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## Tasmanian tender

THE Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services is calling for expressions of interest for "the production of reference material... for use by health professionals in prescribing, dispensing and administering medicines to children in Australia and New Zealand."

The tender closes at 2pm on Wed 14 Oct; more information at [www.tenders.tas.gov.au](http://www.tenders.tas.gov.au) or call Michael Pervan 03 6222 8500.

## Warfarin at PAC

THE PSA's Pharmacy Australia Conference will include a session on patient self-monitoring (PSM) with warfarin therapy, presented by Dr Luke Bereznicki from the Tasmanian School of Pharmacy.

The talk will cover appropriate use of antithrombotic agents, the rationale for pharmacotherapy, appropriate drug choice and the importance of clinical monitoring.

"Community pharmacists are well placed to promote and facilitate PSM for interested consumers, and provide support for those who are self-monitoring," he said, with an increasing availability of portable INR monitors.

The Congress will be held at the Sydney Hilton 15-18 Oct - more info at [www.pac2009.com.au](http://www.pac2009.com.au).

## SA Pharmacist of the Year

IRFAN Hashmi of Port Pirie has been named the South Australian Pharmacist of the Year, with the award made last Sat 22 Aug at the South Australian Pharmacy Profession Gala Dinner, held at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

Hashmi works as a registered pharmacist, managing stores in four South Australian country towns: Orroroo, Coober Pedy, Quorn and Risdon Pharmacy in Port Pirie.

His wife Sobia is also a pharmacist, and they moved to regional South Australia in 2005, where together they have opened the four pharmacies over the last two years.

Hashmi told *PD* that the three smaller towns of Orroroo, Coober Pedy and Quorn didn't have a pharmacy up until now, but with the new openings the local communities and travellers are receiving the services of a full time pharmacist 5.5 days a week.

On top of running the four pharmacies, the young couple also have two children aged 7 and 8!

Hashmi said winning the award was "a great honour for me, my family and the staff at

our pharmacies."

He thanked the local communities in Port Pirie, Orroroo, Pekina, Carrieton, Coober Pedy, Quorn and Hawker for their ongoing support.

The PSA South Australian Pharmacist of the Year is the most prestigious award in the SA pharmacy profession, with awardees having been nominated by their peers as epitomising the pursuit of excellence that the community has come to expect from the pharmacy profession.



ABOVE: Irfan and Sobia Hashmi

## US pharmacy report

AMERICAN pharmacy giant Walgreens has released a Specialty Pharmacy State of the Industry report which contains key industry statistics including prevalence data and annual drug spend for selected conditions and therapies.

Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy provides personal care and services for patients with chronic conditions- [www.walgreenshealth.com/SOI2009](http://www.walgreenshealth.com/SOI2009).

## ACPPM Vic seminar

THE Victorian Chapter of the Australian College of Pharmacy will hold a seminar entitled 'Making Personalities Work For You' at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia offices in Hawthorn on Thu 17 Sep.

The session will be presented by human resources expert Di McDonald, who will give insights into how to work with different styles and personalities in the workplace to create top performing and healthy teams.

It's free for ACPPM members and \$50 for non-members - more info 03 9810 9999.

## Women's Congress

MORE than 250 delegates attended last weekend's Pharmacy Women's Congress, which was held at the Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort and Spa on the Gold Coast.

The Women and Young Pharmacists Committee (WYPC) of the Pharmacy Guild hosted the three day event, which was themed *gaining knowledge, sharing experiences, building futures*.

As well as networking and sharing accomplishment, the event "embraced the underrepresentation of predominantly positioned females in the pharmacy industry" and encouraged women to own a pharmacy.

Guild President Kos Sclavos was one of the presenters, speaking about the future of patient care as well as Guild programs such as MedsIndex, Mirixa and eRx.

There were also several success stories of women who are making a difference in pharmacy, with other presenters including the inspirational Walter Mikac and comedienne Judith Lucy.

