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## Allergy alert

A SURVEY released today has shown that only 39% of Australian parents would go to their local pharmacy for help if they believed their child had hives, with 69% unaware that effective treatments for children as young as six months are available without prescription.

The study was conducted on behalf of Schering-Plough's Aeriis, and interestingly also found that 45% of parents would seek advice and reassurance from sources such as a family friend or the internet, rather than from a pharmacist.

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## 1st national board meeting

THE first ever meeting of the new national Pharmacy Board of Australia was held last weekend in Melbourne, including a full-day induction program along with members of the other nine national boards.

The 12 members of the Pharmacy Board are Stephen Marty (chair), Rachel Carr, Trevor Dreysey, Mary Edwards, John Finlay, Laila Hakansson Ware, Ian Huett, William Kelly, Timothy Logan, Gerard McInerney, Karen O'Keefe and Bhavini Patel.

The members acknowledged the responsibility that had been given to them, and committed themselves to "doing everything they could to build a world-class system of health practitioner regulation for the protection of the Australian community and for their profession."

At the meeting the Board agreed to consult on a number of issues including registration standards, including requirements for professional indemnity insurance.

Also discussed were criminal history matters, requirements for continuing professional

development, English skills and recency of practice, with the proposals set to be ready for consultation late next month.

The Board also considered detailed proposals for how individual registrants will transition from their current registration to new categories set out in the proposed National Law.

Also discussed were a number of administrative and financial matters, including a target budget for 2010-11 based on the "existing fee revenue available to current boards" indexed by CPI.

"Further work is required on whether such a budget was practical and how it would translate into fees for registrants," the board said, noting current differences in fees between different jurisdictions.

The Board agreed that from 2010 the annual renewal date for all pharmacists would be 30 Nov.

A further three meetings of the national Board are planned before Christmas this year.

## AHPRA, not ANPHA!

A NORMALLY reliable source unfortunately mixed up their acronyms yesterday, with an erroneous press release informing PD that Martin Fletcher was the new head of the Australian National Preventive Health Agency (ANPHA).

This was incorrect - Fletcher is the inaugural chief executive of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), and will take up his new role in Dec after nearly three years as ceo of the National Patient Safety Agency in the United Kingdom.

As AHPRA ceo Fletcher will lead the organisation responsible for providing support to the ten new national boards regulating health professionals, including the new national Pharmacy Board.

The AHPRA is now being progressively put in place and will move to full operation on 01 Jul 2010, with a national office to be established in Melbourne in the coming months, alongside offices in every state and territory.

## 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.

Enjoy an 8-night Hawaiian Islands fly-cruise with **CRUISE ABROAD's** exclusive package available between 31 Oct-28 Nov 09. From \$2795ppts, the deal includes return economy flights to Honolulu ex Sydney with Hawaiian Airlines, 1 night pre-cruise accommodation at the Ohana Waikiki Beachcomber Aloha Hotel, 7 nights aboard the *Pride of America* with all entertainment as well as meals at selected restaurants, onboard gratuities and port and government taxes and fees - 1300 669 369.

Or if you're thinking of heading to Europe, **EMIRATES** has released special Business/Economy Combination fares starting at \$5317 from

Melbourne or \$5663 from Sydney.

The fares include seats in business class from Australia to Dubai and then economy for the shorter flight onto Europe.

On the business class sectors passengers are also entitled to chauffeur-driven airport transfers and lounge access - 1300 303 777.

And there's a special saving on 2010 European River Cruises with **EVERGREEN TOURS** for bookings made before the end of the month.

Itineraries include Paris to Prague from \$8595 or Eastern Europe from \$9595 departing between Apr-Sep 2010.

The offer includes free return airfares to Europe, with guests only paying about \$700 in air taxes - 1300 364 414.

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## Heart Research Institute launch



**EARLIER** this week Governor-General Quentin Bryce officially opened the new state-of-the-art Heart Research Institute (HRI) in Newtown, Sydney.

Blackmores is closely involved with the HRI, with founder Marcus Blackmore being the institute's chairman.

Speaking at the event, Blackmore thanked the Federal and State governments for their contribution to the new facility which would further the institute's search for a cure for heart disease.

Governor-General Bryce said "I am so proud of Australia's capacity

to lead the world in research and discovery. The Heart Research Institute is a splendid example of doing just that."

Heart disease is a significant burden in Australia, affecting one in six people currently, with predictions this will move to one in four by 2050.

Pictured above in front of the official commemorative plaque are, from left, Governor-General Quentin Bryce; Blackmores ceo Christine Holgate; NSW Minister for Science and Medical Research, Jodi McKay; and NSW Housing Minister Tanya Plibersek,

Accounting

Legal

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Investments

Stay across  
it all with  
advice that  
matters.

 Guild

## US pharmacy study

**MANAGEMENT** consulting firm Frost & Sullivan has launched a new study to "analyse the roles and responsibilities of pharmacists and pharmacies in the United States".

The research will look at the changing responsibilities of pharmacists, identify new and emerging opportunities in the retail pharmacy industry, and evaluate the influence of pharmacists on factors such as disease management and purchasing behaviour.

