



NOT ALL PROBIOTIC  
STRAINS DO THE  
SAME THING

Recommend therapeutic,  
scientifically validated strains.

**INNER HEALTH PLUS**

## Register now for APP

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Annual National Conference, the Australian Pharmacy Professional (APP) is being held at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Queensland 13-16 Mar this year.

See **Page 4** for details of this premier industry event featuring 4 days of educational, clinical and business sessions, over 300 trade exhibits and extensive networking and socialising opportunities.

Over 20 CPD points are available.

## YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS SORTED

### INCREASE YOUR INCOME!

- Pharmacist recommending add on treatments for better health outcomes
- Pharmacist with time to deliver professional services
- Pharmacist time to implement new business opportunities to grow your business

 Like us on  
Facebook

GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER,  
CALL US NOW

 **DOSE**  
innovations  
AUTOMATING PHARMACY

www.doseinnovations.com

Phone: 1800 003 673 or  
Email: enquiries@doseinnovations.com

## New Guild 5CPA deal

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia has struck a new deal with the federal government intended to ensure the sustainability of Home Medicines Reviews (HMRs), Residential Medication Management Reviews (RMMRs) and MedsCheck/Diabetes MedsCheck services.

The changes to the agreement take effect 01 Mar 2014 and remain in place for the duration of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement (5CPA) to the end of June 2015.

The changes will also enable the phased implementation of a hospital referral pathway to proceed in 2014.

The changes are as follows:

1. The life of an HMR referral is limited to three months to ensure reviews are conducted in a more timely way
2. Follow up HMR & RMMR services are to be based on patient need, not just as a routine matter
3. Introducing service caps for HMRs (20 per month per service provider) and MedsCheck/Diabetes MedsCheck (10 total combined per month per section 90 pharmacy)
4. Ongoing collaboration between the Department and the Guild will ensure HMRs are targeted to those patients at greatest risk.

In addition the Guild assumes responsibility for the administration of 5CPA Programs that currently are managed by the Department of Human Services.

The Department of Human Services will continue to accept claims up to this Friday (14 Feb) and the new claiming system through the Guild will be operational from 01 Mar 2014.

**MEANWHILE** the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has expressed its concern over the capping of the services.

National President Grant Kardachi said, "This cap on medication review services is a profession-wide issue and affects the livelihood of pharmacists across all sectors including accredited pharmacists and pharmacy owners."

Kardachi added that the PSA would work with the Guild, the Government and stakeholders to try to find a viable solution as quickly as possible.

With concerns around the sustainability of the 5CPA, he added, "we have to find a better solution for this growing area of practice which meets the needs of our increasing ageing population."

## ANZ labels align

**NEW** Zealand has changed the paediatric dosage instructions for paracetamol and ibuprofen to align with Australia, in the first move to facilitate harmonised labelling.

Medsafe has published guidance of the changes to instructions on its website, completed ahead of schedule as part of a move towards a common ANZ regulatory framework for medicines.

## Incentives for ePSI

**NEW** incentive payments will be made to eligible community pharmacies to boost the uptake of electronic prescriptions.

The Electronic Prescription Scanning Incentive (ePSI) is an allocation from the existing Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions (ETP) budget in the Agreement to better drive the uptake and rates of scanning of electronic prescriptions.

Specific dollar rewards are allocated to scanning target percentages of scripts.

**CLICK HERE** for full details.

## ACOSS for PBS cuts

**THE** Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) has called on the government to reduce Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme subsidies for out-of-patent medicines, to save \$1.3b in 2015-16.

ACOSS made the recommendation in its Federal Budget submission, saying Australian consumers paid much higher prices for prescription medicines than in comparable countries, particularly generic brands for out-of-patent medicines.

## Pharmacists working for Pharmacists



**Click here  
to see what our  
members have  
to say**



**SmarterPharm Business  
Development Managers**

**Vic & Tas**

Chris 0466 711 702

**ACT, NSW & Qld**

Cathy 0408 163 701

**All other states**

03 9842 2974

**smarterpharm.com.au**



## Don't miss the Boat.

Future proof your pharmacy now.  
**Get Covad.**

Call 1300 788 467 or visit us at [www.covad.com.au](http://www.covad.com.au)

covad

## LOVE IT

“ I LOVE eRx Express. I am having lots of fun with it!! Have just had my 83 year old customer send me her 7 scripts from her iPhone! ”

Fiona Wailes, Kofoeds Pharmacy

## Saxagliptin scrutiny

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is investigating a possible association between the use of saxagliptin (Onglyza and Kombiglyze XR) and heart failure.

The FDA has requested clinical trial data from the manufacturer of the type 2 diabetes drug, following a study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* reporting an increased rate of hospitalisation for heart failure, with use of saxagliptin compared to an inactive treatment.

The study did not find increased rates of death or other major cardiovascular events in patients who received saxagliptin, and information from the study was considered preliminary, with trial data submitted by early March, the FDA said.

“Analysis of the saxagliptin clinical trial data is part of a broader evaluation of all type 2 diabetes drug therapies and cardiovascular risk.”