Helen Scott, owner of a community pharmacy in Whittlesea, Vic spoke about how her team worked with the community following the devastating bushfires earlier this year.

One of the attendees was Karalyn Huxhagen of Mackay AFS Pharmacy, who went courtesy of *Pharmacy Daily* and told us the event was "fantastic."

Next year's Pharmacy Women's Congress will be held in Hobart.

## New DUE toolkits

THERE are now four Drug Use Evaluation toolkits available from the National Prescribing Service, developed in conjunction with aged care nurses to support better use of medicine in aged care facilities.

The toolkits help facilities to compare current drug use against best practice and guide changes that have a positive effect on resident well-being.

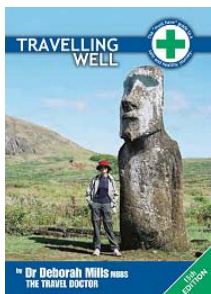
The four kits available cover:

- benzodiazepine and non-benzodiazepine hypnotics for insomnia
- antipsychotics for behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia
- analgesics for persistent pain; and
- laxative use for chronic constipation.

More info at [www.nps.org.au/du](http://www.nps.org.au/du).

## Win a copy of *Travelling Well!*

CONGRATULATIONS to Mitchell Claes, Pharmacist Director of the Veterans Affairs Pharmaceutical Advisory Centre in Brisbane who's won a copy of *Travelling Well* by being the first person yesterday to tell us that Chagas disease is a tropical parasitic disease.



EACH day this week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving readers the chance to win a copy of Dr Deborah Mills' latest book, *Travelling Well*.

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

The 15th edition of *Travelling Well* has been updated to include new vaccines, current recommendations for treatment of travellers' diarrhoea and much more!

For your chance to win your very own copy of *Travelling Well*, valued at \$24.95, simply be the first reader to correctly answer this question:

**In what year did Dr Deb graduate from medical school?**

Email your answer and full contact details, including where you work in pharmacy, to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

Hint! Visit [www.travellingwell.com.au](http://www.travellingwell.com.au).

# Pharmacy DAILY

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## PBS HIV listing

A NEW therapy which can improve the quality of life of those living with HIV will be listed on the PBS from next Tue 01 Sep.

Sculptra (poly-L-lactic acid) is an injectable facial contouring product which induces neocollagenesis, resulting in the gradual restoration of facial volume.

Facial lipoatrophy (facial fat loss) affects almost a quarter of patients living with HIV who are treated with highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART), and is seen as a major cause of anxiety and depression within Australia's HIV community.

Sculptra is said to 'change the face' of those living with HIV by boosting self-confidence and improving social wellbeing.

## Breast screening OK

MORTALITY from breast cancer has decreased from 66 to 47 deaths per 100,000 women since the 1991 launch of the BreastScreen Australia Program, according to a report released this week by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

## Internet medical scam shut

INTERNATIONAL cooperation between US and Australian authorities has closed down an internet medical e-Book scam.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission this week confirmed that it has obtained court orders against two NSW citizens in relation to the scam, alleging "false, misleading and deceptive conduct."

The scam was brought to the ACCC's attention by the Washington State Attorney General's Department, which also filed proceedings against the Sydney pair in the USA.

It's alleged that over two years Leanne Vassallo and Aaron Smith of Cecil Hills operated "a large number of websites selling eBooks containing claimed cures for a wide range of health conditions including acne, asthma, multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia, menopause and prostate cancer."

Staggeringly, more than 60,000 consumers across the world bought the eBooks over that period, paying

the pair over \$1 million.

The ACCC said the websites were similar, with each dedicated to a particular medical condition - with a person who had supposedly suffered from the condition and "purportedly discovered an effective home remedy."

Across a number of the sites the photo of the author was the same, but with different names, while the sites also contained testimonials from happy users which were the same across different websites.

The ACCC presented expert evidence that the treatments would not have any therapeutic benefits or medical efficacy in the treatment of the health conditions.

