Herbal consultation

The Therapeutic Goods Administration is seeking input on a proposal to discontinue the process for the pre-market evaluation of Herbal Component Names which are used in relation to listed complementary medicines.

Interested parties should respond to the consultation document by Fri 12 Jan 2018 - more details online at [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

SHPA honour for Stowasser

Queensland hospital pharmacist Dr Danielle Stowasser has been named as the recipient of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists’ Fred J. Boyd award for 2017.

Society president Professor Michael Dooley presented the award on Fri during the 43rd SHPA National Conference in Sydney.

He said Stowasser’s PhD thesis had had “ground-breaking impact” in establishing pre-admission clinical pharmacists and developing a system of medication delivery liaisons, while other initiatives she has led include standardised prescription and administration services to reduce adverse events.

“This has been instrumental in improvements across Queensland,” Professor Dooley said.

He also acknowledged Dr Chris Alderman, Elizabeth Anderson and Karen O’Leary as “worthy nominees for this prestigious award” and evidence of the high calibre of innovative SHPA member pharmacists.

SHPA mentoring program

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has launched a new mentoring program which will “empower pharmacists to build their confidence, sharpen their focus, dismantle barriers and grow job satisfaction”.

Launched on Fri morning during the opening plenary session of Medicines Management 2017, the 43rd SHPA National Conference in Sydney, SHPA president Michael Dooley announced the opening of applications for a limited-placement pilot year of the program in 2018.

SHPA CEO Kristin Michaels said the development of the program had been driven by society members.

“The need for an SHPA-guided mentoring program was confirmed as part of members’ recommendations made at the 2016 SHPA Future Summit.

“When members talk, we listen, and it is fantastic to see a program - targeted at all hospital pharmacists, technicians and pharmacy assistants - up and running one year later, ready to empower mentors and mentees to fulfil their potential,” she said.

Michaels said the SHPA Mentoring Program ultimately aims to enhance outcomes for Australian patients by nurturing the pharmacy workforce, particularly in light of the evolving health landscape.

“The SHPA Mentoring Program will help pharmacists - whether their careers are just beginning, changing shape, or at a fork in the road - navigate this environment to ensure they can have the strongest impact on excellent medicines management and patient care,” Michaels added.

Apo-Perindopril recall

Health professionals are advised that Apotex, in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), is recalling eight additional batches of Apo-Perindopril Arginine (PD 10 Nov).

Batches include 2.5mg, 5mg and 10mg tablets with batch numbers specified on the TGA website.

Go to [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au) for details.

Staged supply snags

The Small Pharmacies Group has told **Pharmacy Daily** it has received a “lot of complaints” from members about the government’s staged supply payment system.

The system is intended to support the provision of PBS medicines in instalments when requested by the prescriber.

The frequency of Staged Supply dosing instalments should be determined by the prescriber in consultation with the pharmacy and patient/carer.

However pharmacists are finding that they are spending too long filling out forms and on the phone to 6CPA staff sorting out issues.

The amount pharmacists are paid for these time-consuming services “does not justify the effort of claiming” some pharmacists are saying, leading some to not bother, the organisation said.

Those that do invest in the process often find it takes a long time to get paid, the Small Pharmacies Group spokesperson said.