Saxagliptin is listed as Onglyza on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme general schedule, manufactured by Bristol-Myers Squibb.

A TGA spokesperson said the organisation was aware of the investigation and would review available information to see if any regulatory action was required in the Australian context.

## Still Closing the Gap

THE Prime Minister's Closing the Gap report and the Close the Gap Campaign Steering Committee's progress and priorities report have highlighted the work still to be done in closing the gap in health equality for indigenous Australians.

The committee's report said improvements identified in a 2012 report included significantly improved access to medicines through the Closing the Gap Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) co-payment measure, with 96% of pharmacies participating.

However it said further steps could be taken to improve access for indigenous peoples through this measure.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia said the cost of medicines had been identified as a significant barrier to improved access to medicines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with PBS expenditure about half that of the non-Indigenous

## NHMRC research win

A REPORT has found that research funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) “significantly outperformed” other Australian health and medical research between 2005 and 2009.

The report evaluated research success by the number of journal publications and citations.

average.

Community pharmacists had implemented the Close the Gap PBS scheme arrangements since 2010, and the report, including the fact that little progress had been made in closing the life expectancy gap, should be a call to action for the health sector, the PGA said.

Executive director David Quilty said the Guild was committed to the development and application of Quality Use of Medicines strategies to improve the health and health infrastructure for Indigenous people (*Guild Update PD 11 Feb*).

## ASMI review of GSP

THE Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) is calling for users of the industry guideline Good Supplier Practice (GSP) to provide feedback.

ASMI said when it launched the GSP it committed to a first year of operation review, before deciding on a three year review process.

The Complementary Healthcare Council is also calling for comment on the supporting documentation, Vendor Qualification Questionnaires.

## Ego for eczema

EGO Pharmaceuticals is supporting the inaugural Eczema Awareness Campaign, run by the Eczema Association of Australasia Inc.

The campaign, which will run from 21 Apr to 16 Mar, would share ways to manage eczema leading into winter, with the association's president Cheryl Talent saying the company had a long association with providing products for eczema and sensitive skin in Australian pharmacies.

Talent said one in three Australians had suffered from eczema at some stage, one of the world's highest incidences of the skin condition.

## EMA intros UPIs

THE European Medicines Agency has introduced unique product identifiers (UPIs) to track medicines through pre-authorisation procedures.

Companies with a new medicine approaching the Agency for the first time will fill in a registration form to provide simple information on the medicine and send it to [upiregistration@ema.europa.eu](mailto:upiregistration@ema.europa.eu) in order to receive their UPI.

# Retail Assistants Conference 2014

pharmacy alliance

20-22 May  
The Langham  
Melbourne

Book Now on  
03 9860 3300  
& Save \$50!

Empower your  
retail team to drive  
your front-of-shop  
performance.

## Win [A'kin] Purely Revitalising Lifting Eye Creme

Every day this week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an [A'kin] Purely Revitalising Lifting Eye Creme.

Only the [A'kin] by Purist Purely Revitalising Range harnesses the pure power of naturally potent antioxidants & omega oils to brighten, firm & lift skin for a more youthful looking, radiant you.

This new eye crème naturally combats the signs of ageing by lifting and revitalising the fine skin around your eyes & brightening the delicate eye area.

For more information visit: [www.purist.com](http://www.purist.com).

To win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).



### Which skin type is the new [A'kin] Purely Revitalising range suitable for?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Laura Ramsay** from **Terry White**.

## Advertise with us

For details call us today: 1300 799 220

- Cost Effective
- Targeted
- Easy

Pharmacy DAILY

## FDA on infant formula

**THE** US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has published its "interim final rule" on standards for manufacturing infant formula.

"Many families rely on infant formula as either the sole source of nutrition or an integral part of an infant's diet through 12 months of age," said Michael R. Taylor, the FDA's deputy commissioner for Foods and Veterinary Medicine.

Only 75% of children in the US start life breastfeeding.

## Travel Specials

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

**TRAVEL** *On Sale*

This weeks travel specials are brought to you by **Travel on Sale**. For serious savings on quality holidays visit [travelonsale.com.au](http://travelonsale.com.au) or call 1300 013 729

**Travel on Sale** has a holiday special to the Maldives - fly with Singapore Airlines, stay four nights at the four star Kurumba Maldives from \$1685 per person and you get one free night, breakfast daily and return speedboat transfers from the airport.

Or you can stay at the five star Vivanta by Taj - Coral Reef Resort with four nights accommodation, return flights, breakfast and free return speedboat transfers from \$2349 per person.

The five star Iru Fushi Beach and Spa Resort is offering a seven night stay from \$2875 per person, including two free nights, a discounted rate and return seaplane transfers.

For something special, there's the Romance at the Datai at the Datai Langkawi in Malaysia, from about \$970 per couple per night valid from 01 Mar to 19 Dec including luxury accommodation for two and a romantic dinner by the beach.

