

PAGE 1 Editor: Bruce Piper email: info@pharmacydaily.com.au
Ranbaxy takeover

JAPANESE pharmaceutical firm Daiichi Sankyo is planning to buy a majority stake in Indian generics manufacturer Ranbaxy for up to \$US4.6 billion (\$A4.87 b).

The deal would see Daiichi buy the 34.8% stake held by Ranbaxy's main shareholders, the New Delhi-based Singh family.

Daiichi Sankyo is Japan's second largest drug maker but if the takeover succeeds it aims to become the number one generics player in the Japanese market, where non-branded drugs currently only comprise 5% of total pharmaceutical sales.

PSA SA correction

ONE of the newly appointed PSA branch committee members for South Australia (PD 06 Jun) was incorrectly named.

The new member is Joseph Whitehouse, not Waterhouse.

Win a copy of Travelling Well!

CONGRATULATIONS to Amy Lange of Symbion Health who was the first subscriber yesterday to tell us that some of the symptoms of motion sickness include dizziness, fatigue and nausea.

Today is the last day **Pharmacy Daily** is giving subscribers the chance to win one of two copies of Dr Deborah Mills' amazing book *Travelling Well*.

The book, valued at \$24.95 is a must have guide to a safe and healthy journey, with detailed advice about pre-trip preparation, how to look after yourself while away and what to do if you get sick.

Dr Deborah Mills, widely known as "The Travel Doctor" is one of Australia's leading travel health care providers, and has over 20 years experience in the field.

To enter today, we're asking you to email in your answer to the following question to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au:

What is Onchocerciasis?

This fantastic prize will go to the first two correct responses, so for your chance to win, make sure you send your entry in NOW!



Sigma heart test rollout

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals has signed an exclusive deal to market *Intelliheart* cardiac assessment tests through its network of Amcal, Amcal Max and Guardian pharmacies across Australia.

Intelliheart, manufactured by Melbourne firm IM Medical, is said to be a "superior, non-invasive cardiac risk assessment test which takes a number of measurements for doctors to analyse and measure cardiac risk."

It tests a number of factors including heart rate variability and arterial stiffness, which the company said were "powerful new indicators of possible heart problems."

\$50 million for mental health

FEDERAL Health Minister Nicola Roxon has announced \$50 million in mental health funding.

Of that, \$20.6 million will go to better targeting the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

A further \$12.3 million will be spent on MindMatters, a program in secondary schools, and \$5.72 million will be given to community mental health organisations.

The government will also establish a national advisory council on mental health.



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DISPENSARY CORNER

BUT where do you actually stick it?

US researchers claim that a new patch is able to help with diarrhoea attacks due to stomach bugs picked up by travellers when abroad.

The patch is impregnated by toxins produced by the E.coli bacterium, with the idea that it primes the immune system to cope better when exposed to the real thing.

178 volunteers were given either a placebo patch or the E.coli version, and then sent on a journey through Mexico or Guatemala.

Four times as many subjects using the dummy patches developed diarrhoea as those using the E.coli patch.

HERE'S a way to lose weight fast.

Surgeons in Bangladesh have removed a 42kg tumour from the abdomen of a patient.

Dr Omar Ali of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital said the 40-year-old man had noticed his stomach growing larger over the past two years.

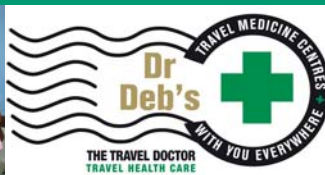
Eventually he admitted himself to hospital, with doctors operating on Tue.

"After a three-hour operation, we have removed a 42-kilogram tumour from his abdomen.

"It is the biggest we have ever seen and we believe it's the biggest in the country's history.

"It was like he was carrying around a big jackfruit stuffed in his abdomen. It was bigger than a football," the gobsmacked surgeon said.

Just ask Dr Deb!



FOLLOWING the success of our Dr Deb competition, today we introduce a new segment to **Pharmacy Daily** called 'Just ask Dr Deb'.

Each Friday Dr Deb, "The Travel Doctor" is giving subscribers the opportunity to ask any 'travel health' related questions for her to answer and these will be published in **Pharmacy Daily** each week.

This week's question comes from pharmacist Gavin Starr of Lane Cove Pharmacy, NSW -

Q - Dr Deb, a customer came into the pharmacy this week wanting to know what disease/s bedbugs carry. Please help!

A - "Hi Gavin, there's no need to fear as bedbugs carry no diseases, although their bites will make the sufferer very itchy!"

HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK DR DEB?

Email your questions to askdrdeb@pharmacydaily.com.au

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