



## IF YOUR CUSTOMERS ARE TAKING A COURSE OF ANTIBIOTICS

a probiotic such as Inner Health Plus may assist in maintaining the balance of good bacteria.

**INNER HEALTH PLUS**  
Always read the label. Use only as directed.

## Fallet to leave API

**AUSTRALIAN** Pharmaceutical Industries Limited (API) has confirmed its chief financial officer Graeme Fallet will leave the company as of today to "pursue other interests".

API said a search would begin for a replacement, with CEO Stephen Roche acknowledging Fallet's contribution over the past five years.

## Primary care costs up

**IN THE** five years ending 2013, the share of recurrent expenditure on primary health care has risen from 37.1% to 38.1% (\$52b), according to a report released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

With hospital spending at 40.3% (\$55.9b), health spending was evenly distributed between primary healthcare and hospitals, the report said, while the remaining 21.5% (\$29.9b) was invested in other areas such as specialists services, health research, administration, patient transport services and medical aids and appliances.

Capital expenditure accounted for a further \$8.6b.

All funders increased their health spending between 2002-03 and 2012-13, the AIHW said.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the report.

## APC practice papers

**THE** Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has announced the release of a series of online practice papers in support of pharmacy interns and overseas trained pharmacists.

They are the internal written examination, the Competency Assessment of Overseas Pharmacist Examination and both papers one and two for Knowledge Assessment of Pharmaceutical sciences.

[CLICK HERE](#) to download PDFs.

## Shared responsibility challenge

**THE** Australian healthcare system suffered from the greatest challenges when it came to the division of responsibilities for services between state and federal governments, the 2014 OECD Economic Survey has found.

The survey, released this week, said divided responsibilities could create "wasteful duplication and cost- and blame-shifting", recommending that further efforts to clarify roles and encourage coordination should continue, and that a reallocation of responsibilities in healthcare might be the best route.

The ageing population and expanding treatment options were putting pressure on the healthcare system, the survey found.

"In addition, ageing requires shifts in the composition of services, and the increase in demand is

sharpening the challenges of funding and co-ordinating federal and state health care."

Generally, Australia's living standards and wellbeing compared well internationally, it said.

Medicines Australia CEO Tim James said the latest round of simplified price disclosure price cuts, effective as of 01 Apr (PD 18 Dec), showed that the PBS was not to blame for the increasing pressures identified by the survey. "The fact that the OECD has scored Australia very highly in health status is also due, in large part, to the launch and PBS listing of innovative medicines here – that's a title we definitely don't want to lose."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the survey.

## NICE on dabigatran

**UK'S** National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has approved the use of dabigatran (marketed as Boehringer Ingelheim's Pradaxa in Australia) for treating and preventing recurrent deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism in adults as an alternative to warfarin.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the NICE guidance.

## Merry Xmas and happy New Year!

**THE Pharmacy Daily** team would like to wish all our readers a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

We will return on 05 Jan for the latest news in the pharmacy sector.

Until then, safe and happy holidays.

## PBS travelling rules

**THE** Department of Human Services and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) have partnered up to remind people about the rules of travelling with Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines.

Department GM Hank Jongen said it operated a help line, which more than 3,000 people called last financial year.

Jongen advised checking with embassies of planned destination countries regarding legality of medicines and carrying an explanatory letter from the prescriber, advice echoed by NPS MedicineWise (PD 17 Dec).

ACBPS officers had the power to examine and detain PBS medicines suspected of being exported illegally, the organisations said.

Call 1800 500 147 for more.

## Ask your pharmacist

**THE** Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) has submitted to the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) consultation on draft OTC medicine monographs (OMMs) that in the case of loperamide, labelling should include a statement for any person pregnant or likely to become pregnant to "check with your doctor or pharmacist before using this medicine."

The TGA has included this recommendation in the OMM.

Three other new OMMs are now also available following conclusion of the consultation periods for ranitidine hydrochloride, guaifenesin and mebendazole.

ASMI has also submitted in relation to mebendazole seeking clarification around label wording specifics.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the new OMMs.



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## Raven's Recruitment would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As the holiday season approaches, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support - it's meant a lot to us.

Our office will be open every day except the Public Holidays so we look forward to working with you now, in 2015, and beyond.



