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

- Amcal
- Monash University

Safety advisory

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued safety advisory for products containing fallopia multiflora, also known as 'he shou wu', warning it has been associated with a low risk of liver damage in rare cases.

The herb has been marketed for hair thinning, 'blood tonifying' and a variety of other conditions.

The TGA now requires listed medicines containing fallopia multiflora for oral use to have the following warning on the product label: "Warning: Fallopia multiflora may harm the liver in some people. Use under the supervision of a healthcare professional."

Further investigations are underway - **CLICK HERE** for more.

Rural health not political

RURAL Australian's healthcare should not be compromised by poor mobile connectivity, the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) believes.

Speaking at the launch of the NRHA's 2019 Federal Election Charter, CEO Mark Diamond, said funding pledges made by the two major political parties to eradicate mobile blackspots fell short of what is required to ensure Australian's living in regional and remote areas have suitable access to digital health.

Diamond, said the while the Coalition and Labor's pledges to invest \$220 million and \$245 million respectively, in improving the nation's mobile network were welcome, more funding was required.

"We have costed what it will take to provide the sorts of connectivity that will improve access to health services for communities in outback Australia, and it is \$400 million," he said.

"Governments need to do more if

they are serious about connecting rural, regional and remote Australia into decent online healthcare.

"It is a fact that over 20% of the difference in health outcomes experienced by people in rural areas, compared to people living in metropolitan areas, is because they can't access timely, appropriate and affordable healthcare.

"Given regional and remote Australia is an economic generator for our country, that is simply not fair.

"This is not a political issue - it is a rural health issue and a real societal issue for all Australians.

"People in rural and remote communities, including mining towns and indigenous communities, deserve the same access to services such as health and education and we need the digital infrastructure and connectivity to make it happen.

"It doesn't matter who is in Government - they have the same responsibility to these communities as they do to metropolitan areas."

ACCC scam alert

SMALL businesses are being hardest hit by email scammers, with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) reporting the scams cost Australian businesses \$7.2 million in 2018.

The ACCC's *Targeting Scam* report, revealed businesses employing fewer than 20 staff, were the most likely to be targeted by email scams, accounting for almost 75% of the 4,546 email scam attacks reported to Scamwatch in 2018 and costing small businesses \$4.5 million in losses.

The results showed an 8% increase in reported cases of email scams, with a 58% increase in losses, compared with 2017, the ACCC revealed.

False billing scams were the most common type of email scam, with 1,819 cases reported, accounting for \$3.1 million in losses, followed by phishing scams (637 reported cases), costing Australian businesses \$241,911.

The 59 reported investment scams cost businesses \$2.1 million, the second most costly scam type.

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Guild advances women

MORE than 100 women in pharmacy are to benefit from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch's education and networking opportunities, funded by the Queensland Government's Advancing Women in Business Initiative.

Sessions will be delivered in Townsville, Toowoomba, Brisbane and the Gold Coast to female pharmacists, interns, pharmacy students and pharmacy staff.

The purpose of the program is to see women empowered through expert advice on the steps needed to purchase a pharmacy, while providing networking and mentoring opportunities by showcasing successful women in community pharmacy.

Queensland Guild Branch Committee Member Amanda Seeto said, "Industry expert Felicity Crimston of Pitcher Pharmacy delivered the education component while myself and fellow Queensland Guild Branch Committee Members Cate Whalan, Lucy Walker and Fiona Watson outlined our own journeys into



pharmacy ownership and leadership.

"The four sessions highlighted the myriad of pathways to community pharmacy ownership as is evidenced by the different journeys of each Branch Committee member. "We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from these sessions. It was wonderful to connect with so many women in pharmacy, in both regional and metropolitan areas and at different stages of their pharmacy career.

"I would like to thank the Queensland Government for making these sessions possible. We hope to be able to expand these sessions and provide ongoing opportunities to support women into leadership positions within community pharmacy."

PBS restricts PPIs

THIS month's updates to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) highlights changes to the restriction level for proton pump inhibitors.

Effective as of 01 May, all standard dose PPIs (esomeprazole 20mg, lansoprazole 30mg, omeprazole 20mg, pantoprazole 40mg, rabeprazole 20mg) will change from Restricted Benefit to Authority Required (streamlined).

Esomeprazole 40mg with one repeat will change from Restricted Benefit to Authority Required.

