



## Biovista and Pfizer

PRIVATELY owned biotechnology company, Biovista, has entered into a partnership with Pfizer which will see the pair work together to identify new indications for a range of undisclosed Pfizer candidates, using Biovista's Clinical Outcome Search Space technology.

Using the COSS system, the companies aim to discover three novel indications for each of the un-named drugs.

## Petrol sniffing initiatives

THE Federal Government has ramped up its efforts to snuff out the practice of petrol sniffing in regional and remote communities, by making the low aromatic Opal fuel available in Kakadu National Park for the first time (from Dec).

The move is part of the Gov't's \$83.8m petrol sniffing action plan, which will also see Opal retail service stations throughout the NT, WA and Qld.

Opal will be available at the same price as regular unleaded petrol.

## Cholera outbreak

THE outbreak of cholera in Haiti is set to spread over the next few years, according to a spokesperson for the Pan American Health Organization.

At present 9,123 Haitians have been admitted to hospital with cholera and 583 have died from the disease.

"We have to prepare for a large upsurge in cases," said the PAHO spokesperson, who added that the outbreak's causes lie in Haiti's inadequate water, poor sanitation infrastructure and crowded living conditions, as well as the fact that the bacteria has now gotten a foothold in Haiti's rivers and water systems.

## Bupa to advance patient care

AUSTRALIANS suffering chronic illness are set to benefit from today's launch of the telephone-based health coaching service, Bupa Health Dialog.

Bupa is the owner of health fund MBF and operates Health Dialog in other markets, providing health support phone calls to patients living with chronic illnesses with the aim of educating patients and improving self management, quality of life and reducing both individual and healthcare system costs.

The phone calls are made by Bupa's team of experienced nurses, and are designed to support the relationship already established between patients and their doctor.

In Australia the calls will be offered free of charge to up to 40,000 eligible patients, members of the health insurance companies MBF, HBA and Mutual Community.

Whilst 40,000 patients is the initial target, Bupa's general manager Brett Comer told PD that "all things going well, we'll reach out to more customers".

Bupa said it aims to have 18,000 patient members by Christmas.

"We look forward to delivering holistic health coaching that

enables Australians to take control of their health and wellbeing – particularly those with chronic conditions such as diabetes, chronic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary (airways) disease, asthma and lower back pain," said Comer.

Currently several state governments and non-governmental organisations have expressed interest in taking part in the scheme, with Comer also telling PD that the company was hoping to attract GP groups who would use the service to supplement their patient care programs.

"Governments and professional bodies have consistently highlighted the tidal wave of chronic disease facing Australians and our health care system," said Dr Christine Bennett, chief medical officer of Bupa Health Dialog.

"Bupa Health Dialog is a clear demonstration of an innovative and tangible reform that will help deliver better health outcomes and an improved patient experience" she added.

See [www.bupahealthdialog.com](http://www.bupahealthdialog.com).

## Aussie research grant

AUSTRALIAN researcher, Professor Suresh Mahalingam, has been awarded the National Health and Medical Research Council - European Union grant of \$494,022.

The funds will be distributed over the next three years, and will be used toward co-ordinating research efforts to enhance monitoring and surveillance, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of the Chikungunya virus.

## Fat Aussies growing

ACCORDING to a recent study 50% of Australians are overweight or obese.

The study, conducted by Roy Morgan Research, found that 34% of the population aged over 18 years could be classified as overweight- having a BMI between 25 and 30, whilst 25% of citizens fall into the obese range with BMIs over 30.

The sobering report also found that the rate of both overweight and obese Aussies is on rise, with the above figures representing a 3% point increase in obesity rates over the past ten years.

"Some experts advocate a role for appetite suppressing medicines such as sibutramine (Reductil) which has just been withdrawn from the Australian market," said Norman Morris, industry communications director, Roy Morgan Research.

"While this obviously restricts the options for clinicians and some obese patients, it may represent an opportunity for the marketers of alternative prescription and over-the-counter therapies," Morris added.

## WIN A TRAVEL PALETTE



Every day this week, *Pharmacy Daily* is giving readers the chance to win a Travel Palette from the Perfect Presents range, courtesy of Total Beauty Network.

Designer Brands Travel Palettes are the perfect, portable make-up companion!

The mineral formulation contains skin nurturing ingredients like Aloe Vera and Vitamin E, and the long lasting formulas provide a fabulous finish every time.

Complete with the essential shades for your eyes and lips, this kit is a must-have for this Christmas.

For your chance to win, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

**What is the difference between the Ultimate and Compact Palettes?**

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

The first correct entry received will win!

