



### Hep C treatment PBS listed

**OLYSIO** (simeprevir) has been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for the treatment of adults with chronic genotype 1 hepatitis C infection in combination with peginterferon alfa and ribavirin, as of 01 Dec, Janssen has said.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health has launched an inquiry into hepatitis C (**PD** 04 Dec), looking into its prevalence and treatment options.

### Aussie and Kiwi Ebola volunteers grow

**ASPEN** Medical has received 388 applications from Australians, including four from pharmacists, interested in taking part in the mission to operate a 100-bed Ebola treatment centre in Sierra Leone, **PD** understands.

The government committed \$20m towards the centre (**PD** 06 Nov) and **PD** understands the first cohort of health workers, including six doctors and eight nurses, undertook training in Canberra in November.

They are now undergoing additional training in Sierra Leone, including being paired with experienced treatment centre staff.

**PD** understands a second cohort of 21 Australians began training in Canberra yesterday.

Eighty two New Zealanders registered interest in joining the mission, including four pharmacists, with 24 due to be deployed in the new year (**PD** 09 Dec).

### 'Shocked' homeo in phmcy

**THE** National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) ceo Professor Warwick Anderson has said it is a shock to see, as a profession based on evidence, some pharmacies offering homeopathy products.

As first reported by *Australian Doctor*, Anderson was speaking at a QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute lecture, touching on how Australia could save money by better use of research.

After speaking about private health insurers giving rebates for alternative medicines, he said it was the professional responsibility of healthcare providers to be clear about the evidence for an offered treatment.

The NHMRC would release its public statement on homeopathy before the end of the year, he said.

"Already some pharmacists are urging their profession to stop stocking these remedies and others that don't have an evidence base.

"Pharmacy, after all, is a profession based on and trained in science.

"So it comes as a shock to walk into some pharmacies to see them urging products on customers where there is no evidence base of effectiveness."

The NHMRC released its draft Information Paper on homeopathy this year, which concluded that evidence did not show homeopathy was effective for treating the range of health conditions considered (**PD** 11 Apr).

Complementary Healthcare Council ceo Carl Gibson has said

homeopathy had been around for hundreds of years and would be long after the critics were gone.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) national president Grant Kardachi has said pharmacists should be guided by the Code of Ethics when considering whether a service or product should be available or not in pharmacy.

The Code included that consumer health and wellbeing was the first priority, and that all aspects of practice be underpinned by quality use of medicines principles and evidence-based practice, he said.

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

### TGA tablet warning

**ROCK** Hard for Men tablets and Max Hard capsules contain undeclared substances and should be taken to a local pharmacy for safe disposal, the TGA has said.

### Avoid legal hangover

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia is reminding pharmacists via the latest edition of *forefront* of their duty of care with relation to festive functions and the potential for legal claims around employee actions and safety.

**CLICK HERE** for more information.

### Monash, Takeda partner on gastro

**THE** Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS) and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited have formed a three year research program to develop new medicines to treat gastrointestinal diseases such as irritable bowel syndrome and diarrhoea.

Takeda would provide funding and scientists from both organisations would work together on the research, Monash University said, with Takeda having exclusive rights over any developed medicines.

Takeda pharmaceutical research division gm Tetsuyuki Maruyama said working together would advance gastroenterology research much faster than working alone.

### Lacteeze Ultra added

**ALLERGYFREE** Pty Ltd has added Lacteeze Ultra to its range of lactose enzyme supplements and has an introductory special on the product - see **page three** for more.

### Chemmart farewells Jonathan Layton

**CHEMMART** Pharmacy has announced that executive director Jonathan Layton is to leave the organisation after more than 10 years, to move to Canada.

Chemmart said under Layton's direction, the brand had increased sales from \$320m to \$900m over a 10 year period to 2013/14.

### PPA goes YouTube

**PROFESSIONAL** Pharmacists Australia (PPA) has released a YouTube video which claims the average wage for a Chemist Warehouse employee pharmacist is \$5.61 per hour below the average pharmacist wage.

**CLICK HERE** to view.

### \$9.3b industry output

**THE** medical technologies and pharmaceuticals sector generated \$9.3b in output in 2013/14, according to the inaugural Australia Industry Report.

The Department of Industry's Office of the Chief Economist report said around 7,000 trading businesses were active in the sector as at June 2013, employing about 71,000 people, with export revenue of about \$4.4b in 2012/13.

In 2013/14, medicinal and pharmaceutical products were the country's largest export of elaborately transformed manufactures at \$3.4b shipped, down from a record \$4.1b in 2009/10, the report said.

The industry employed more than 41,000 people in 2012/13.

The report was welcomed by Medicines Australia (MA).

Ceo Tim James said MA agreed with the report's note that Asia, with a growing appetite for healthy lifestyles, provided great opportunities for the Australian pharmaceutical industry.

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## Pharmacy role tops

**FORBES** has placed 'pharmacist' as the highest salary for the top healthcare jobs in 2015, with an estimated median salary of US\$116,670 a year and projected growth by 2022 of 14%.

Based on a list of the top 10 best healthcare jobs compiled by US job site CareerCast.com, *Forbes* placed pharmacist at the top, salary-wise, followed by podiatrists with a median yearly salary of US\$116,440 and 23% projected growth.

