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– Chris Walsh, Amcal Pharmacy Drysdale

eRx.com.au/ScanRate

eRx script exchange

CMEC: three signed

AT Swisse's symposium, La Trobe University Research Services innovation and commercial development manager Tim Carroll said the \$15m Complementary Medicines Evidence Centre (CMEC) (PD 04 Feb) had signed Memorandums of Understanding with three companies, including one start up and one industry manufacturer.

Another five large manufacturers were interested in signing and the Centre was seeking government assistance, Carroll said.

Data from the Centre would be made available to public, as well as published in peer reviewed journals and to research commissioners in 'regulatory ready' form, he said.

Carroll again said that research at the Centre would be transparent and rigorous.

DoH on Lyme Disease

THE Federal Department of Health has said the conclusive finding of bacteria that could cause Lyme Disease in Australia has yet to be made (PD 14 Apr).

The spokeswoman said such a finding would put "beyond doubt" the existence of Lyme, or Lyme-like disease in the country.

Laboratory tests were used to see if patients showed an immune response to the bacteria that could cause this infection and different approaches were used by different laboratories in the process, leading to different diagnoses for the same patients, she said.

"We are working to see if these approaches can be harmonised.

"While the diagnostic uncertainty across the medical community is not ideal, the continued search for evidence for a causative organism is the only way that this uncertainty can be resolved."

The Department had received 24 submissions regarding its study to develop a research project to investigate the presence or absence of Lyme Disease in the country, including eight in support

of the Lyme Disease Association's submission, the spokeswoman said.

The study was undertaken due to the debate around the presence of Lyme Disease, she said.

"Certainly there are quite a number of people in Australia who have been diagnosed with the disease by their treating doctors, some of whom who have been ill for a long period of time and whose therapy is complex and demanding.

"It is important for these people in particular that we find out as much about the disease as we can."

Submissions would be discussed with the Clinical Advisory Committee on Lyme Disease, which would continue to meet this year to progress its terms of reference, she said, while a working group of the committee was working on a diagnostic route for Australia.

To view the study, [CLICK HERE](#).

PRAC on combo meds

THE European Medicines Agency's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) has advised that combining medicines from any two of the three main classes that act on the renin-angiotensin (RAS) system should not be recommended, after reviewing the risks.

These classes are angiotensin-receptor blockers (ARBs), angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (ACE-inhibitors) and direct renin inhibitors.

The review was initiated due to concerns that combining RAS acting agents could increase the risk of hyperkalaemia, low blood pressure and worsening of kidney function compared with using one of the medicines alone.

PRAC recommended that in particular, patients with diabetes-related kidney problems should not be given an ARB with an ACE-inhibitor and where such a combination was considered absolutely necessary, it should be carried out under specialist supervision with close monitoring.

The recommendation will go to the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use.

To read more, [CLICK HERE](#).

TGA seeking input

SUBMISSIONS on proposed advisory statements for OTC cough medicines for oral use and for OTC nasal decongestant preparations for topical use should now be made by 05 May.

BPharm PSOTY award

FINAL year BPharm student George Adattini has won the University of Sydney 2014 Pharmacy Student of the Year (PSOTY) competition.

Organised by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), this national competition involves students acting out scenarios in front of an audience to demonstrate their communication skills and clinical knowledge.

The competition is open to all final year pharmacy students.

The University of Sydney had seven students enter the heats, with three selected to go through to the final.

Following his win, George will represent the university at the NSW final held on 01 Jun at the PSA Clinical and Practice Expo in Sydney.

The winner of the national competition receives a grant to attend an international pharmacy conference of their choice.

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*Membership numbers obtained from the individual pharmacy groups' websites on 3 April 2014.

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Funded by the Australian Department of Health as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Orpharma signs deal

ORPHARMA has signed an exclusive distribution agreement with French company Lucane Pharma for Pheburane.

