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Does your pharmacy need a health check?

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Pregnant vaccination

THE UK Govt has decreed the whooping cough vaccine should be administered to women between 28 and 38 weeks of pregnancy. The move follows a rise in infant whooping cough cases.

Oz needs more research

INVESTMENT in research is vital to support innovation, performance improvement, and curtail escalating healthcare costs, according to the new McKeon Review of Health and Medical Research.

Published this week, the review was prompted by the Federal Government and investigated the state of health and medical research in Australia in order to make recommendations about the strategic direction of the sector.

The review panel took into account feedback from researchers, clinicians, hospitals and state and federal governments, and developed a vision for health and medical research which it called 'Better Health Through Research'.

"Better health encompasses population health outcomes, such as increased life expectancy, as well as social goals such as equity, affordability and quality of life," the report said.

"HMR is the R&D arm of Australia's \$130bn health sector, so investment in research is vital to support innovation, performance improvement, and curtail escalating healthcare costs," the report added.

According to the panel, Australia should move towards a "high quality and efficient health system, where a defined proportion of the health budget is invested in research in the health system and where all research activity is well managed to deliver health impact".

As such, the panel recommended that the focus should start off with spending current investment more effectively.

To that end the panel said that over the next decade an additional \$2-3 billion per annum should be invested in research to deliver a better health system and that an additional \$0.4-0.6 billion per annum should be funneled into other initiatives.

The strategy to achieve this Better Health vision has seven themes including: embedding research in the health system (including driving research activity in the health system; establishing integrated health research centres; promoting research participation by health professionals; realigning sector research and governance; and streamlining clinical trial processes).

Other themes include setting and supporting research priorities; maintaining research excellence; enhancing the non-commercial pathway to impact; enhancing the commercial pathway to impact; attracting philanthropy; and investing and implementing (enhancing and aligning HMR investment programs, with extended oversight by the expanded NHMRC, and establishing a robust implementation process with a medium term follow up review by the NHMRC and with oversight by an independent panel).

Rural health boost

THE Govt has committed to a \$17.69m investment into regional and remote communities to bolster their healthcare workforce.

Several projects will benefit from the funds including one which will recruit 387 nursing and allied health workers for rural Australia.

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Teva to pull Budeprion

THE US FDA has asked Teva to remove its generic Wellbutrin antidepressant, Budeprion XL 300, after it was revealed the drug released its active quicker than the branded medication.

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Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* Continuing Professional Development Calendar, featuring upcoming events and opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

09 Oct: Medication Management Review Stage 1 workshop, Sydney; AMA Conference Centre, St Leonards; 9am - 5pm; beryl.park@psa.org.au.

19-21 Oct: PSA Pharmacy Australia Congress, Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre - www.psa.org.au/pac.

01-04 Nov: SHPA 38th annual conference - Medicines Management 2012, Canberra - mm2012shpa.com.

Mayne acquires Metrics

MAYNE Pharma has entered into an agreement to purchase Metrics, an American based provider of contract development services to the pharma industry that also develops and manufactures niche generic pharmaceuticals.

The deal will set Mayne Pharma back US\$105m plus up to US\$15m in earn-out payments based on FY13 performance.

The acquisition will be funded by US\$44.5m of acquisition debt funding and the proceeds of a A\$65m equity raising.

According to Mayne, Metrics has particular expertise in formulating complex oral drug products, including highly potent and unstable compounds, controlled substances (such as opiates) and products with poor bioequivalence.

The drugs developed by Metrics are sold in the US either by the company's distribution partners or directly through its own wholesale

distributor, Midlothian Laboratories.

Currently, in addition to its existing products, Metrics has a pipeline of 11 niche generic drugs in various stages of development.

Metrics has sales and pre-tax earnings of US\$51.6m and US\$16.1m respectively for the 12 months ended 30 June 2012.

"Metrics is highly complementary to Mayne Pharma's existing business in term of its products, services and the markets in which it operates," said Mayne Pharma CEO, Scott Richards.

In addition to providing scale in the US market, Metrics brings additional technical capabilities and material upside from cross-selling revenue opportunities," he added.



DISPENSARY CORNER

SHOCKING idea.

Magician David Blaine will today step into an artificial lightning storm pumping a million volts of electric currents around his body. For the three day long stunt, tesla coils will stream the electricity onto a platform whilst onlookers at Pier 54 on New York's West Side will be able to man the controls.

To protect himself, Blain has donned a chainmail bodysuit as a barrier, a wire helmet, a visor for his eyes and hearing protection.

Blaine will not eat during the three days, and he will be fed water through a tube, whilst his air will be monitored.

DON'T SIZZLE IN THE SUN... WIN A SUNSCREEN PACK!



Everyday this week *Pharmacy Daily* is helping you get ready for summer - we're giving two lucky readers the chance to win a sunscreen pack, courtesy of **Hamilton**. One of Australia's most trusted sun care brands, founded by pharmacist Milton Blake in 1932, Hamilton has been

protecting Australians from the sun for over 80 years.

The prize pack includes three SPF 30+ sunscreens for all occasions and skin types: Everyday Face Sunscreen (Hamilton's best selling product); Family Sunscreen Lotion (for the whole family); and Quadblock (ideal for sports & 4hrs water resistant).

For your chance to win, be first to send in the correct answer to the daily question below.

Who was the young pharmacist that founded Hamilton Laboratories?

Email your answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners, **Gayleene Chapman** of **Health Focus Pharmsave** and **Rebecca Kennedy** from **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia**.

Dr Reddy's prepares pharmacists with first aid



ON Saturday 22 September Dr Reddy's organised a free one-day first aid course to help its Queensland community pharmacy customers to develop and refresh their medical skills.

The Senior First Aid Training day covered the essentials of first aid including wound management, bite aid and CPR.

"Dr Reddy's hopes that by attending pharmacists can build a better understanding of how to treat patients who attend their stores with first aid issues," the company said in a statement.

The course was accredited by the Australian College of Pharmacy for 20 Group 2 CPD credits.

Pictured above with their "patient" is (from left) Paul Flint and Alice Si (Neville Black Pharmacy), and George Psaltis and Martina Kardnicolas (Taylor Centre Pharmacy).



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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Beautiful Fraser Coast, QLD (Job# 2009362)
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- **Senior Compounding Pharmacist** - Sydney, NSW (Job# 2009353)
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- **Pharmacist** - East Gippsland, VIC (Job# 2009318)
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