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

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: Anna Michael from APHS Greenslopes.



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## Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au).



### DISPENSARY CORNER

#### SUNNY gaol outlook.

Inmates in some of Russia's most notorious gaols will soon be able to soak up some focalised sunshine via a sunbed, following the government's commitment to improve gaol medical conditions.

According to reports, the announcement comes on the back of public revelations over the poor state of the health system within the nation's gaols- brought to light by the death of jailed lawyer Sergai Magnitsky, and the federal prison system's admission that they were, in part, to blame.

According to spokespeople for the Russian Prison Service, at present, around half of all the nation's inmates are ill (mostly with HIV and TB), and cannot be properly cared for because of "outdated medical equipment".

The government has since promised to deliver a swathe of facilities and equipment including ultrasound systems, sun beds, and even potentially spa facilities such as mud baths.

#### THE fossil hunter.

A 26-year old South Australian bar manager, Bradley Williams, has told a local court that he was searching for the remains of a fossilised possum when he drunkenly crashed his car through a grave yard.

In a strange twist of events, had Bradley not crashed and been discovered by police, the graveyard may have been his final resting place, as he was so drunk that he collapsed soon after officers arrived, stopped breathing and had to be resuscitated.

#### SCRATCH 'n' sniff.

Officials in the Dutch cities of Rotterdam and The Hague are handing out scratch 'n' sniff cards to residents, in a bid to get them to recognise the smell of marijuana, and then do a check on any neighbours they suspect of growing it.

The move, according to reports, is not designed to catch citizens growing for personal use, but rather the larger commercial operations hidden in attics and warehouses.

### Gorgeous Body for Christmas

Natural Aussie skincare company Trilogy has launched two handy giftpacks in the lead up to the festive season. Trilogy's 'You're Gorgeous' body collection is a gift-pack tailored to the needs of women, which contains a 50ml Rose Hand Cream, a 200ml Botanical Body Wash and a 10ml Everything Balm- all wrapped up in a cute 'You're Gorgeous' unbleached travel bag. Meanwhile Trilogy has men covered with a 'Hello Handsome' skincare set, featuring two daily skincare essentials: a 50ml Face Wash and Scrub, and a 50ml Moisturiser with SPF15. Both products also come in a 'Hello Handsome' travel bag.

RRP: \$25.00 (You're Gorgeous set), \$35.00 (Hello Handsome set)  
Stockist: 03 9770 8421



### Revitalise nails for summer

In addition to its Classic Colour offering, Revitanail has released three new vibrant glossy summer shades. The range includes the coral coloured Blushing Beauty, metallic Prized Platinum, and the white-tone nude Sheer Elegance. The range is also imbued with strengthening diamond dust and pearl extract, as well as bamboo-derived silica. The brush applicator features 480 bristles, as well as a flat stemmed brush for easy application.

RRP: \$12.95  
Stockist: 1800 630 056



### A perfume and a treatment

Clairns summer fragrance, Eau Des Jardins is a fresh scent with woody undertones. It is composed of grapefruit, lemon, bergamont, grapefruit, orange, spearmint, laurel leaf, rose, patchouli, vetiver, and cedarwood oil extracts, as well as blackcurrent extracts which work together to form a light and lasting scent. As an added bonus the product also contains skin hydrating beech bud and radiance-boosting sorbier bud extracts. With this fragrance Clairns has also extracted out all the psoralens from its ingredients, making it safe to wear in the sun- without fear of causing pigmentation.

RRP: \$65 (100ml)  
Stockist: 02 9663 4277



### Hissy's getting bronzed



Hissyfit's new Bronze Radiance mineral powder is lightweight and talc-free. For a sun-kissed glow, users need only use a light sweep over areas that they want to bronze. The formula also contains small amounts of shimmer, to give the skin an added radiance. In addition, the powder also contains antioxidants Vitamin C and green tea, as well as healing Vitamin E and soothing bisabolol (from chamomile).

RRP: \$39.95  
Stockist: 1800 630 056

### Whiter teeth in 30 minutes

The new take-home DaVinci Elite Teeth Whitening Kit whitens teeth in 30 minutes. To use, clients check their teeth against the Tooth Shade Guide, then wipe them with the pack's finger wipe, before using a Vitamin E swab to massage into teeth and gums. From here clients make a teeth impression in the mouth tray before filling it from the Hydrogen Peroxide-filled syringe, and placing the tray into their mouth for 30 minutes.

RRP: \$99.00  
Stockist: 03 9770 8421

