

"With the PBS changes, this workshop has empowered me to analyse my business and put strategies in place to reduce the impact. Geoff is a vibrant presenter."

Fiona Mann, Mannum Chemplus



Pharmacy Accredited A103FMRC1 This course has been accredited for 28 group 2 CPD credits and 10 group 1 CPD credits for inclusion on a pharmacist's CPD Record. Participants can convert the 10 group 1 CPD credits into 20 group 2 CPD credits by completing an optional assessment within 3 months.

Snack Attack is back

AUSTRALIA'S only aspartame and sugar-free nutrient gum, Snack Attack Chewing Gum, is now back in stock.

See [page three](#) for details.

Testosterone heart tick

A NEW study published last week in the *Annals of Pharmacotherapy* demonstrated no significant increased heart attack risk in older men treated with an intramuscular form of testosterone.

The study out of Texas, US involved more than 24,000 patients being treated between Jan 1997 and Dec 2005.

Further, the data showed that testosterone was associated with a possible protective effect, a reduced risk of heart attack.

[CLICK HERE](#) to source the study.

\$16.2m for HIV meds

MINISTER for Health Peter Dutton has said from July 01 2015, changes would be made to prescribing and dispensing arrangements for Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme subsidised HIV antiretroviral medications.

Dutton said \$16.2m had been committed over four years to improve patient access to these therapies in the community, part of a move to make testing and treatment for HIV easier and more accessible.

The changes meant the medicines could now be dispensed through a pharmacy of the patient's choice, regardless of where the medicine was prescribed, Dutton said.

"This better reflects the desire of many Australians to receive care in the community rather than a hospital."

The move will also see a restriction for manufacture and sale of HIV home self-test kits removed, with companies now able to apply for the Therapeutic Goods Administration for approval to supply kits directly to consumers.

The government launched five national strategies including the HIV changes (see [page two](#) for more).

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia national president Grant Kardachi said the availability of the kits would help increase the rate of diagnosis of HIV sufferers, leading to greater management and better outcomes for this group of patients.

"Increasing the accessibility of HIV antiretroviral therapies is welcomed and gives patients greater choice to get their medicines."

"It will be a great comfort to patients that their medicines can now be dispensed through a pharmacy of the patient's choice, including community pharmacies, regardless of where they were prescribed."

Janssen-Sanofi link

JANSSEN-CILAG yesterday announced a locally signed agreement with Sanofi-Aventis Australia Pty Ltd (Sanofi) to combine efforts to co-promote their respective diabetes therapies Invokana (canagliflozin) and Apidra (insulin glulisine) in Australia, effective immediately.

The agreement brought together Janssen's oral diabetes treatment Invokana, with Sanofi's experience in assisting people living with diabetes to manage their condition, Janssen Australia and New Zealand md Chris Hourigan said.

Invokana is a sodium glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors and Apidra is a short-acting insulin.

RGH on aspirin and AF

PREVENTION of thrombotic complications in the elderly is a challenging issue according to the RGH Pharmacy EBulletin this week, especially with patients diagnosed with atrial fibrillation who are consequently at increased risk of stroke and usually have associated cardiovascular disease.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the bulletin.

New NAPSA branches

THE National Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) has affiliated two new branches.

Now representing students who study pharmacy at the University of Technology Sydney and University of Newcastle, NAPSA said this meant it had members from 18 pharmacy schools across Australia.

Sam Turner (Queensland University of Technology) has also been elected its new president, replacing Xavier Agostino.

Vice president Lauren Haworth (University of Tasmania) was also elected, as well as secretary Samara McInerney (University of SA) and treasurer John Traynor (La Trobe) and six other committee chairs.

Other elected positions included Education: Caitlyn Burke (Charles Sturt University) and Industrial Affairs: Kieran Ferguson (RMIT University).

Wide NSAIDs abuse

RESEARCH out of the University of Sydney has found that older Australians are taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) for too long and without sufficient precautions according to the guidelines.

Published in *Pain*, the study revealed that NSAIDs prescribing practices do not align with specific clinical practice guidelines for safe use in older people.

Lead author Dr Danijela Gnjdic from the Faculty of Pharmacy said Australian and international guidelines suggested NSAIDs should be used for short-term treatment and be taken as needed.

"This is clearly not what is happening in reality."

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

TGA Lady-Era warning


LADY-ERA tablets pose a serious risk to health and are illegal to supply in Australia.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has assessed the product to find that it contains prescription levels of diclofenac as well as sildenafil.

Neither the quality, safety, efficacy nor place of manufacture have been approved by the TGA.




