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SmarterPharm

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a front full page wrap from SmarterPharm and a full page from the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference.

CMA awards open

COMPLEMENTARY Medicines Australia (CMA) has declared its awards open for nomination and will be hosting the 18th Annual Industry Awards at Dockside in Sydney on 26 Oct 2017.

Twelve awards reflecting the dynamic changes within the industry celebrate success in the CM industry with two new Awards also introduced this year: Exporter of the Year and Innovator of the Year.

With 400 people attending, including a VIP delegation from China, the CMA Annual Awards is the key industry event of the year, and 2017 is expected to be the biggest and best yet, CMA says.

Top comedian Cal Wilson has been confirmed as the headline act, and ceo Carl Gibson will continue to wow the crowd with one of his outrageous costumes, famously dressing at previous awards dinners as Hello Kitty and Carl the Koala.

Closing date for the award nominations is 13 Oct 2017 and winners will be chosen by an independent panel of experts.

More information and the Awards Nomination Booklet are now available from cmaustralia.org.au.

SHPA builds business acumen

SOCIETY of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) members have voted overwhelmingly for a new, contemporary constitution after a special resolution passed with 90% support last week, with clauses allowing non-pharmacists with appropriate skills to assume director positions.



The new constitution will open the organisation up to a more diverse, skills-based future board of directors, allow for organisational members and expanded voting membership for technicians, while promoting and protecting the strong history of branch activity.

SHPA chief executive Kristin Michaels said the move to allow expert non-pharmacist directors would position SHPA strongly for future growth.

"Ensuring Australian patients benefit from evidence-based clinical expertise, hospital pharmacists are increasing their scope and establishing new and more complex roles, and SHPA has a bold vision for their future as leaders in exceptional medicines management," Michaels said.

"It's great to see our growing membership get behind diversity in leadership, which will ultimately ensure SHPA is more agile and adaptive to challenges and opportunities at this exciting time in pharmacy in Australia."

Michaels said the turnout was more than five times higher than for any other resolution passed in SHPA's history.

"Thanks to a move to online balloting, we were able to conduct a truly nationwide vote, and one in five eligible members had their say in this important turning point in SHPA's history."

"With 90% support across the country – and similar participation rates between all state and territory branches – the process and result is fitting for a truly democratic and nationwide organisation."

The new SHPA constitution is in immediate effect and new board elections are scheduled to take place at Medicines Management 2017, the 43rd SHPA National Conference – one of Australia's largest annual pharmacy gatherings – in Sydney, mid-Nov.

Deprescribing grant

PROFESSOR Parker Magin from University of Newcastle School of Medicine and Public Health is one of the successful HCF Research Foundation and RACGP grant recipients.

His research addresses the challenge of adverse drug effects (ADEs) for older Australians on multiple medicines to manage their many health issues.

"We will evaluate the process and acceptability of the 'deprescribing' approach qualitatively, and measure changes in emergency presentations or unplanned hospital admissions, patient wellbeing and health system costs," Magin said.

Infliximab biosimilar

JANSSEN-CILAG'S Remicade (infliximab) now has a second biosimilar competitor after Inflectra (from Pfizer's Hospira), in the form of Renflexis from MSD.

Biosimilar fact sheets for health professionals are at health.gov.au.



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Ice campaign kicks off

THE Federal Government has announced the launch of the next phase of its National Drugs Campaign to help tackle the use of illicit drugs, particularly ice, among young Australians.

The new \$10m television and online campaign illustrates risks around drug use and provides information on resources, support and treatment options available.

Resources are available for parents and health professionals, including the 'Positive Choices' Online Portal, also including 'Cracks in the Ice' evidence-based information, to help equip them to have important conversations with young people.

The government is also promoting the new National Alcohol and Other Drug Hotline – 1800 250 015 – which links to existing services for free support, information, counselling and referral.

Visit drughelp.gov.au for more.

Pill-testing support widens

FOLLOWING its success in Europe, pill testing services will be offered at an ACT music festival, the Spilt Milk 25 Nov event, and may become the norm at such events, in the hope of minimising harm from drug-taking for younger Australians, the Federal Government has said.

Advocates for pill testing have long been calling for the practice to be introduced in Australia following success in Europe where there are already best-practice guidelines for such tests, according to Harm Reduction Australia's Dr David Caldicott.

