

## Weight loss cap alert

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has posted a warning about Apple's Quick-Impact Weight Loss capsules.

The TGA said the capsules contained sibutramine, despite the label claiming it was natural and contained no medicines.

Sibutramine was a prescription-only substance, the active ingredient in Reductil, which was withdrawn in October 2010 after a study showed increased risk of major cardiac events, the TGA said.

The capsules also contain phenolphthalein, previously used as an oral laxative but no longer available due to serious safety concerns in long term use.

Supply of the capsules is illegal and consumers should be advised to stop taking them immediately, the TGA said.

## PSA: challenges ahead

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) ceo Liesel Watt said the pharmacy profession would continue to face challenges this year, particularly in the current economic climate.

*Pharmacy Daily* asked a number of industry leaders their predictions for 2014 - in this **PART III** of the three responses, Watt said the industry needed to meet challenges head on and find opportunities within them.

"We are strongly promoting a greater utilisation of pharmacists as healthcare clinicians to provide stability and a sustainable future for the profession."

Watt believed the evolution of community pharmacies as health destinations, offering a wide range of professional services and advice, would grow this year.

"Our health destination trial has shown the effectiveness of this model where a pharmacist is located front of shop to meet customers and speak to them about their health needs."

The industry needed to learn from the current Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement as

negotiations began for the next agreement, which would exist with a rapidly rising ageing population and an increase in the number of chronic conditions, Watt said.

"We need to be smarter and more strategic in how we deal with this dynamic and how we structure the Agreement to ensure health needs are met while also maintaining a viable and sustainable pharmacy profession."

The industry needed to take a holistic approach to healthcare and move away from the 'body parts' approach which saw particular specialisation of services for very specific conditions, Watt said.

"Pharmacists make clinical judgements based on the patient presenting to them at the time - which should be supported by tools and funding streams that mean that whatever the health service the patient receives, the pharmacist as a clinician, is remunerated in some way.

"We must adapt the profession to deal with these issues along with giving pharmacists the tools and capacity to work to their scope outside of narrowly focused areas."

## MedWise in the heat

**NPS** MedicineWise is reminding people to be aware of storage and transportation of medicine in the heatwave.

The organisation said some medicines lost their effectiveness when stored above a certain temperature.

For more information on temperature impacts **CLICK HERE**.

## Blue Mountains help

**ASSISTANT** Minister for Health Senator Fiona Nash said that immediate additional funding would be provided to the Blue Mountains Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service, to help with increased demand after the bush fires.

For more details around the funding, **CLICK HERE**.



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## WIN A SPOTNER AGESPOT CORRECTOR PEN

This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a **Spotner** Agespot Corrector Pen, valued at \$29.95.

New Spotner Agespot Corrector Pen revolutionises the treatment of age spots. With its precision pen applicator, Spotner works to visibly reduce the appearance of age spots. With a simple twice daily treatment, results can be seen within just two weeks.

With Spotner, you can treat your age spots at-home easily and effectively without the need for expensive and timely salon treatments.

For further info visit: <http://www.spotner.com.au/>

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

**What is the main benefit of Spotner's precision pen applicator?**



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### Weekly Comment

Welcome to PD's weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Peter Marshall**, ceo of **Pharmacy Solutions Australia**.



## Buying Your First Pharmacy

**UNDERSTANDING** the financial details of the pharmacy that you are considering purchasing is obviously paramount to your decision making process, however there are a number of other considerations which may not be as obvious.

Having a strong sense of your skills is very important – how will these skills improve the pharmacy and add to the bottom line of the prospective business?

The purchaser of any pharmacy needs to be able to consider the geographic proximity of the competition and the likelihood of their movement, along with the chances of a new pharmacy license being granted in the catchment area.

What support will you get from wholesalers and is branding a viable option? How will this branding contribute to improving the net profit of the business?

How will this purchase change your lifestyle? Will there be less time for family, exercise etc? Will there be increased stress and will you cope with the additional workload?

These are considerations which require thought before putting an offer in on a pharmacy. If you are comfortable with the answers to all the questions then it is likely you have found a pharmacy which is suitable for you.

