

Youth smoking down

A NEW US Monitoring the Future survey has found that youth smoking declined significantly to 11.7 percent in 2011, down from 12.8 percent in 2010.

In addition the survey found that smoking rates are at the lowest levels on record for all three American high school grades surveyed: grades 8, 10 and 12.

Guild ITP Webinar

INTERNS are invited to attend a pre Christmas ITP webinar, hosted by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

The webinar will run for an hour and commence at 6.30pm tonight, and will include information about the new professional programs as part of the 5CPA, and a preview of the Guild Intern Training Program for 2012.

To register [CLICK HERE](#).

Statins help with influenza

STATINS may be able to reduce the risk of death from influenza virus infections according to a new study published in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*.

The multistate US study, titled 'Association Between Use of Statins and Mortality Among Patients Hospitalized With Laboratory-

Confirmed Influenza Virus Infections' looked at 3,043 patients who were hospitalised with laboratory-confirmed influenza, 33.3% of whom received statins and 5% who died within 30 days of their influenza test.

According to the researchers those patients taking statins were generally older and male, vaccinated against seasonal flu and suffering from cardiovascular, metabolic, renal, and chronic lung disease.

Using a multivariable logistic regression model, the researchers found that administration of statins prior to or during hospitalisation "was associated with a protective odds of death (adjusted odds ratio, 0.59 [95% confidence interval, .38-.92]) when adjusting for age; race; cardiovascular, lung, and renal disease; influenza vaccination; and antiviral administration".

As such the researchers concluded that "statins may have anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory effects that could reduce the risk of mortality from influenza virus infections".

Science and Practice



THEMED 'Science Informing Practice, Practice Informing Science', this year's Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association annual conference was opened on Monday at the University of South Australia.

In his opening address Professor Ian Olver, the CEO of the Cancer Council Australia (pictured above) spoke of future developments for cancer over the next decade with a focus on its detection and treatment.

Olver highlighted important developments in the evidence related to the prevention of cancer – in particular the ability to screen tumours for genetic mutations that will provide the focus of more targeted future treatments.

Olver also spoke on the challenges in maintaining the currency of information and evidence about cancer diagnosis, screening and treatment.

Web-based digital technology innovations by the Cancer Council to meet this challenge include the Mediawiki Cancer Guidelines which provide real time access to evidence on the best care for cancer, reducing the lag time between evidence generation and dissemination, as well as the Cancer Council's iheard website which addresses myths related to cancer causes and treatments and allows people to submit questions and have them answered by experts.

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Infrascanner approved

A NEW hand-held device intended to aid in the detection of life-threatening bleeding in the skull (intracranial hematomas), using near-infrared spectroscopy, the Infrascanner Model 1000, has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

Premature hope

PERFORMING a cervical ultrasound in all pregnant women and treating those with a short cervix with vaginal progesterone reduces the rate of preterm birth and neonatal complications, according to a new study published in the *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

Based on the analysis of all randomised clinical trials of vaginal progesterone conducted worldwide, the study concluded that the vaginal application of progesterone reduces the rate of preterm birth in women at less than 33 weeks of gestation, but also is effective at less than 28, 32 and 35 weeks meaning that the application reduces both "early" and "late" preterm births.

The study also found that vaginal progesterone administration to women with a short cervix reduced the rate of: admission to the newborn intensive care unit; respiratory distress syndrome; the need for mechanical ventilation; and a composite score of complications that included intracranial hemorrhage, bowel problems, respiratory difficulties, infection and death.

In addition the study showed that vaginal progesterone is effective in reducing the rate of neonatal complications in twin gestations.

"Despite decades of clinical and basic research, there has not been much progress in the prevention of premature birth," said a statement from the researchers.

"The most significant advance to prevent preterm birth consists of a two-pronged strategy in which all pregnant women undergo a measurement of the cervical length, and those with a short cervix (at risk for preterm birth) would be treated with vaginal progesterone," the researchers added.

Sunrise in SA health

SA HEALTH will replace its unconnected information systems and databases across its network of metropolitan and rural hospitals with Allscripts' Sunrise Enterprise.

The Sunrise system, including a fully integrated acute care Electronic Health Record, will provide the project's central hub, called the Enterprise Patient Administration System (EPAS).

Welcoming the announcement the incoming Federal Health Minister Tanya Plibersek said "[EPAS] will deliver real time medical information about emergency patients, monitor the progress of patients in hospitals and alert staff when waiting times exceed targets".

"EPAS will connect our hospitals to the national eHealth records system, so vital information can be safely accessed, no matter where in Australia the patient is from," she added.