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## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

- 19-20 Jan: Tools for the Medicinal Chemist Symposium 2015; Parkville; see: [www.monash.edu/pharm/about/events/tmc2015](http://www.monash.edu/pharm/about/events/tmc2015)
- 1 Feb: Provide First Aid; Bankstown; see: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 6-8 Feb: Foundation Seminar in Clinical Pharmacy Practice; Melbourne; for more details visit: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)
- 14-16 Feb: Pharmacy Re-Entry Course: Refresher Training for Australian Community Pharmacy; St Leonards; more details available at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 21 Feb: Pharmacy in Focus: Bridging the Gap Workshop; Wagga Wagga; more details at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 21 Feb: Better Pharmacy Futures Forum; Wagga Wagga; more details at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 21-22 Feb: Pharmacy in Focus: Cardiovascular Weekend; Wagga Wagga; for more details please visit: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 7-8 Mar: Oncology - Foundation Seminar; Melbourne; for more details visit: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)
- 28-29 Mar: Paediatric Seminar; Adelaide; for more visit website: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)
- 17-20 Apr: 3rd BioCeuticals Research Symposium, titled 'Interconnected Drivers of Health and Disease'; Sydney; more details at: [www.bioceuticals.com.au](http://www.bioceuticals.com.au)

## NHMRC methodology

**AN INDEPENDENT** expert has said while the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) review of homeopathy (**PD** 17 Dec) had some limitations, it was a wide ranging, carefully interpreted study.

**PD** asked University of Adelaide Pharmacology senior lecturer Dr Ian Musgrave to comment on the methodology, who said it was the largest and most extensive recent review of homeopathy research.

Submissions and papers were evaluated against strict criteria recognised internationally, he said.

The main review focussed on systematic reviews, as this was the best way to compare multiple studies, he said.

Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) were considered the highest level of evidence, but the results of a single RCT could be misleading, so it was better to compare as many high quality trials as possible to get a clearer picture, Musgrave said.

RCTs submitted were considered and while there were limitations to this approach, it was widely used in making clinical decisions and did not invalidate the report's findings.

"Three academics invited to comment on the review all broadly agreed there was no high quality evidence recommending homeopathy for any complaint."

The review did not consider any publication not in English; however most high quality studies were published in the English language press and the impact of this on the reliability of the report was marginal, he said.

"Overall, while there are some limitations to the study, this is a wide ranging, carefully interpreted study.

"While overall the broad conclusion is that there is no good evidence the homeopathy being effective in the 61 studied conditions, in at least 13 studies there was good evidence that homeopathy was ineffective."

This was in broad agreement with previous such studies, he said.

season's  
greetings  
from

AUSTRALIAN MEDICINES HANDBOOK

## Cochrane likes e-cigs

**A COCHRANE** review paper based on two randomised controlled trials involving 662 smokers has come out on the supportive side of the use of e-cigarettes.

The studies showed a quit rate of 9% compared with 4% quitting within a year on placebo.

The review said that there was no evidence that short term e-cigarette use was associated with health risk, but said it had limitations - **CLICK HERE** to read.

The Department of Health has released a tender for a discussion paper on options to minimise risks associated with e-cigarette marketing (**PD** 08 Dec).

## Win with Milky Foot

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and **Milky Foot** are giving readers the chance to win a Milky Foot prize.

Milky Foot Intense Exfoliation Foot Pads are the essential beauty treatment for gorgeous summer-ready soft feet. The warm weather kicks off the party season and if you want to kick up your heels, you'll no doubt want to step out in confidence in those gorgeous cute sandals or strappy heels. Milky Foot's treatment only takes 45-60 mins and its peeling effect takes place from about three to five days after first application and is usually complete in seven to 10 days. For more info and to see TVC:

[www.milkyfoot.com.au](http://www.milkyfoot.com.au) or  
[www.facebook.com/milkyfoot](http://www.facebook.com/milkyfoot).

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

How many minutes does a Milky Foot treatment take?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Sarah Gates** from **National Pharmacies**.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**BESPOKE** 3D medicines printed right in your pharmacy?

It could be the way of the future.

With trends toward individualised medicine dosing and combinations, some day, instead of dispensing five or six separate tablets for your customer, you may find yourself printing a single combination tablet on your pharmacy's 3D printer, according to *Scienceline*.

A patent has been filed by a research team at the University of Central Lancashire, England, on a 3D printer that can fabricate pills.

The unit would be able to create existing common drugs such as painkillers and allergy medicines but also could produce more bespoke specific dosage and combination products using a new chemical "ink", the publication reported.

With initial applications expected to be in pharmaceutical companies and hospitals, the article suggests that ultimately it could be located in the homes of patients within 10 years.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

**CPD** points for printer fixing?

If you're a hospital pharmacist, you may want to consider adding some of the overlooked common competencies a *BMJ* article has identified as relevant to everyday work in a hospital.

These include fixing the printer, finding missing equipment, managing the angry charge nurse, dealing with drunken relatives and the coffee run, it said.

The article provides framework for progression in the competencies, with the coffee run consultant level including providing funds and delegating to a senior trainee.

**CLICK HERE** to read.

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