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1. Label claim comparison. 2. Canonica GW, et al. *Allergy* 2007;62(4):369-366. 3. Ortonne JP, et al. *Am J Clin Dermatol* 2007;8(1):37-42. 4. Bousquet J, et al. *Int Arch Allergy Immunol* 2010;153(4):395-402. 5. Bousquet J, et al. *Allergy* 2009;64:1516-1523. 6. Holmberg K, et al. *Allergy* 2009;64:1663-1670. 7. Demoly P, et al. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol* 2009;103:260-266. 8. Ortonne JP. *Eur J Intern Med* 2012 January;23(1):26-30. 9. Ring J, et al. *Int J Dermatol* 2001 January;40(1):72-76.

Aerius contains desloratadine. ©2012 MSD Consumer Care, Inc. All rights reserved. Level 4, 66 Waterloo Road, North Ryde, NSW 2113. RESP-1010959-0040 07/12 Saatchi & Saatchi Health MAER0025/PD



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## Pharmacy winner

CONGRATULATIONS to the winner of last Friday's A'Kin comp, Mel Nash of Health World Limited.

## Deregulation concerns

THE issue of deregulation will be under scrutiny at this year's upcoming PAC12, with the Secretary General of the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union, John Chave, set to address the issue.

The Great Debate will also see six speakers arguing the case both for and against regulation under the topic, "is pharmacy over-regulated".

See [www.psa.org.au/pac](http://www.psa.org.au/pac).

## Catching spiders

THE Australian Reptile Park in Sydney's north has confirmed that supplies of its funnel-web anti venom are running worryingly low.

Compounding the problem in the face of another Australian summer, is the fact that the Park is the only centre in Australia where the spider's venom is extracted to make the anti-venom.

As such, the Park is encouraging brave Australians who find a funnel web, to catch it and bring it into the Park for venom milking.

"Usually we are the ones saying to people, 'if you see a dangerous animal, leave it alone and then it will leave you alone, and you won't have any run-ins,'" a park representative told media.

"But, it is really important that we turn to the community to actually obtain our funnel-webs," the representative added.

## Diabetes: turning the tide

AUSTRALIANS living with type 2 diabetes have lower blood glucose levels and a marked reduction in rates of bad cholesterol than they did two decades ago, according to the results of a 20 year landmark analysis.

Despite these improvements, the analysis also found that type 2 diabetes patients are larger than they were in the 1990s.

"Medical care is improving, but the implication is that lifestyle factors continue to let patients down," said the Head of the Fremantle Diabetes Study, Professor Tim Davis.

"This is the first Australian research to show that blood sugar control is improving in patients with type 2 diabetes.

"Unfortunately our data also reveals that the average Body Mass Index for a person with diabetes is now in the obese category," he added.

The analysis compared type 2 diabetes patients treated between 1993-1996 (1,296 patients) those treated between 2008-2011 (1,509 patients from the same catchment area), and found that patients in the latter time frame had lower average blood glucose (HbA1c of 6.8 vs. 7.2) and fasting serum glucose (7.2 vs. 8.0 mmol/L) levels; had lower levels of 'bad' cholesterol (LDL 2.3 vs. 3.3 mmol/L); are living longer (mean age of 65.4 vs 64.0 years); and are more overweight (average Body Mass Index of 31.3 [obese] vs. 29.6 [overweight]).

"These changes are highly

significant," Professor Davis said.

"The benefits of early diagnosis and more intensive treatment of both blood glucose and cholesterol levels is paying dividends.

"Diabetes patients are living longer and this suggests that they are suffering fewer heart attacks and strokes," Davis added.

MEANWHILE Davis used the results to call for greater use of cholesterol-lowering medication by diabetes patients, noting that one third of diabetes patients eligible for Government subsidised statin therapy remained untreated.

## Update first aid skills

THE Red Cross is urging Australians to update their first aid skills to ensure they know what to do in a first aid emergency.

The call comes in the lead-up to World First Aid Day (08 September), with the Red Cross College saying that many people do not realise how important it is to refresh their first aid skills.

The Apply First Aid qualification should be updated every three years, the Red Cross College said.

"Many people who have completed their First Aid qualification have let their skills lapse putting those close to them at risk by either having forgotten what they have learnt or using out-of-date procedures," said Chris Casey, GM – National Business Development at Red Cross College.

See [www.redcross.org.au/worldfirstaidday](http://www.redcross.org.au/worldfirstaidday).

## MSD Aerius Front FP

TODAY'S *Pharmacy Daily* features two pages of news, plus a front full cover from Aerius detailing its 24-hour non-drowsy solution to hayfever and allergies.

## WIN A BOTANI HAPPY FEET PACK

Every day this week, *Pharmacy Daily* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a Happy Feet Pack, valued at over \$65, courtesy of Botani.

Botani's happy feet program will keep your feet beautiful and happy, with the Eco-Clear Body Bar (for cleansing), Detox Foot Scrub (exfoliating dead skin), Phytoseptic Anti-Fungal Cream (treatment) and Olivéne Repair Balm (to moisturise and soften).