The update also includes the list of drugs subject to price disclosure effective 01 May.

Additions, deletions and alterations are listed along with the usual advance notices for brand deletions through the rest of this year - visit pbs.gov.au for details.

Seqirus warns of pandemic

REFERENCING the potent H7N9 strain of influenza, CSL vaccine offshoot Seqirus has alerted investors to the possibility of another influenza pandemic.

Presenting at the Macquarie Australia Equities Conference in Apr, Seqirus President, Gordon Naylor, said that the world has had four influenza pandemics in the last century.

He stressed that the next pandemic is "a question of 'when' not 'if'".

The previous pandemics cited were Asian Flu (H2N2) in 1957-58, the Hong Kong Flu (H3N2) 1968-69, the Swine Flu (H1N1) in 2009 and the Spanish Flu (H1N1) last year.

Naylor highlighted the dominant global health burden of influenza, showing a chart that demonstrated influenza has a significantly higher incidence and higher mortality than any other infectious disease.

The ultimate communication message from Naylor's presentation



was of course to present the company's progress and future prospects to potential investors.

Seqirus' Flucelvax and Fludax were main growth drivers identified and supported by effectiveness data.

The company is "well-placed to deliver further growth" with its "proprietary marketed technologies of cell-culture and MF59", and commitment "to ongoing innovation to deliver sustainable growth," Naylor said.

Creso import permit

ASX-LISTED medicinal cannabis company Creso, has announced it is now in receipt of an import permit for its first shipment of therapeutic product cannaQIX 50 to Australia to be sold via approved channels.

To enable broad availability, the company has signed a distribution agreement with specialist firm Burleigh Heads Cannabis.

The company also said it will explore the introduction of more therapeutic/medicinal products from Creso's pipeline of new products to be produced at its production facilities globally.

See details at asx.com.au.

AusCann on track

LISTED medicinal cannabis company AusCann has announced, via the ASX, it is on track for the production and release of its hard shell cannabinoid capsules for use in clinical trials during 2019.

The announcement also included the appointment of Ido Kanyon as new CEO of AusCann - he will commence 22 May.

To further develop its cannabinoid pharmaceutical product pipeline, the company has acquired a Perth-based research and development facility for \$5.25 million.

The raw material supply chain has been enhanced with the addition of MediPharm Labs - see asx.com.au.

Ingredients changes

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has updated its list of Permissible Ingredients for listed medicines, with a total of 16 new entries or changes.

The new ingredients are C11-13 alkane, cetearyl nonanoate, dimeticonol/propylsilsesquioxane/silicate crosspolymer, disodium lauril sulfosuccinate, methyl heptanoate, polyglyceryl-2 caprate, polyquaternium-4 and resveratrol.

Braille mislabelling

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a warning not to supply prednisolone from five batches of 5mg tablets to patients with sight problems following a Braille misprint on the packaging.

The error which can only be determined by a knowledgeable Braille reader was on the packaging manufactured by Genethics Europe and distributed by Genesis Pharmaceuticals.

It identified the strength of the product as 1mg instead of 5mg.

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* Australian Bureau of Statistics 2014-15 National Health Survey



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Pharmacy Daily



Dispensary Corner

UNIVERSITY students in the USA are being offered the opportunity to participate in some unique sleep therapy, with bedding supplier Mattress Firm inviting applications for its new "Snoozeterns" - also known as the company's in-house bed testers. "Pursuing a degree in catching Z's? Would you rather carry a pillowcase instead of a briefcase?" the job description reads.

"This summer you can snag the internship of your dreams."

The successful Snoozeterns will be required to "test the optimal head and foot positions on our selection of adjustable bases for Netflix binging, Instagram stalking *ahem* posting, reading, typing, eating...really anything that would be better in bed".

It's more than just a publicity stunt, with the applicants paid for 30 hours per week and also required to create social media content about their experience.

RESEARCHERS in the UK have made the astonishing finding that it is possible to enjoy a cup of tea without a spoonful of sugar.

The study by scientists from University College London and the University of Leeds analysed data from 64 male participants who usually drank sweetened tea.

Some went cold turkey by cutting out sugar completely, while another group phased out their use of sugar, with initial results indicating participants continued to enjoy a cuppa.

The study was unveiled at the European Congress on Obesity in Glasgow, with authors saying a larger trial was needed to confirm their conclusions.

Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy.

