

PSA puts Issues on the table

Jennifer Joseph

PHARMACY must make the most of continuing reforms and claim new opportunities in prescribing, vaccine administration, disease prevention, screening, medication management and chronic patient monitoring, an analysis by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has found.

Launching the Issues Paper on the **Future of Pharmacy in Australia**, national president of the PSA Warwick Plunkett said now is a critical time to take stock of the profession and its future direction in light of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement and the implications it may bring.

"This is a PSA-led, all of the pharmacy industry consultative process that is designed to result in a White Paper for the Pharmacy Profession in 2011, which will

articulate a vision for pharmacy in Australia," said Mr Plunkett.

The 40-page Issues Paper is designed to have a "very broad perspective" based on an analysis of Australian and international publications and consultations with key opinion leaders in pharmacy and other health services, including former Guild president John Bronger.

Mr Plunkett said while he believed the Pharmacy Guild of Australia had done well, the latter part of the Agreement will see the profession become "poorer" financially.

"The Fifth Agreement will bring two years of sunshine, one year of cloud and two years of torrential downpour," said Mr Plunkett.

Urging stakeholders and interested parties to participate in stimulating debate, Mr Plunkett said he was confident the

Guild would participate in the change process, in the same way that international committees have come together to reform pharmacy in New Zealand, Canada and the UK.

"A consensus has been achieved everywhere else. Coming together to discuss the future will bring consensus, even if it is not one group's ideal.

"Change is coming whether we like it or not. Resisting the inevitable is not an option and to try to do so is not what we expect of a mature profession that is ready to grasp the challenges of a reforming health system."

Mr Plunkett highlighted the medical community's lack of appreciation for the pharmacy profession and said pharmacy must do more to prove itself to the government.

To comment [click here](#).

Advertisement removed

Price certainty leads to \$50m biotech investment

Nick O'Donoghue

SECURITY and market place certainty have helped secure a \$50 million investment by Eli Lilly in a Queensland biotechnology venture capital fund.

The pharmaceutical company have agreed to provide up to 20 per cent of the \$250 million development fund being raised by the Queensland Government to encourage innovation in the sector.

A spokesman for the company told *Pharmacy eNews* the terms of the Federal Government's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Medicines Australia, which has given price certainty to the market, had been a factor in

the deal being reached.

"Companies like some certainty in the marketplace, and that sort of certainty helps foster agreements like this.

"It's been argued for a long time that you need marketplace stability and certainty to have your head office buy into these sorts of agreements and I think that's the case," he said.

The spokesman added one of the key attractions for being involved in the agreement was the "enormous potential" for research and development the state has.

Welcoming the investment Medicines Australia chief executive Dr Brendan Shaw said it showed the MoU was already working.

"This is exactly the sort of investment that having a strong innovative pharmaceutical industry located in Australia leads to.

"I'm encouraged that the company believes the pricing certainty provided by the recent Commonwealth Government-Medicines Australia MoU for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) helps foster investments like this one in Queensland's biotech sector."

"The predictability provided by the MoU provides the platform for pharmaceutical companies to plan their operations in Australia, and that includes their investment decisions," he said.

To comment [click here](#).

ADVERTISE

To advertise please contact Rebecca Stevens at rebecca.stevens@reedbusiness.com.au

Pharmacy NEWS 
twitter
FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

GSK to present clinical data at ASCO 2010

Nick O'Donoghue

CLINICAL DATA on eight anti-cancer compounds will be presented at the 2010 annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK).

Yesterday, head of GSK oncology research and development Dr Paolo Paoletti announced the company would present more than 70 abstracts at the meeting in Chicago next month.

The abstracts have been made available [online](#) revealed the findings in 14 disease states including; melanoma, renal cell carcinoma, soft tissue sarcoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, follicular lymphoma and breast.

“The broad range of data being presented at ASCO demonstrates our commitment to researching new approaches and new applications with our portfolio of current and investigational therapies as we strive to find new ways to treat cancer.

“We are excited to share new research around our current products as well as findings on a new generation of targeted agents, particularly our MEK and BRAF compounds,” Dr Paoletti said.

More than 4000 abstracts have been approved to be presented at the meeting between 4 and 8 June, which will be attended by over 30,000 cancer specialists from around the world.

To comment [click here](#).

BRIEFS

SIGMA TAKEOVER BID

Sigma Pharmaceuticals has announced a “non-binding, indicative and conditional” takeover bid for the company has been tabled.

In a statement to the stock exchange this morning general counsel and company secretary Sue Morgan-Dethick revealed the board was considering the bid, but recommended shareholders take no action.

The bid which valued shares at \$0.60 comes a day after chairman Dr John Stocker and non executive director Doug Curlewis announced their resignations from Sigma’s board of directors.

PAN PHARM FOUNDER DIES

The funeral of Pan Pharmaceuticals founder Jim Selim has died after a long battle with leukaemia.

Mr Selim passed away on Tuesday night surrounded by his family, his long time solicitor Andrew Thorpe said.

Founded in the 1970s, Pan Pharmaceuticals collapsed in 2003 after the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) issued warning about its Travacalm travel sickness medication and suspended Pan’s licence.

At the time the TGA alleged 87 people had suffered adverse reactions including hallucinations, with 19 being admitted to hospital.

In 2005 the company pleaded guilty to 24 charges relating to defective medication and was fined \$3 million, before it went into liquidation.

In 2008 Mr Selim received a \$50 million settlement from the Federal Government.

Advertisement
removed