov.au.

Win with LA CLINICA

This week Pharmacy Daily and LA CLINICA are giving readers the chance to win the baby kit pictured, valued at over \$60.



Australian made “Organic For Baby” by LA CLINICA is formulated with certified organic and safe ingredients to care for baby’s delicate skin. The Bath & Body Gift Set contains full-sized Soothing Lotion, Soap-Free Wash Gel, Nappy Wipe Lotion and Zinc Barrier Balm. No artificial ingredients or artificial fragrances.

Visit www.laclinica.com for more.

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

What are the products in the Bath & Body Kit?

Congratulations to yesterday’s winner, Emily Keleher.

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Pharmacy Daily



Dispensary Corner

PHARMACISTS from across Australia are thanking their lucky stars this week with the broadcast of the latest instalments of Channel 9's *Australian Ninja Warrior*.

That's because one of the contestants is managing to single-handedly change public perceptions of pharmacy professionals as mild-mannered, white-coated medicine expert nerds.

Jordan Papandrea, 23, (pictured), whose occupation is described on the *Ninja* website as "pharmacy student and gymnast," is a rippling example of what we're sure most male pharmacists would look like if they took their shirts off.

In one of the semi-finals earlier this week Jordan managed to be the "furthest fastest" competitor, seeing him progress to the final where he will be in the running to win up to \$300,000 by conquering *Ninja Warrior's* ultimate challenge, the imposing "Mount Midoriyama".

We, along with everyone else in the Australian pharmacy sector, salute you Jordan and wish you all the best in the upcoming Grand Final.



Arrotex unveils its executive team

NEWLY formed generic and OTC pharmaceuticals giant Arrotex Pharmaceuticals has announced the appointment of its new executive team to lead the integration, enablement and growth of the Arrow and Apotex merged entity.

Arrotex will be led by Dennis Bastas as Chairman and CEO, as announced earlier this month (PD 11 Jul).

The executive team includes Lisa Golden, named Chief Commercial Officer, Andrew Burgess appointed Chief Financial Officer and Sue Morgan in the role of Chief Legal Counsel.

Golden worked as Apotex Marketing Director, Asia Pacific for more than four years, before taking the role of Director of Business Development and Strategy,

arrotex

Mundipharma Australia in Oct 2017.

She brings an MBA and is a graduate of the Australian Institute Company Directors.

Burgess is a Chartered Accountant and has served alongside Bastas for more than 10 years, most recently as Arrow COO.

Prior to this, he played a pivotal role in the success of both Central Healthcare Services and Ascent Pharmaceuticals in the role of COO and CFO, respectively.

Morgan has worked as General Manager, Arrow Pharmaceuticals for nearly four years.

Prior to this, she worked as General Counsel and Company Secretary with Sigma for more than eight years.



Roger Millichamp, who successfully led Apotex Australia for the past 12 years, chose to use the opportunity to leave and pursue other options after a period supporting the transition.

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Fabulouscious Mirror Shine

Fabulouscious **Mirror Shine** is a top coat, dryer and sealer in one. It gives nails a mirror shine and longer lasting nail polish by forming a super-hard, protective shield that surrounds and seals in nail colour. It also has a quick dry application allowing nails to dry in seconds.

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Award Winning Pharmacies Announced for VIC, TAS & SA

The winners of the best performing Amcal, Guardian and Discount Drug Stores pharmacies in Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia have been recognised at the Sigma Pharmacy Assistant Annual Conference and Gala Awards.

The winners will now represent their region in the national awards, early 2020.

Brian Tomlin, Sigma's General Manager Retail Sales congratulated all the award winners

'The awards night provides the opportunity to recognise the hard work of our pharmacy teams. We would like to acknowledge and thank all our award nominees, finalists and winners for their contribution and commitment to serving their local communities.'

Pharmacy of the Year

Amcal Award Winner -
Nagel's Pharmacy (VIC)
Loxton Amcal Pharmacy (SA)

Guardian Award Winner -
New Norfolk Pharmacy (TAS)

Discount Drug Stores Award Winner -
Balwyn North Discount Drug Store (VIC)

Professional Services Pharmacy of the Year

Amcal Award Winner -
Horsham Amcal Chemist (VIC)
Loxton Amcal Pharmacy (SA)

Community Engagement Pharmacy of the Year

Guardian Award Winner -
Beaconsfield Pharmacy (VIC)

Discount Drug Stores Award Winner -
Langwarrin Discount Drug Store (VIC)

Retail Manager of the Year

Amcal Award Winner -
Sally McGrath - Nagel's Pharmacy (VIC)
Sarah Leckie - Murray Bridge Amcal (SA)

Guardian Award Winner -
Janelle Maw - New Norfolk Pharmacy (TAS)

Discount Drug Stores Award Winner -
Narrelle Osborne - Hunt Club Discount Drug Store (VIC)

Pharmacy Assistant of the Year

Amcal Award Winner -
Christine Verey - Findlay & Weymouth Amcal Sale (VIC)
Brionhy Carr - Murray Bridge Amcal Chemist (SA)

Guardian Award Winner -
Vicki Featherby - Beaconsfield Pharmacy (VIC)

Discount Drug Stores Award Winner -
Yvonne Cheuk -
Balwyn North Discount Drug Store (VIC)