## US pharmacy vax praised

**WORK** with pharmacists to increase vaccine administration in the United States has been lauded as an accomplishment and progress in the US Department of Health and Human Services' 'Annual Report: State of the National Vaccine Plan'.

The report, to be published annually to provide updates on the 2010 National Vaccine Plan implementation, said the National Vaccine Program Office and the Centres for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention worked with pharmacists in 2012 to increase vaccine administration through various methods raising awareness and knowledge, recommending and offering vaccines and stocking vaccines.

This created momentum among pharmacists to see themselves as vaccine providers.

A section of the report from Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene representatives said pharmacists providing vaccinations could be an important way to reduce barriers and increase access to vaccinations, with Maryland pharmacists able to administer some vaccines for the past 10 years, including influenza.

"This option has substantially expanded access to vaccination. Our overall influenza vaccination coverage rates are increasing, and, per national data from CDC, around one in five of all vaccinated adults in the United States now get their vaccination at a pharmacy."

The report said the number of Maryland pharmacists trained and certified to provide vaccinations had grown from 500 in 2009 to more than 3000 in 2013.

## Learn about the TGA

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Agency (TGA) has Posted a new educational materials section on its website.

It is designed to provide different levels of education around the role of the TGA with specific sections for consumers, health professionals, university students and also for industry, small business and other stakeholders.

**CLICK HERE** to access the site.

"We expect that number to increase even more throughout the coming years, as the new law went into effect this October."

The report emphasised the need for primary care clinicians to have information about the vaccination status of patients.

To read the report, **CLICK HERE**.

## Comcom warns PGNZ

**THE** New Zealand Commerce Commission sent letters of warning to the Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand (PGNZ), as well as all District Health Boards (DHBs) and pharmacies about a "no discounting" clause in the Community Pharmacy Services Agreement (CPSA).

PGNZ was warned for its role in advocating the inclusion of the clauses, which the Commission believed had the effect of prohibiting pharmacies from waiving, or discounting, the \$5 co-payment for dispensing prescription items, and were likely to have breached the Commerce Act.

The DHBs had since removed the clauses from the agreements at the start of last year, Commission chairman Dr Mark Berry said.

"Once the no discounting clause was removed, two pharmacies ... advertised discounting again and noticed an increase in the number of prescriptions being dispensed."

Berry said pharmacies and other health providers needed to remember that they were in competition with each other, despite the "collegial nature" of the professions and professional associations, such as the Guild, were subject to the Act and needed to give attention to complying with the competition laws.

The PGNZ said it had acted in good faith during CPSA discussions, and the DHBs took responsibility to ensure the CPSA complied with the law.

The Guild supported the DHBs decisions not to enforce the breaching clauses, and would continue to be mindful of the prohibitions in the Act against anti-competitive agreements.

## Vit D for IBD & CRC

**A RECENT** study out of Canada and the UK and published in *Therapeutic Advances in Gastroenterology* has summarised that "there is rapidly increasing epidemiological and strong experimental evidence, suggesting a role for vitamin D in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and colorectal cancer (CRC)."

The paper said that "it is clear that vitamin D potentially has potent immunomodulatory actions on the T-cell-mediated processes implicated in the pathogenesis of IBD, both at DC and T-cell level."

The researchers called for more study on the matter especially in the form of clinical studies.

**CLICK HERE** to read the paper.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**NOW** that's a leader.

Ever felt like you really needed to know whether the Prime Minister was actually a space alien?

You could follow suit of one New Zealand citizen, who submitted an Official Information Act request to the Prime Minister's office asking for evidence disproving the prime minister was a reptilian alien, *Stuff.co.nz* reported.

Unfortunately for John Key, his office responded that it had no such information existed to disprove the theory, the publication said.

**TO** the intelligence born.

Researchers from King's College in London have discovered a gene which may make people more intelligent.

The researchers found that teenagers with a highly functioning NPTN gene performed better in intelligence tests, the *Telegraph* reported.

It was thought that this gene affected how brain cells communicated and could control the formation of grey matter, which was important in memory, attention and perceptual awareness, the publication said.

# APP2014

13-16 March



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Queensland

## Register for pharmacy's premier industry event!

### APP2014 will feature:

- ✓ Four full days of educational, clinical and business sessions
- ✓ Renowned Australian and international speakers
- ✓ Over 300 trade exhibits with FREE trade exhibition access on Saturday & Sunday
- ✓ Extensive networking opportunities
- ✓ Exciting social functions including the Gala Dinner (featuring special guest entertainer Sneaky Sound System)
- ✓ Over 20 CPD credits



**REGISTER NOW AT:**  
[www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com)

#### PRINCIPAL SPONSORS



#### PROGRAM SPONSORS



#### MAJOR SPONSORS



#### OFFICIAL PUBLICATION SPONSOR



#### CONFERENCE MOBILE APP SPONSOR



#### CONFERENCE VIDEO WRAP SPONSOR



#### CLINICAL & BUSINESS SESSION SPONSORS



#### GALA DINNER SPONSORS



#### LUNCH BREAK SPONSOR



#### REFRESHMENT BREAK SPONSOR