Please contact Peter Marshall on [peterm@pharmacysolutions.com.au](mailto:peterm@pharmacysolutions.com.au) if you would like to discuss this further.

## ASMI seeks gov't reform

**THE** Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI), the peak body representing sponsors of non-prescription medicines, is calling upon the Federal Government to support its five initiatives aimed at helping manage the health challenges of the future while supporting a responsible and sustainable industry.

In its 2014-15 Federal Budget Submission, the organisation has reminded the government that its members comprise 85% of the \$4b self-care market, employ approximately 17,000 people and export an estimated \$600m annually.

The five initiatives promoted are:

1. Help establish an Australian Self Care Alliance
2. Implement direct-to-consumer communication reform wrt pharmacist-only medicines
3. Establish a best practice regulatory scheme through the joint Australia New Zealand Therapeutic Products Agency (ANZTPA)
4. Implement appropriate IP protection provisions for non-prescription and complementary medicines
5. Encourage the NHMRC to focus investment on complementary medicines research

"Supporting individuals to be

more active and engaged in managing their own health is an important dimension to building a more sustainable healthcare system for the future," said ASMI executive director Deon Schoombie.

"Expanding self care will be the key driver to promote this shift in behaviour.

"Working collaboratively, the Alliance will harness expert opinion to address some of the critical issues that impact primary health, as well as promote policies that support self care, prevention and health literacy."

Schoombie also argued that self care can reduce the burden on GP and hospital service saying that US research has found that for every \$1 spent on over-the-counter (OTC) medicines, the U.S. healthcare system saves \$6 to \$7, providing \$102 billion in value each year.

In March, ASMI will be able to release Australian research examining potential healthcare cost savings that self care can deliver to our own economy.

### Stud Park Amcal robot



**AUSTRALIA'S** first Consis B4 robotic dispenser has been installed in Amcal's pilot store at Stud Park in Victoria.

Pharmacy owners Janet and Terry Murphy (**above right**) have partnered with Willach to install the device, which holds up to 12,000 packages on a space of 4.8 sqm and delivers medicines at eight different points in six seconds.

Willach Australasia managing director John Koot (**above left**) said the company was seeing an increase in customer demand for dispensary solutions.

Terry Murphy said the Consis would help improve efficiencies and give staff more time to consult with customers.

### Nuclear med changes

**REVIEWS** of maladministration reports in the Australian Radiation Incident Register have led to changes being recommended.

Published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, researchers led by Westmead Hospital nuclear medicine and ultrasound physician associate professor George Larcos, reviewed reports from 2007 to 2011 and found that the estimated rate of maladministration incidences was 5.8 per 100,000, with roughly half arising from an incorrect radiopharmaceutical being prepared or dispensed.

Other causes included mistakenly injecting the wrong radiopharmaceutical due to inattention at 18.1% and injecting an incorrect patient at 8.7%.

The risk to patients was low but the pattern of errors highlight that certain tasks require greater attention & further research the MJA said.



### DISPENSARY CORNER

#### PSYCHO-HO-HO-HO-SIS.

A study by Oxford University researchers claims that comedians have personality types linked with psychosis, which could explain why they entertain.

Comedians scored highly on characteristics which in extreme cases were associated with mental illness, the *BBC* reported.

Comedians also had high levels of both introversion and extroversion.

The study looked at 523 comedians of both genders from the UK, United States and Australia.

University of Oxford Department of Experimental Psychology Professor Gordon Claridge said the creative elements needed to produce humour were "strikingly similar" to those characterising the cognitive style of people with psychosis - both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

This is not to suggest that one can't be a balanced person at the same time as being a comedian.

### Nutricia refutes NPS

**RECENTLY** NPS MedicineWise reported in the NPS' *Health News and Evidence* that Souvenaid, a nutritional supplement from Nutricia, failed to "decrease rate of cognitive decline" in Alzheimer's patients or delay "disease progression."

Nutricia says that Souvenaid has never been promoted as achieving those as yet unattainable goals.

People with Alzheimer's disease have medically determined nutritional requirements for which Souvenaid was formulated, resulting in improvements in episodic memory as demonstrated in two large published randomised controlled clinical trials conducted with more than 500 patients.