The agreement covers Australia and New Zealand for the medication, which is used for the treatment of Urea Cycle Disorders involving deficiencies of carbamylphosphate synthetase, ornithine transcarbamylase and argininosuccinate synthetase.

An Orpharma spokesperson said there were about 15 identified patients in Australia.

Orpharma said it would seek registration with the TGA, the outcome of which would likely occur within 14 to 18 months, the spokesperson said.

Prior to this, the product would be available under the special access scheme.

TGA & EMA adoption

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and the European Union's European Medicines Agency (EMA) are working towards mutual adoption of agreed elements of each other's therapeutic guidelines.

The TGA has posted on its website the guidelines that are being proposed for adoption, those proposed for 'non-adoption' as well as the outcome of previous consultation.

Submissions are being sought from interested parties across the range of topics, giving all concerned the opportunity to advise on whether or not they support the proposed courses of action.

CLICK HERE for details.

Partnership is the future

MEDICINES Australia (MA) has called for renewed focus on the medicines industry, and has said it is keen to work with government and other stakeholders to find the best strategies to do this.

Ceo Dr Brendan Shaw said at the opening of the fifth Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress in Melbourne that the country had "a rich heritage" of medicines derived from the natural environment and from medical research.

"The community is interested, the government is interested, the research community is interested and the industry is interested in taking the step to the next level of commercial partnership between science, research and commercialisation.

"We want an environment that fosters more investment and more partnerships between the public researchers and private industry.

Shaw told **PD** that MA was not asking for direct funding but there were various initiatives that had been successfully used in Australia and overseas to generate "significant" investment by the medicines industry.

"The key thing is getting a whole of government approach

Integrative Med Conf

THE 20th Integrated Medicine Conference will be held from 22 to 24 Aug at the Sheraton on the Park.

Lectures will cover topics in integrative and natural medicine.

Program updates are available on the official website.

To view them, **CLICK HERE**.

AMH Aged Care Companion



Between now and April 30, 2014 you can enjoy the pre-publication price on AMH Aged Care Companion (Print)

[Click here to find out more](#)



ONCE AGAIN AVAILABLE IN PRINT!

Kiwifruit clinical trial

VITAL Food Processors Ltd will launch a 10 centre clinical trial looking into the efficacy of the kiwifruit extract Kivia in patients who have irritable bowel syndrome with constipation.

The double blind, randomised, placebo-controlled trial would recruit 180 patients who would be monitored over a three month period, with recruitment now under way at 10 sites across New Zealand and Australia, with results expected before the year's end Vital Food Processors Ltd said.

**WIN WITH
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This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving four lucky readers the chance to win a **Designer Brands** prize pack, valued at \$33.

Each prize pack contains four Quick Colour Nail Polishes and one Twist 'n' Go nail polish remover.

Australia's fastest drying nail polish! DB's Quick Colour Nail Polish dries in 30 seconds! With a high-gloss finish, the nail polish glides on with the newly designed precision brush for a streak free application. Available in a chic, glass bottle in 20 shades and five treatments. The award winning Twist 'n' Go allows you to remove nail polish in one second! Available in Pharmacy, Price Attack & online.

To win this great prize pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What award from Beauty Heaven did the Twist 'n' Go win?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Lisa Robertson from SA Pharmacy. The correct answer was 'black'.

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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 newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

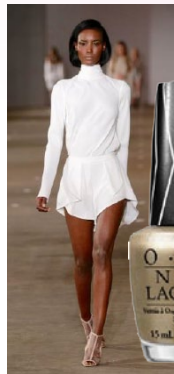
Fess Little Noses Saline Drops and Spray for stuffy little noses.

New Little Noses consumer research has revealed a surprising 47% of new mums surveyed said that their infants suffer a blocked nose more than once a month. Use **FESS Little Noses** gentle saline solution to help loosen and thin mucus to help clear your baby's blocked nose and moisturise dry nasal passages. The special aspirator helps you to remove nasal mucus so your baby can breathe easier, naturally.