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

Biotrue Contact Lens Care

Biotrue multi-purpose solution is a bio-inspired innovation in lens care solution which is designed to make wearing contact lenses easier on the eyes. With more than 60% of patients considered discontinuing lens wear due to dryness or discomfort, eight out of 10 lens wearers would continue after using Biotrue multi-purpose solution for just two weeks. Biotrue's special ingredient is hyaluronan, the same moisture-loving molecules found in eyes, which helps to hydrate contact lenses and the eyes. This solution provides superior all-day comfort by helping keep lenses continuously moist for up to 20 hours.



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Kind Softening Body Cream



This rich and decadent body cream helps to recover and soften dry skin. With soothing macadamia seed oil, vitamin E and

evening primrose oil. Be naturally kind to your skin with this bodycare range infused with premium Australian botanical ingredients. **Kind Softening Body Cream** contains Kakadu Plum, Inca Berries, Nettle and Davidson Plum. Consequently full of antioxidants, vitamins, and hydration for cosy moist silky smooth skin, it is part of Designer Brands' (DB's) new bodycare range which includes the **Kind** range and glam & glitter **Glow** range.

Stockist: 03 8544 8000
RRP: \$14.99
Website: www.dbcosmetics.com.au

Rapid Response Digital Thermometer

The Dreambaby **Rapid Response Digital Thermometer** is equipped with a state of the art fever alert light-up indicator. The display will instantly turn red if a fever (temperature above 37.0c) is indicated and green if temperature is within normal range. This thermometer allows the user to choose either Fahrenheit or Celsius measuring units. It has a flexible tip for easier use and greater comfort for baby. The thermometer may be used for underarm or rectum measurements and has extra-large, easy to read display.



Stockist: 02 9386 4000
RRP: \$24.95
Website: www.dreambaby.com.au

GAIA made for men Shampoo



GAIA made for men Shampoo is a soap and sulfate free shampoo that removes product build-up without stripping hair of its natural protective oils.

Organic rosemary revitalises the appearance of the hair and removes excess oils and dandruff flakes, organic evening primrose oil restores lustre and sheen while maintaining healthy skin and hair, and organic chamomile enhances the appearance of hair's natural highlights while helping maintain a healthy scalp. Use before GAIA made for men Conditioner to leave hair healthy, shiny and lustrous.

Stockist: 03 9703 1707
RRP: \$11.95
Website: www.gaiaskinnaturals.com

Amcal are proud to partner with ScriptWise for Medication Dependence Prevention Month

Did you know?

- + **3.1 million** people had one or more prescriptions dispensed or opioids (most commonly for oxycodone)*
- + Every year **1.9 million** Australian adults start taking prescription opioids[^]
- + Every day **3 Australians** die from drug-induced deaths involving opiates^{^^}

In partnership with ScriptWise, Amcal aim to create awareness about how to prevent the potential harms of prescription medication use, the stigma around seeking treatment and increase access to preventative and early intervention treatments within Australian communities.

For more information on how you could support, go to:

<https://www.scriptwise.org.au/prevention-month/>

*Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2018, 'Opioid harm in Australia and comparisons between Australia and Canada'. Accessed January 2019 <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/illicit-use-of-drugs/opioid-harm-in-australia/contents/summary>

[^]Lalic et al, 'Prevalence and incidence of prescription opioid analgesic use in Australia', British Pharmacological Society, Vol 85, Issue 1, Jan 2019. Accessed January 2019 <https://bpspubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/bcp.13792>

^{^^} Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2018, 'Opioid harm in Australia and comparisons between Australia and Canada'. Accessed January 2019 <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/illicit-use-of-drugs/opioid-harm-in-australia/contents/summary>

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- Optimising medicine use in people with dementia
- Use of 'real world data' for investigating medicine safety and effectiveness
- Enhanced models of practice in aged care
- Pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic modelling of antimicrobial agents
- Multidisciplinary models of care for respiratory disease

APPLICATIONS

Successful applicants will complete their PhD with mentorship in scientific writing, research methods and research translation. PhD scholarships also support exchanges to some of the world's top research facilities in North America, United Kingdom, Scandinavia and more.

Places are limited and scholarships will be awarded on a competitive basis. Applicants with a First Class Honours degree or prior research experience will be preferred. Please contact Professor Simon Bell at Simon.Bell2@monash.edu by Friday May 10 to express an interest and arrange a discussion.



Contact Us

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