ACT Health Minister Meegan Fitzharris signalled her support for the scheme at a press conference in Canberra last Friday saying, "This is a really good measure to make sure that young people stay safe".

Fitzharris said the government had to find the right balance between letting young people know it's illegal to take drugs while being realistic about the use of them.

"We've seen deaths at festivals,

five in 2015 alone, so if that helps to keep people safe, it's worth doing," Fitzharris said.

She cited evidence from New Zealand which

showed that 63% of people who have their pills tested, and were told the substance wasn't what they

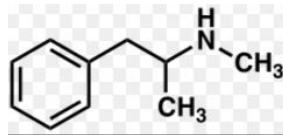
thought, decided not to take them.

One parent who lost a son to a "bad acid" trip at Victoria's 2012 Rainbow Serpent music festival has spoken up.

"The bottom line is people will take drugs, irrespective of the law," she said at a campaigning event last year.

"If pill testing was implemented, people might not take their drugs because no one wants to come out of a festival or nightclub in a body bag if they think their drugs might kill them."

The testing facility at the Spilt Milk music festival will be located securely adjacent to other health and emergency services and data from the event will inform future decisions around the practice.



WIN WITH INNOXA

This week Pharmacy Daily and INNOXA are giving away each day the new INNOXA Eye Lift Palette.



INNOXA introduces an all-in-one kit that is designed to prime, contour, define and brighten the eye area, creating a more youthful and lifted appearance. Containing a cream to powder base primer that optimizes soft focus and is long lasting, and a silky touch matte powder that is pigment rich and provides moisture, with the INNOXA Eye Lift Palette you can achieve this bright and awakened look in five simple steps. **CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE** for more info.

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

What is the price?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Amanda Pippia from Leeton Amcal Pharmacy.

La Trobe Uni has the Edge

ADVANTAGE Pharmacy Group has announced a partnership with La Trobe University's Department of Pharmacy and Applied Science to offer pharmacy students a four-year scholarship program called Advantage Edge.

Research shows that the majority of employers are looking for practical, hands-on work experience, with 58% of businesses rating work experience as the most valued job pre-requisite.

Advantage ceo Steven Kastrinakis said it was critical that pharmacy graduates came out job-ready once they finish their university training and before starting their internship.

"Our partnership with La Trobe will introduce first-year students to the concepts of professional services offered in a community pharmacy setting," he said.

Undergraduates will have a clear experiential path set out each year

with pharmacist mentors, working towards clear KPIs.

They will get practical experience, from patient engagement for OTC products to writing Care Plans in the first year, through to completing COPD screenings, blood pressure checks and diabetes medchecks in their final year.

US hospital pharmacy

THE American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) conducted a survey of pharmacy practice in hospital settings to generate some useful statistics.

The survey was sent to a stratified random sample of pharmacy directors at 1,315 general and children's medical-surgical hospitals in the USA and enjoyed a completion rate of 29.8%.

The research revealed that drug policy development by pharmacy and therapeutics committees continued to be an important strategy for improving prescribing.

Formulary systems were claimed to be maintained in 63.0% of hospitals, while 89.7% of hospitals said they use clinical practice guidelines that include medications.

Pharmacists have the authority to order laboratory tests in 89.9% of hospitals or order medications in 86.8% of hospitals, the results said.

Therapeutic interchange policies are used in 89.2% of hospitals and electronic health records (EHRs) have been implemented partially or completely, most hospitals claimed (99.1%).

In addition, computerised prescriber-order-entry (CPOE) systems with clinical decision support are used in 95.6% of hospitals, and 92.6% of hospitals have barcode-assisted medication administration systems.

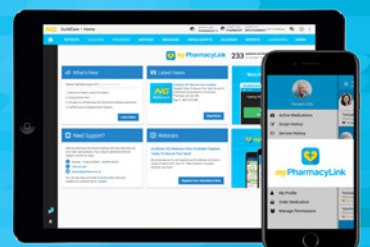
Other findings include that pharmacists practice in 39.5% of hospital ambulatory or primary care clinics and 64.5% of them have prescribing authority through collaborative practice agreements.

Visit ajhp.org for the abstract.

