

Aussie scientist leads diabetes fight

SYDNEY diabetes expert Professor Martin Silink has been successful in a five-year campaign to have the United Nations recognise diabetes as a global epidemic.

Silink is currently in New York for the first UN-backed World Diabetes Day, with Diabetes Australia saying "it is the first time the UN has acknowledged a non-communicable disease as a global health crisis".

Professor Silink is president of the International Diabetes Federation, and said: "The diabetes time bomb has been ticking for 50 years, and it's been getting louder.

"Each year seven million people develop diabetes worldwide and over three million die of its consequences. Action needs to be taken now," he urged.

Silink estimated that about 750,000 Australians are living with undiagnosed type 2 diabetes.



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¹ "A brief review of the use of honey as a clinical dressing", Miles, P.C., Primary Intention (The Australian Journal of Wound Management), 6 (6): 148-158 (1998).

² White, R., Cooper, R. and Miles, P. (2005), Honey: A modern wound management product. Wounds UK Limited, Aberdeen, United Kingdom.

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ALP veterans drug offer

A VETERANS Affairs policy released yesterday by the Australian Labor Party promises to develop a "fair solution to relieve the costs of pharmaceuticals for war caused disabilities" if the party wins govt at the upcoming election.

In the policy statement Labor says it's reacting to feelings within the ex-service community about govt policy which requires ex-servicemen and women to purchase pharmaceuticals for war-caused disabilities.

"Over the last ten years, veterans have spent more than \$110 million on their own pharmaceuticals," Labor claimed.

Apollo oral insulin

APOLLO Life Sciences today announced it's "completed a number of key process optimisation and validation studies" as it prepares to move into a Phase I trial of its oral insulin product.

CEO John Priest said Apollo's Oradel drug delivery technology had the "characteristics needed to protect insulin molecules from the harsh conditions of the gastrointestinal tract and deliver a therapeutic dose of insulin across the wall of the intestine into the bloodstream".

He claimed Oradel had the potential to become a global market leader for the treatment of diabetes.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

AUTHORITIES in Germany are said to be "somewhat disappointed" after a forecast baby boom as a result of the soccer World Cup last year failed to materialise.

At the time the country's euphoria was expected to reverse a dramatically falling birthrate, particularly after thousands of celebratory parties when Germany reached the semi-final of the tournament.

However statistics for the first half of this year have shown 800 fewer babies were born across the country this year compared to the same period in 2006.

Nicola Huelskamp, a consultant for the German Economic Institute in Cologne said: "It's unrealistic to think that because there were more parties and people forgot their birth control it would make a statistical difference."

THE toilet is now open - the toilet house, that is.

A South Korean "public hygiene activist" has opened his new \$1.8m toilet-shaped house (PD 12 Oct) with rentals available from \$56,000 per day.

The brainchild of 74-year-old Sim "Mr Toilet" Jae-Duck, the centrepiece of the residence is reportedly a glass-walled bathroom - complete with a special misting device to help ensure the modesty of users.

The toilet also detects someone approaching and automatically raises its lid.

HYGIENE clearly wasn't a priority for callers to a radio station in Austria, who swamped phone lines to enter a competition offering the chance to spend the day with David Beckham's dirty linen.

The soccer star will visit Vienna next week for a match, with fans asked to call in and list the reasons why they should be allowed to stay in Beckham's hotel room after he checks out.

As an added incentive, presenters told listeners that Beckham usually left "used boxer shorts" in the room, as he always apparently wears fresh underwear.