

GDM screening call

DIABETES Australia is calling for targeted national screening of pregnant women with a recall system, similar to cervical screening programs, to help treat the increasing incidence of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM).

The call follows the release of the first national report on gestational diabetes, by the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare, which shows an increasing number of cases.

"It is more important than ever that all health services implement targeted national testing to help curb the incidence of complications that can occur as a result of GDM," said Diabetes Australia national president, Dr Gary Deed.

iPhone pathology

THE institute for Medical Informatics at Oslo University Hospital have announced they've developed the first remote application for review of pathology images on the Apple iPhone.

The new application will allow a remote pathologist to review images of diagnostic quality using cellular or Wi-Fi networks on the phone and make specialist referrals.


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Guild rejects proposal

THE proposal to bestow Medicare funding and prescribing rights on nurse practitioners (PD yesterday) has been blasted by the Pharmacy Guild.

"The corporate push... masquerades as reform, but would actually be a backward step for Australia's health system," the Guild said.

Comparing the Revive Clinic chain's model to the Minute Clinics located inside CVS pharmacies in the US, the Guild said such clinics are "inappropriate and unnecessary" in Australia as our medicines schedule system includes Pharmacy Medicines and Pharmacist Only Medicines.

In the US, nurse practitioners are given some prescribing rights because medicines are classed either as prescription-only or open-sellers, the Guild said.

The Guild also pointed out that community pharmacists treat the same minor ailments as the nurse practitioners at Revive Clinic - but free of charge and without any reimbursement, as opposed to the upfront cost of \$65 charged at Revive.

Peplin Sun spot gel

PEPLIN has announced positive results with its PEP005 (ingenol mebutate) Gel in its Phase IIb clinical trial for the treatment of sun spots on the face and scalp.

The study demonstrated a clear dose response relationship, with four out of the six treatment groups achieving statistically significant clearance of actinic keratosis (AK) lesions in two or three days.

If approved, the gel would be the only short-course product on the market with proven efficacy for both head and non-head lesions.

Peplin plans to initiate a Phase III clinical trial later this year.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

THEY just can't get to the bottom of this medical mystery!

A crack team of surgeons were shocked to have to operate on a woman with a large can of hairspray lodged in her rear.

A very embarrassed Mirela Gradinaru rushed to a clinic in Arad, western Romania, begging surgeons to help her, but refused to tell them how the aerosol can got there in the first place.

There was certainly a lot of hold up there, with doctors saying "we had x-rays done to localise the object and then we carried out the operation. The patient was fine after it."

Rumours say that she fell on it.

TANOREXIA, butt-bra...

These are just a couple of the words Australia's biggest online dictionary is asking the public to vote for as "word of the year", for its annual update.

The Macquarie Dictionary Online is featuring words with not-so-fashionable names, known as 'Australish' to describe events and behaviours.

After a suntan? Then you could have *tanorexia*.

What about a tattoo in an area above the buttocks? That's known as an *arse antler*.

And to raise the profile of the buttocks to go with the antler, why not consider a *butt-bra*?

National president of the Pharmacy Guild, Kos Sclavos, said: "The solution to the pressure on doctor availability is to make better use of the existing resource of community pharmacies - not to create another drain on scarce Medical Benefits Scheme funds.

"Pharmacist advice, and the dispensing of Pharmacy Medicines or Pharmacist Only Medicines, are an effective use of scarce health resources, with all necessary checks and balances, and with no burden on the MBS and no patient out-of-pocket expense for a consultation."

"Nurses have a distinguished and time-honoured role in our health system. That role should not be commandeered by corporate interests who only want to find a new way to take a slice of precious MBS funding."

MySpace warning

IN a recent trial, doctors sent emails to teenagers who posted risk behaviour information on their MySpace sites, prompting many to stop referring to sex and alcohol use or to make their profiles private.

According to researchers in this month's *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*, this could help avoid the adverse outcomes of such revelations, such as online victimisation.

Bayer research

BAYER Schering Pharma (BSP) will enhance their research in cancer imaging following a signed licensing agreement with Hamamatsu Photonics K.K. Japan.

Under this agreement BSP will acquire worldwide exclusive rights for research, development and commercialisation of a group of molecules that bind to malignant tumor cells, which could potentially improve the diagnosis of specific cancers.

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 **Guild**