Stockist: 1800 788 870

RRP: \$11.95 with aspirator, \$9.95 without.

Website: www.fesslittlenoses.com.au



Gwen Stefani's OPI Love Angle Music Baby and OPI Samoan Sand

OPI was the official nail partner the Bec & Bridge 'Due North' SS14/15 runway show at Mercedes Benz Fashion Week Australia, Carriageworks Sydney. To complement the collections' feel of travel and adventure, Karon McKindrick-Taylor, OPI Educator, worked with the Bec & Bridge team and designed a look that was both very wearable and fashion forward. A base coat of **OPI Love Angle Music Baby**, a satin gold matte shade from the Gwen Stefani colour collection, was applied with a top coat of **OPI Samoan Sand**. Together these two shades created a warm, sophisticated and fluid look.

Stockist: 1800 812 663

RRP: \$19.95

Website: www.opi.net.au



Rimmel London BB Cream Matte

Specially formulated 9-in-1 **Rimmel BB Cream Matte** is a must have for all make up bags. Particularly adapted to young skin prone to imperfections, this lightweight make-up soothes skin and even helps with the appearance of blemishes. Reveal natural-looking, matte skin for all day shine control with Rimmel BB Cream Matte. The formula helps absorb sebum, tighten and prevent clogged pores while rebalancing oily skin thanks to an ideal combination of bamboo powder, kaolin clay, Witch Hazel, algae and lactic and salicylic acid. The super formula provides SPF 15 to help protect you against harmful UV rays, while keeping your skin moisturised and supple.

Stockist: 1800 812 663

RRP: \$12.95

Website: www.au.rimmellondon.com



St Tropez Instant Tans and St Tropez Skin Illuminator

St.Tropez Skin Finishing Expert Michael Brown explains: "Prep is best and I use the St Tropez Tan Enhancing Moisturiser on the dry areas of the body, elbows, feet, hands and of course the knees! For the lighter girls I use the **Medium/Dark St Tropez Instant Tan** to bring their overall colour up to a Spring Summer level and then for the more olive girls, I use the **Light/Medium Instant Tan**... I then add the **St Tropez Skin Illuminator**; as you move in the light it creates a beautiful sheen, giving a contour to the body for the best overall healthy glow."

Stockists: 1300 819 331

RRP: \$19.95 for tans, \$29.95 Illuminator in Gold, Violet or Rose

Website: www.sttropeztan.com.au



DISPENSARY CORNER

DON'T tell us that.

In the 'I really didn't want to know that, but I suppose I should' health facts file, Diabetes Queensland (@diabetesqld) tweeted yesterday under its #QuickHealthFact hashtag that it took about four hours and 28 minutes of walking to burn off a 200g rabbit egg, such as you might consume for Easter.

The group also tweeted that it took about 54 minutes of walking to burn off the kilojoules consumed in one traditional hot cross bun.

However, with the group's website telling us that there are about 250,000 people in Queensland diagnosed with diabetes, and more than 120,000 Australians with type 1 diabetes, it's probably worth knowing just what you're ingesting.

With that in mind, HealthLocal (www.health-local.com) have some healthy Easter ideas to replace your chocolate cravings, including plastic, fillable eggs (**PD** suggests filling these with home-made fortunes, such as 'You will encounter a wealthy goat. Beware his pernicious ways and possible halitosis'), homemade low-sugar cookies in Easter shapes and a visit to see real rabbits and baby chicks.

THAT'S one way to do it.

The Polish Anaesthetics' Society has published an out-there case study on Facebook of a thief who tried to swallow the evidence of his crimes.

Trouble was, this included cigarette lighters, six watches, a fork, a spoon, nail clippers and a pen, *Orange News* reported.

Dariusz Piotrowski was seen by a police surgeon after complaining of stomach pains, and an x-ray showed his stomach was full of stolen - and indigestible - goods, the publication reported.

Police said officers had lost sight of him briefly during the chase to arrest him, which was probably when he ate the goods, it said.