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Bananas and Priceline

SUNSCREEN giant Banana Boat has partnered with the Priceline Sisterhood Campaign, and as such is donating \$2 from every sale to support the Moira Kelly Children First Foundation (which provides life changing surgery for children in developing countries).

The Priceline Sisterhood campaign sees brands support six key charities that affect women.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry.

VIRGIN Atlantic is offering return economy flights from Sydney to London from \$1,622pp for departures between 16 January 2012 and 31 March 2012.

The airline is also offering return Premium Economy fares from Sydney to London from \$4,880 for departures between 01 February and 29 February 2012.

For details visit www.virgin-atlantic.com.

AVALON Waterways has waived single supplements on select cruises and launched a new range of fly-cruise specials for some of its most popular European river cruises.

Singles save up to \$3,520pp on waived single supplements for 10 select itineraries between March and June 2012.

Single prices start from \$1,259 per person for the 4/5-day Taste of the Danube cruise between Vienna and Budapest. Meanwhile fly/cruise package deals are priced from \$859pp for the 4/5-day Taste of the Danube cruise (plus airfare from \$2,060). See www.avalonwaterways.com.au.

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Streamlined authority data

THIS month changes were enacted to the way data is captured for streamlined authority medicines.

These changes mean that the streamlined authority code is now captured at the dispensing level and as such dispensing software must have the capability to record and send the streamlined authority code to Medicare.

In addition each streamlined authority medicine claimed will need to be sent to Medicare with the streamlined authority code, and a reject message will be sent to pharmacists where the streamlined authority code does not match the item number.

The changes came into effect at the start of the month, however public hospitals will have a phased implementation as their updated prescribing and dispensing software becomes available.

According to Medicare these interim arrangements are expected

to be in place until 31 March 2012.

In the meantime public hospitals can continue to access and claim Authority required (STREAMLINED) medicines through current arrangements.

For more info call 132 290.

TGA consultation

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is inviting public comment on proposed amendments to the current Poisons Standard.

As such the TGA is seeking comment on amendments including a proposal to capture in Schedule 6 cyflufenamid; as well as consideration of a proposal to capture all preparations for injection containing adrenaline at concentrations of 1 per cent or less in Schedule 3.

For a full list of proposed amendments, or to submit comment, see www.tga.gov.au.

ESSENTIALLY INNOXA GIFT GIVING

This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five lucky readers the chance to win 2 body packs, valued at \$44.80, courtesy of Innoxia.

Essentially Innoxia provides 3 mini collections of essential home pamper products for every occasion. Enrich is a luxurious range with scents of Cocoa & Shea Butter. Restore is a calm soothing range with scents of Bora Bora & Sweet Almond Oil. Exhilarate is a revitalising range with scents of Moroccan tangerine, melon & bamboo.



The prize Includes:

- **Nourish pack:** including Exhilarate mini hand cream 50ml, Restore mini hand cream 50ml, Enrich hand mini hand cream 50ml & Wooden nail brush. All packaged in a complimentary cylinder.
- **Enrich & Nourish pack:** including Enrich Shower Crème 350ml, Enrich Hand Cream 150ml & Shower Cap. All packaged in a reusable mesh bag.

To win, simply be the first person to send the correct answer to the daily

question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

How many hand creams are in the Nourish gift pack?

Hint! Visit www.innoxia.com.au.

Congratulations to **Kristen Peck** from **APHS Pharmacy, Calvary Healthcare Riverina**, NSW who is yesterday's lucky winner.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

NATURE vs nurture.

A video of a large brown Kodiak bear waving back to a child who waved to it from the seat of a car has become a YouTube sensation.

The film was taken at the Olympic Game Farm wildlife sanctuary in Washington.

According to reports, rather than this wave being a fluke it is thought the bear may have learned this behaviour, as many of the inhabitants in the sanctuary are retired show animals.

To watch the unusual bear interaction **CLICK HERE**.

HOPE they had their flu shots.

A large group of very cold people bared up against London's winter in bikini's and board shorts to make history, as part of Virgin Holidays Kensington High Street store's bid to break the world record for the world's largest swimwear queue.

As yet it is not known if they were successful.



TIS the season for returning.

Pharmacies may have to brace themselves for a sleigh-full of returned unwanted Christmas gifts following 25 December, if the results of a new US consumer poll are anything to go by.

The poll looked at responses from 1,017 people and identified the top ways that people get rid of unwanted Christmas gifts.

39% of unwanted gifts were simply hidden away somewhere and forgotten, 15% were re-gifted, 11% threw the gift out and 11% returned the gifts to the store from which they were bought.

Interestingly a few brave souls (2%) said they simply returned the gift to the giver.