

## Clinical training

US company ClinfoSource has partnered with Nucleus Network Ltd, based in Victoria, to jointly provide web-based training for clinical trials professionals in Australia.

The program is intended to offer clinical trial investigators, coordinators, research associates and other clinical trials professionals a solid understanding of clinical trials conduct and management, and of the regulations and ethics central to the drug development process.

The program will be launched next month.

## Pfizer Japan move

PFIZER says six of its drugs could be approved for use in Japan this year, following changes to speed up approval processes for new products there.

Pfizer Japan said products it was hoping to have on the market included smoking cessation drug Champix, as well as an indication for Celebrex for lower back pain.

## Sleeping advice from NPS

NATIONAL Prescribing Service has issued a *Sleeping Medicines Fact Sheet* which urges consumers to try non-medicine strategies to solve sleeping problems in preference to medication.

The information also advises patients of the potential side effects of zolpidem, urging users to discuss them with their doctor or pharmacist.

## Indigenous spend

HEALTH spending for indigenous people was 17% higher than for non-indigenous people in 2004/05, a new report has found.

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, \$4,718 was spent on health (incl public and private) for each Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person - and \$4,019 each for non-indigenous Australians.

AIHW health economist John Goss said there had been no significant change in the ratio in the last nine years.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

THE hygiene-conscious head of a stationery company in Serbia has banned his staff from coming to work dirty.

"I have now made it a sackable offence for people to come in without having a shower - or with dirty underwear," said Milomir Gligorijevic.

He's also insisting his workers brush their teeth regularly and use deodorant.

Mr Gligorijevic didn't say what sort of inspections he'd undertake to enforce the clean underpants rule.

AND while we're on the subject, keeping clean is quite a problem for 19-year-old Ashleigh Morris from Melbourne.

The UK *Daily Mail* today carries a story about the teenager who's developed the extremely rare and incurable aquagenic urticaria - meaning she's allergic to water.

The story says Ashleigh develops a rash whenever she gets wet and has to always keep an umbrella on hand, avoid strenuous activity which might induce sweating, and stay inside for hours after a shower to allow her skin to recover.

A BUNGLING shoplifter in Germany has been arrested for trying to steal a suit.

The incompetent thief didn't remove the hangar from the suit when he tried to hide it under his clothing, leaving an unmistakable bulge.

"Only a sign saying 'stop me, I'm a thief,' would have made the thief look more unprofessional," said police.

## Today's PD wine fact - number 24!

WELCOME to our regular *Pharmacy Daily* wine feature.

IT was the Riedel family - and their 250 years experience in the glass industry - who first introduced the idea that the shape of a glass could actually affect the wine within, helping release the aromas and flavours.

Over the last 50 years they've perfected the skill of marrying a wine's character to the shape of the glass, and now have an unrivalled range of glasses which are specifically designed to match the world's most popular grape varieties.

As wine tasting at a professional level gets even more complex, the latest range of glasses to be released, the Grape@Riedel design, incorporates state-of-the-art machine blown technology.

Made from 24% lead crystal, they have a seamless pulled stem that creates an indent on the bottom of the bowl which reflects the light and helps bring out all the different colour dimensions in a wine, as well as enhancing the smell and taste.

This type of quality does not come cheap, and a

Grape@Riedel glass will cost you anything up from \$58.

If you'd like to test out your tastebuds before paying the big bucks, then the good news is that Riedel have just welcomed a new brand into their fold.

Spiegelau holds a reputation for remarkable durability, and with its commitment to excellence and functionality, combined with Riedel's innovation and style, you now have a range of glasses available in the Australian market which are usable, beautiful and affordable.

At this year's Royal Sydney Wine Show, seven trophies went to Chardonnays.

So why not pick up some chardonnay glasses from your local stockist (details available by phoning 02-9025-3998), fill them with some of the new 2007 Printhie Chardonnay ([www.printhiewines.com.au](http://www.printhiewines.com.au)) and watch the wonderful bouquet of peach and nut and palate of tropical fruit cocktail with creamy vanilla just jump out of the glass at you.

## Diabetes blame

MOST type-2 diabetes sufferers wrongly believe the community blames them for their disease, new research shows.

In a survey of 956 people, including 254 with type-2 diabetes, conducted by Eli Lilly Australia, 70% of those with type-2 diabetes said the community believed their disease was the result of an unhealthy lifestyle.

But just 12% of the general public surveyed said people with type-2 diabetes only had their lifestyles to blame.

Of the diabetes sufferers, about 65% blamed being overweight as the main cause of their disease.

More than half cited a lack of exercise, while 47% said family history was the cause.

## Young doctors drug marketing

PHARMACEUTICAL companies are finding ways to market PBS medicines to young doctors, according to the Australian Medical Students Association.

AMSA president Michael Bonning said drug companies exposed medical students to their products during clinical placements, which could influence future prescribing.

He said: "Medical students often lack the clinical experience of their senior colleagues which enables them to integrate and evaluate the information provided to them by pharmaceutical companies."

AMSA has endorsed guidelines covering appropriate interaction between drug companies, medical students and medical student societies, with Bonning urging Medicines Australia to integrate them into its code of conduct.

## PSA site offline

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has advised late-night users of its members-only website that the pages will be unavailable for an hour from 2am tonight.

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