Frost & Sullivan said it aims to help companies "interested in retail pharmacy as a channel for growth"

## New psoriasis drug

**BRITISH** health authorities have approved Janssen-Cilag's Stelara (ustekinumab) for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis.

Stelara is the first in a new class of biologics for the treatment of the condition, and works by targeting interleukin-12 and -23, with a dosing regimen involving just five injections per year.

## Mental health problems rise

**A STUDY** released yesterday by Roy Morgan Research has revealed a surge in mental health issues suffered by Australians over the last two years.

The research found that during the June quarter of this year 24.6% of respondents said they had "suffered from stress in the past 12 months" - a huge increase from just 2.4% recorded in the September quarter of 2007.

Other mental health issues have also increased, with 10.3% of Australians saying they suffer from anxiety (up 1.9 points), 7.8% suffering from mood disorders such as depression or bipolar (up 1.3 points) and 4.4% citing panic attacks (up 1 percentage point).

The ongoing survey started in Jul 2007 and tracks mental health issues continuously by asking respondents which of a series of illnesses or conditions they've suffered from in the previous year.

Roy Morgan Research ceo

Michele Levine said "Despite Australia skirting a recession over the past year as countries around the world succumbed to the global financial crisis, many Australians have still been heavily affected by the global economic slowdown."

The research also showed that unemployed and underemployed people suffer far more mental health issues than those who have jobs, with this trend apparent across all of the mental health issues canvassed in the survey.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare recently reported that there were more than 20 million PBS prescriptions for mental health related drugs in 2007-08.

## Swine flu vaccine

**HEALTH** minister Nicola Roxon has confirmed that free swine flu vaccine will be available from 30 Sep at GPs and hospitals for people aged 10 and over.

"We are trying to particularly urge those who are vulnerable to prioritise going to see their GP to get this vaccine and ensure that they get the protection that it provides," she said.

In NSW about half of the state's 3000 general practitioners have ordered supplies of the vaccine.

**MEANWHILE** Roche is having problems with supply of liquid Tamiflu in the USA, similar to issues over the winter in Australia.

The company is telling pharmacists across the USA how to make lower dose forms for children from the adult capsules.

## Pipeline database

**US PHARMACEUTICAL** market data provider Wolters Kluwer Pharma Solutions has launched a new version of its *Adis R&D Insight* global pipeline database, which "combines approval and revenue forecasting with deep scientific intelligence."

Every drug under development in the database is assigned an 'Approvability Index' which assesses its progress through clinical development, and there are also detailed revenue models addressing the possible market potential of approved drugs - more info at [www.wolterskluwerpharma.com](http://www.wolterskluwerpharma.com).



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**AN INDONESIAN** woman is probably a little sore today after giving birth to a baby weighing almost 9kg on Monday.

The 19.2 pound monster was 62cm long, and was born by caesarean section at a public hospital in Sumatra.

He's the biggest ever baby recorded in Indonesia, with a gynaecologist involved saying "This heavy baby made the surgery really tough, especially the process of taking him out of his mum's womb."

"His legs were so big," he said.

The child is healthy and reportedly has a strong appetite. "It's almost non-stop feeding," the doctor added.

His 41-year-old mother suffers from diabetes, which was speculated to have contributed to the infant's enormity.

**LOTS** of sunscreen will be required by these bushwalkers.

German authorities are set to launch a new 18km-long hiking trail especially for tourists who like to walk in the nude.

The track runs through the Harz mountain range in the centre of the country, between Dankerode and the Wippertal Dam.

It will be marked with special warning signs, reading "If you don't want to see people with nothing on then you should refrain from moving on!"

**BRITISH** clothing maker Horn has launched a new range of underpants especially for left-handed men.

The company says the undies will have a "horizontal opening instead of a vertical slit accessed from the right-hand side", and it's the first time Y-fronts have been redesigned in over 75 years.

"Left-handed men have to reach much further into their pants before achieving the result that right handed men perform with ease," said a spokesman.

"Switching the opening from vertical to horizontal may sound like a small step, but it's the major breakthrough that many have been waiting for," he added.

## WARNING: THIS PRIZE STINGS!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Hannah Kohleis of Amcal Chempro Chemist in Chevron Island, Qld who was the first *Pharmacy Daily* reader yesterday to tell us that OmegaHoney IS low GI.

Nature's Blend has teamed up with *Pharmacy Daily* this week giving readers the chance to win an OmegaHoney Prize Pack each day containing:

- 1 bottle OmegaHoney 450g
- 3 Toy OmegaBees - Alpha, Lino and Ole
- The OmegaBees Activity Book
- OmegaKids Colouring Cook Book



OmegaHoney is a fun and exciting way for kids and grown-ups to get Omega-3, 6 & 9 fatty acids, with the benefits and taste of honey.

These fatty acids promote Brain Development, Healthy Skin & Hair and Wellness.

OmegaHoney is 100 per cent natural, Low GI, gluten free and cholesterol free. A premium product from Nature's Blend, it has been taste-tested with fussy kids giving it the thumbs-up.

**For your chance to win this fabulous prize pack, simply be the first reader to email the correct answer to the daily question below, along with your role in pharmacy, to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).**

**THURSDAY'S OMEGA QUESTION:  
Who makes OmegaHoney?**

Sales enquiries, phone Nature's Blend on (03) 9773 0600.