For your chance to win this beautiful prize pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the daily question below to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

## What are 3 conditions Phytoseptic treats?

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

Congratulations to yesterday's winner Hayley Fejer from Actegy Health.



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## Guild Update

### Community Pharmacy eCensus

This week the first major census of community pharmacy in Australia since 2006 gets underway.

The online census comprises around 40 detailed questions.

The Guild is urging all community pharmacies to take part in the census because of the importance of having up-to-date data on our industry.

The availability of current data on community pharmacy is an essential ingredient of effective advocacy at all levels of government.

The range of services provided by community pharmacies is little understood in some quarters, and it is only through comprehensive, current information that we can reinforce the many benefits of our community pharmacy model.

Through this week, most pharmacies will automatically receive an emailed invitation to take part in the census.

They should receive an email which has their census username and login included.

When these pharmacies login to the census, they will find the form will have been prefilled with the basic details and identification of the pharmacy.

Where a pharmacy is not picked up in our database for whatever reason, pharmacy owners can go to [ecensus.guildlink.com.au](http://ecensus.guildlink.com.au) and request a username and password which will be emailed to them.

In this case, the census form won't have any prefilled data and it will create a new, blank record for them.

The Guild encourages anyone that receives the invitation email to use it as it will reduce the chance of duplicate records.

The demands on the time of our Members are great, and online surveys are increasingly common.

But this is one online activity that the Guild certainly hopes all of our Members will find the time to complete because of the benefit it will ultimately bring to all.



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

## Australian headaches

SIXTY-seven percent of head pain sufferers are women, according to the preliminary findings from the [headache.com.au](http://headache.com.au) survey (PD 13 Jul).

The survey is open to all Australians, and is set to run until the end of the year.

The focus of the survey is the types of headaches and migraines Australians suffer, as well as the

success rates of various therapeutic successes.

According to the survey's preliminary results 75% of participants are migraine sufferers, whilst 25% suffer headaches.

In addition, 75% of respondents were found to be aged between 20 and 59, with the largest group being 40-49 years old.

54% of migraine sufferers on prescribed medications were using Sumatriptan; whilst 46% migraine sufferers on OTC meds were using ibuprofen & 46% paracetamol/paracetamol+codeine.

The survey also found that headache sufferers were predominantly using OTC meds, often ibuprofen.

Interestingly, neck problems were common in 50% of headache and migraine sufferers; whilst stress was cited as the second most common cause.

Speaking about the survey, study head Dr Jerome Dixon said "Take a modern lifestyle involving: environmental, dietary issues and repetitive sustained postures at work and add to that stress, genetic, lifestyle and neuro-physiological issues- and you have a very common recipe".

"The fact is that most sufferers can be helped by looking for underlying causes, usually not pathology, but poor functionality, leading to irritability in the head, neck, jaw, or even systemically," he added.

Results of the survey will be published in January 2013.

### Agency Committee

AUSTRALIA'S health ministers have announced the line-up of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation (AHPRA) Agency Management Committee (which oversees AHPRA's work, including deciding policies).

The line-up includes five reappointments of current Committee members: Peter Allen, reappointed as Chair for 12 months; Prof Genevieve Gray, reappointed for 12 months; Prof Marilyn Walton, reappointed for two years; Michael Gorton, reappointed for three years, and Prof Constantine Michael, reappointed for three years.

The line-up also includes three new appointments: Ian Smith, Chief Executive of the Western Australia Country Health Service; Fran Thorn, former Secretary of the Department of Health Victoria; and Karen Crawshaw, Deputy Director-General, New South Wales Health.

All the appointments commenced this week.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

**SERIOUS** business.

The state of public restrooms lead many people to forgo the experience entirely, suffering until they get home, however there is hope for US citizens who dread the public loo, as long as they stick to the toilets shortlisted on the 11th annual America's Best Restroom Contest.

In amongst the shortlist are the bathrooms at the Vanity Nightclub in Las Vegas where the men's room features flat screen TVs, and the women's room sports red-velvet seating, gold-plated faucets and a US\$40,000 glass chandelier.

**ALCOHOL** dulls logical brain.

A 26-year old German man, Sebastian Beyer, has found himself in hot water after a drunken night out led him to create his own artwork at the Kunsthalle Art Museum.

Beyer had spent the night partying with friends and at 6am decided he was okay to drive and hopped into his dad's Mercedes Benz- that was his first mistake.

The second mistake came when Bayer decided to take a shortcut through the nearby Kunsthalle Art Museum instead of waiting at a red light, and then proceeded to smash through a fence.

His third mistake came when, once inside the Museum's grounds, he decided to create his own artwork by driving his father's car into the Museum's pond.

Only after crawling onto the car roof to admire his work did he realise he may be in trouble, before he slipped into the pond and hot footed it to the nearest bus stop.

Police say they managed to catch him shortly after, as he was the only sopping wet commuter at the stop.

