

## Male contraceptive

AUSTRALIAN men are testing a contraceptive that shuts down their fertility - without affecting testosterone or sexual function.

The ANZAC Research Institute, in Sydney, this week begins trials of the two-monthly male birth-control injection, which tricks the brain into thinking it has produced sperm.

More couples are needed for the 18-month trial - 02 9767 7222.

## WIN A CAN OF LE TAN

Le Tan is over 30 years old this year, and to celebrate it's become the official sponsor of Surf Life Saving Australia. Le Tan has teamed up with **PD** this week to give readers the chance to win a can of SPF 30+ Coconut Continuous Spray Aerosol.



Each 240ml can retails for \$15.99, but to receive your very own can for FREE, simply send through the correct answer to the following question:

**In what year did Le Tan start?**

Send your answer through to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

The first correct entry will win the prize, so be quick!

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Abbey Butler of Flinders Medical Centre**.

## Guild hits back at CHOICE

PHARMACY Guild president Kos Sclavos has blasted CHOICE for its report on meal replacement programs in pharmacy (*PD* yest), saying community pharmacies had helped Australians to lose over 20 million kilograms in the last year.

"Pharmacy should be congratulated for that outcome," Sclavos said, adding that the CHOICE expert panel "indeed stated these products work in assisting patients to lose weight."

Sclavos said criticism of pharmacy staff for not undertaking health assessments of patients was unwarranted. "That is not their role. They play an important screening, triage and support role," he said, adding that the key success factor is the encouragement and support that patients receive in pharmacy to stick to the program.

He pointed out that meal replacements are widely available

## Chemconsult rollout

HEALTH Information Pharmacy has launched a new in-store campaign to promote a new online version of its Chemconsult medication profiling system.

The group has also commenced its joint venture with Alphapharm to expand the program.

HIP yesterday also announced that its Vic franchise manager Tracey Bushby is now also responsible for national buying for the group.

at a range of retail outlets where there is no screening, unlike pharmacy where people buying the products can also get advice or information from a pharmacist.

"There is clear evidence the meal replacement system of dieting works for many patients."

He also pointed out that in community pharmacy programs 45% of clients are male, compared to just 15% for supermarket programs and weight loss clinics.

"For many males they only see community pharmacy as having a suitable solution," he said.

"Community pharmacies have a long term relationship with the patient, and continue to be an ethical and accessible location for weight loss advice and programs."

## PSA training OK

THE unified Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has been accepted as a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) by the federal Dept of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The endorsement means the PSA can now deliver nationally recognised courses, with ceo Bryan Stevens saying attaining RTO status reflected the success of the national unification process formalised last year.

"This has resulted in the PSA being a single, unified body with consistent standards and criteria being applied to its training programs," he said.

Under the scope of registration as an RTO the PSA can now offer qualifications of Certificate II and III in Community Pharmacy, Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and a Diploma of Management.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

A MELBOURNE personal trainer is attracting headlines around the globe after deciding to pack on the kilos in order to identify better with his obese clients.

Paul James says he aims to put on 40kg, with his strategy including bacon, chocolate milk, chips and no exercise.

Once he's gained the weight he will keep it on for three months before shedding it alongside his clients.

"I have always found it easy to tell clients what to do to lose weight, but it's hard to tell where a client is coming from, and how they are feeling," he said.

"There are health risks, I won't shy away from that. But I'm trying to do it as responsibly as possible, with regular blood pressure and health checks."

ART truly imitated life in Sweden last week when a 35-year-old modern art student managed to fake psychosis as part of a final degree project.

The bizarre stunt saw Anna Odell jump off a bridge before being committed to a psychiatric hospital, where she reportedly had to be restrained by eight staff as she kicked and screamed before being sedated and strapped down.

Irate doctors discharged her the next morning, after she told them the whole thing had been a "performance art" project.

Outraged hospital chief David Eberhard described the stunt as shameful.

"She ought to cut her hair and get a real job," he said.

## HOT Travel Deals

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature.

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

Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove is turning on the charm this Valentines Day, with its special dinner and accommodation packages.

Try a candle-lit five course dinner at the Hyatt's 'Fireplace' restaurant for \$165pp including wine and a surprise gift.

Overnight packages are available and include brekkie, accommodation and late checkout for \$275 per night.

For details call: 13 12 34. [lastminute.com](http://lastminute.com) is offering a pay 4/stay 8 deal to Phuket.

The package includes return

airfares and taxes flying THAI International Airways, 8 nights accommodation at Centara Karon Resort - in an ocean view room, and breakfast daily.

Prices start from \$1477pp.

Also on offer is a Rydges Sabaya Port Douglas pay 2/stay 3 package, which includes return Jetstar airfares and 3 nights accommodation.

Prices start from \$417pp and are available for sale until 24 Feb 09 for travel between 24 Jan - 09 Apr 09.

For more information on either package, or to book, visit: [www.lastminute.com.au](http://www.lastminute.com.au).



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