In a final Federal Court hearing last Thu Justice Graham described the pair as "purveyors of quack medical advice and of quack medicine," ordering the sites to be shut down forthwith.

## MS research project

A MAJOR research project involving protein analysis to unlock the secrets of multiple sclerosis was launched yesterday by Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Mark Butler.

The Proteomics based MS Research Collaboration involves several universities and other research organisations aiming to identify the proteins that cause MS and offer new insights with therapeutic and diagnostic potential.

## Smoking payout

A JURY in the USA has ordered tobacco company Philip Morris to pay US\$13.8 million (A\$16.5m) to the daughter of a lifelong smoker who died of lung cancer.

Jodie Bullock's mother died in 2003 aged 64, after smoking non-stop for 47 years - but before she died launched legal action against Philip Morris in 2001.

Philip Morris argued that she could have given up smoking at any time as the harmful effects of cigarettes were well known.

It's the second verdict in the lawsuit which originally saw a 2002 penalty of US\$28 billion in punitive damages applied to the cigarette maker - later reduced by a jury to \$28 million, which was appealed further by Philip Morris resulting in this latest case.



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THE mayor of a small town in France has banned spitting in a bid to slow the spread of swine flu.

Christophe Rouillon, who heads up the council in the village of Coulaines, near Le Mans in northern France, has issued a formal decree "that henceforth in my district spitting on a public thoroughfare will be banned."

Rouillon has also urged that footballers set a better example when it comes to public expectation.

He's written to the head of Europe's soccer governing body UEFA suggesting: "One spitting incident should be punished with a yellow card, and repeat offenders should be shown a red card."

JURASSIC Park may not be so far fetched, according to a Canadian paleontologist who's announced a proposal to manipulate genes in chicken embryos to create a dinosaur.

Hans Larsson believes that by flipping certain "DNA levers" during a chicken's development he can reproduce the anatomy of a dinosaur.

There aren't plans to actually hatch a live prehistoric animal at this stage, for both ethical and practical reasons - because "a dinosaur hatchery is too large an enterprise," he said.

Larsson came up with the plan after discussions with US dinosaur expert Jack Horner who recently published a book raising the idea of creating a "chickenosaurus."

FARMERS in Britain have issued a health warning about the dangers of cows, after a spate of recent deaths due to being trampled by the normally docile creatures.

Four people have died in the last few months, with the National Farmers Union saying that cows can become aggressive, particularly when calves are present, and walkers are accompanied by dogs.

They're advising people walking their dogs through fields of cows release their pets from leashes, because "as the cattle try to get the dog, there's a high chance they will get the walker too."

## Travel Specials

WELCOME to Pharmacy Daily's travel feature.

Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

**VIKING RIVER CRUISES** has announced an unprecedented \$999 price for a five night luxury river cruise in China.

The Yangtze River itinerary, aboard the *Viking Century Sun*, takes in China's third largest city, Chongqing, the majestic Three Gorges Dam, the Wu and Qutang Gorges and Wuhan.

The \$999 offer is viable for departures on 17, 22 and 27 Nov and includes all meals, port charges, shipboard gratuities and daily shore excursions - see your travel agent or call 1800 829 138.

And to get to China, you can't beat new 'Saturday Spring Special' fares launched yesterday by **CHINA SOUTHERN AIRLINES**.

The bargains start at just \$715 including taxes for the first

passenger, \$615 for a companion and \$515 each for the third, fourth and fifth passengers.

They're available for selected Saturday departures from Melbourne to Guangzhou through to the end of Nov - 03 8676 0088.

For a holiday closer to home, **NOVOTEL** has partnered with Walt Disney Studios to offer a free family pass to the new movies 'UP' or 'GForce' when you book on Novotel's special Family 50% off second room deal.

The offer includes two rooms, a free gift for the children on check-in and free breakfast for up to two children when dining with parents.

It's available at 21 Novotel hotels across Australia, with rates from as little as \$223.50 per night for the two rooms - [www.novotel.com](http://www.novotel.com).

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