In at third was physical therapist at a median salary of US\$79,860 and 36% growth opportunities.

CareerCast's list was based on income and hiring outlook, work environment and physical demands, with two academics and staffers rating 200 jobs, *Forbes* reported.

**CLICK HERE** to access the site.

## Travel Specials

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

### Arkaba Luxury Lodges deal

**Arkaba** in South Australia's magnificent Flinders Ranges is the latest addition to the Luxury Lodges of Australia collection.

Arkaba's 60,000-acre private conservancy is home to a wondrous variety of bird and wildlife. Nestled in an ancient landscape molded by hundreds of years of geological activity, the Flinders Ranges offers some of Australia's most spectacular outback scenery.

To celebrate Arkaba's new membership, stay three nights for the price of two when visiting Arkaba before 31 Mar, representing a saving of \$816 per person twin-share.

Rates include all meals, beverages and wilderness safaris.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

## CHOICE: more competition

**CONSUMER** advocate organisation CHOICE has recommended that measures to enhance price competition in pharmaceutical medicines should be adopted.

In a submission to the Competition Policy Review draft report, the group said consumer interests were not adequately addressed in the Community Pharmacy Agreement, and that "serious consideration" should be given to the Panel's

recommendations that the pharmacy ownership and location rules be replaced with regulations ensuring access and quality of advice on pharmaceuticals that did not unduly restrict competition, or alternatives that increased price competition while protecting public interest.

"The Australian community, both as consumers of pharmaceuticals and as taxpayers funding an essential community service, deserve a fulsome discussion about how to most efficiently and fairly fund community pharmacists for the service they provide: the equitable and safe dispensing of PBS medicines."

The Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia have made submissions against the report's recommendations (**PD** 08 Dec).

**CLICK HERE** to read more.

## Med slip causes death

**PHARMACY** error was identified as the cause of a patient's death in an Oregon hospital when a pharmacy worker accidentally filled an IV bag with the wrong drug, *Fox News* has reported.

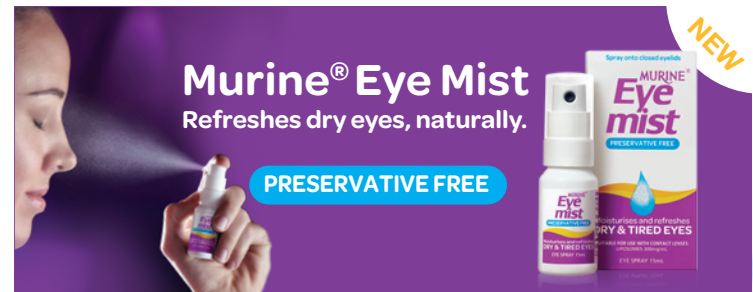
Hospital officials said that inpatient Loretta McPherson, 65, was given a paralysing agent, rocuronium instead of the prescribed anti-seizure therapy fosphenytoin, in spite of a second pharmacy worker reviewing the vials and the IV bag.

The staff failed to monitor the patient because the door to her room was closed to protect her from potential fire hazards when a fire alarm was triggered, the report said.

## New CMA vp

**LIPA** Pharmaceuticals ceo Dusko Pejnovic has been elected vice presidency of the Complementary Medicines Australia (CMA) Board.

CMA ceo Carl Gibson said Pejnovic had been an active member on the CMA Board since 2008 and had a background that incorporated pharmaceuticals, foods, FMCG and services.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**WHAT** are you trying to say?

As a pharmacist, you may be stocking or selling many a health-themed gift, but one consumer psychologist has warned how these can come across.

Kit Yarrow told *USA Today* the worst such gift she had heard of was an acne kit given as a Christmas present, which ranks with deodorant and self-help books as some of the crappiest gift ideas out.

Yarrow and three other commentators gave tips to the unwary consumer hellbent on health-related presents, including that one should actually consider whether the recipient wants a diet book or fitness tracker, the publication reported.

**SHOCKING** Xmas display.

If you've got a pharmacy Xmas display, we're betting you didn't disconnect a street light to give it that extra special sparkle.

Unlike one man in Townsville, QLD, risking electrocution and worldwide disbelief that anyone could be that pigheaded about their Christmas lights.

Although maybe some blame should go to Townsville itself for its obvious culture of die-hard Christmas lighting, given that *ABC* reported there was evidence of other people tampering with street lights in the town, including one where live wires had been exposed.

**I'M** studying, man!

Ever wanted to study pharmacy by watching your favourite TV program? Of course you have.

We ask, because an American college is offering a course focusing on popular Netflix series 'Orange Is the New Black', AP reports.

## Win with AROMABABY

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Aromababy** are giving readers the chance to win an Aromababy Hair and Body Kit.

Aromababy's Pure Hair Cleanse has been soothing scalps and cradle cap for almost two decades. As the first sulphate free and low-foam baby shampoo enriched with natural oils, this mild shampoo substitute is like all Aromababy products, based on research, the company says. It is suitable for anyone with dry scalp concerns.

To win, be the first person from **SA** or **NT** to send the correct answer to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)



Are highly foaming products damaging to infants' scalps?

Hint: [www.aromababy.com](http://www.aromababy.com)

Congratulations to yesterday's winner,  
**Lorraine Brouard** from **Symbion**.

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Lacteeze Ultra 8 Caplets	916587	174516	172685	\$5.95	

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