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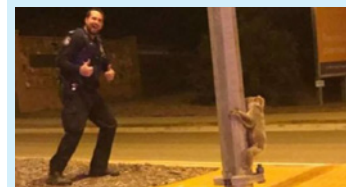
OUR uniquely Australian furry marsupial friends, koalas, are getting more than their share of internet coverage lately.

Their wild lifestyle is attracting worldwide attention as they have been accused of public indecency, stalking and fleeing from police in Queensland.

Police reported most serious allegations on 10 Sep, when in the Townsville suburb of Stuart in north Queensland, police alleged a koala, which went by the name of Fernando, gave officers a pole dancing display in the middle of a busy road.

Officers were "concerned for the koala's safety" but the animal was "very stubborn and reluctant to move on", *Fairfax* reported.

"But when police pumped the new Taylor Swift song through the radio, he showed his distaste and ditched the pole dancing lesson," Sergeant Cooke wrote.



STILL high on the cute and cuddly Richter scale, Japan's baby panda now has a name: Xiang Xiang, which means "fragrance".

Why do panda's always have one name duplicated?

The habit is from the country of origin, China, where the double names are "just for cuteness and informality" - it works for us.

The name [name] was chosen from more than 320,000 suggestions and required approval by Chinese authorities.

LARCs less user-dependent

LONG acting reversible contraceptive methods, or "LARCs", are less user-dependent in reducing unintended pregnancies and should become more accessible, according to Alison Verhoeven, chief executive of the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA).

AHHA has released a 'Consensus Statement on the use of LARCs', reflecting the views of consumers and leading health professionals and experts attending a recent Merck Sharp & Dohme-funded AHHA workshop on this topic.

"When we talk of LARCs we mean progestogen-only implant and hormonal and copper intrauterine devices (IUDs)", Verhoeven said.

"The uptake of LARCs is low in Australia - yet clinical and other experts, both here and internationally, recommend them as the most effective reversible contraceptive, within the context of informed choice.

"The release of the contraceptive pill in 1961 led to huge changes in women's lives as they assumed control over their reproductive future.

"The pill continues to be used widely - estimates for primary contraceptive method for Australian women are that 33% use oral contraceptives, 30% condoms, and 19% sterilisation."

Around 60% of Australian women who have had an unintended pregnancy were using contraception - most notably the pill (43%) and condoms (22%).

The problem with the pill was usually a missed dose, Verhoeven explained.

"As a first step, women must be

supported to make an informed choice about contraception," she added, recommending this start at secondary school ages onwards.

Other recommendations from the Consensus Statement

include the need for training programs for health professionals around implant and IUD insertion and removal, as well as better national data sources on contraceptive use and pregnancy outcomes, to ensure that policy development and needs assessments are evidence-based.

The Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association describes itself as the national peak body for public and not-for-profit hospitals, community and primary healthcare services.

Visit ahha.asn.au to access the Consensus Statement.



Aust to host WHO

NEXT month, Australia will host the 68th session of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Regional Committee for the Western Pacific (RCM68).

Held annually, RCM68 will be the first time Australia has hosted the event since 1997.

More than 300 people from 37 countries and areas are expected to come to Brisbane for this important event, 09 to 13 Oct.

Bringing together health ministers and senior officials, the WHO Regional Committee is the key decision-making body which shapes WHO policies to improve the lives of the nearly 1.9 billion people in our region.

Visit health.gov.au for details.

VPA guidelines update

AT ITS September 2017 meeting, the Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) considered proposed amendments to its guidelines after having received input from stakeholders.

The resultant amended guidelines are now available and take effect from 01 Oct 2017.

Visit pharmacy.vic.gov.au to download the amended guidelines in pdf format.

Guild Update

Guild Pharmacy of the Year

GUILD Members are reminded that applications for Guild Pharmacy of the Year 2018 close at the end of this week.

The award recognises pharmacy businesses who have successfully implemented innovative ideas and ways of working, by focusing on improving their businesses, building capabilities, continuous business improvement, and developing the pharmacy team.

You might not think your pharmacy has these traits, but you'd probably be surprised at what you find, once you start documenting it. Entering the contest for Guild Pharmacy of the Year is not an arduous process, and can be beneficial to your business even if you don't win. To find out more, visit www.pharmacyoftheyear.com.au and get your entry in before Friday 29th.

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