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Quit therapy combo

COMBINATION therapy using both varenicline (Champix) and sustained-release bupropion (Zyban) has been shown to be more effective than varenicline alone for male smokers and for smokers with a high degree of nicotine dependence.

The randomised, double-blind, parallel-group adaptive treatment trial was published in *The American Journal of Psychiatry* last month and evaluated 222 smokers who failed to show a reduction of more than 50% in smoking after one week of nicotine patch treatment.

CLICK HERE access the abstract online.

Guild Update

THE Pharmacy Guild congratulates Sam Turner from Queensland University of Technology on his election as President of the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA).

At NAPSA's annual general meeting on the Gold Coast over the weekend, Mr Turner was elected to replace outgoing president Xavier Agostino. The Guild looks forward to continuing its excellent relationship with NAPSA under Mr Turner's leadership. We also thank Xavier Agostino for his inspiring drive and commitment as a young leader in the pharmacy sector, and wish him well in his burgeoning career.

We note the NAPSA announcement that it has expanded, with two new branches – University of Technology Sydney and University of Newcastle. NAPSA now represents students from 18 pharmacy schools. Communicating with young and emerging leaders in pharmacy is a priority for the Guild and we will continue to support NAPSA at every opportunity.

The medium and long term future of the profession depends on the next generation, and the Guild's leaders are determined to do everything possible to attract them to our industry, nurture them, teach them and ultimately make way for them.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

APLF on path tests

THE Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum (APLF), the coalition of national pharmacy organisations including The Pharmacy Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, has said it would endorse and support an initiative by the Friends of Science in Medicine (FSM) and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia to warn the public about unvalidated and "pseudo-scientific" diagnostic tests.

The warning came in the form of an advisory paper to the government and the Therapeutic Goods Administration last year, calling for better regulation of pathology tests promoted by various practitioners including some pharmacies, FSM said.

It said most pseudo-pathology tests relied on scientific and medical ignorance of consumers.

"Most of these tests have no proven accuracy, clinical validity or utility."

Examples of these tests included hair analysis for "toxins" and cancer tests not performed by NATA-approved laboratories, FSM said.

In a letter sent in mid-June, APLF chair John Low said the FSM's correspondence regarding the issue was discussed at the APLF's December meeting and each pharmacy organisation in the Forum had taken the responsibility to inform and educate their respective members regarding the issue.

\$22.5m for prevention

A NEW prevention program focusing on sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and blood borne viruses (BBVs) including HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C costing \$22.45m is being launched by the government and endorsed by the Health Council of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

The program targets populations at high probability risk namely gay and bisexual men, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culturally and linguistically diverse Australians, young people, people in rural and regional areas, and people who inject drugs.

The government said \$7.2m will go to reduce the rate of STIs among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, \$1m toward point of care demonstration HIV testing projects, \$5.1m for needle and syringe programs, \$4.6m to increase hep B testing and treatment and \$4.5m for the 20th International AIDS Conference in Melbourne in July.

Docetaxol UK recall

TEVA UK Limited is recalling a batch of Docetaxol 20mg/0.72ml concentrate for infusion because the results of tests for impurities carried out during routine stability studies did not comply with the required specifications.

The batch number in question is 0380313 with expiry of 09/2014. No Australian stock is affected.

Win a derma e® pack

This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five readers the chance to win a **derma e®** Pack.

derma e® Psorzema Crème and Body Wash can naturally & effectively help soothe the symptoms of dermatitis, eczema & psoriasis. Natural actives Neem, Burdock, Bearberry & Vitamins A & E deliver healing, soothing nourishment, plus antibacterial properties.

Visit: www.dermaenaturalskincare.com.au

To win, be first to send in the correct answer to:

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True/False: derma e® is a leading natural skincare brand in the US, now available in Australia

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Emma Kelly** from **Fresenius Kabi**.



DISPENSARY CORNER

IT'S a magical sport.

We get all kinds of research showing that fitness is a vital part of keeping healthy but have you considered the magical benefits of sport?

If not, maybe Quidditch is the game for you, because yes, it exists.

The third annual conference of the International Quidditch Association was held last week in Washington and the sport now has more than 4,000 players on 300 teams around the world, the *Washington Post* reported.

The sport was played by non-magical people by running on a field with brooms or PVC pipes between your legs, throwing balls to team mates and through hoops, the publication reported.

DON'T bag the voice.

If you've ever tussled with the automatic check out machines in supermarkets on your way to the pharmacy, then you'll feel the pain of the UK's shoppers, who get to hear the phrase "unexpected item in bagging area" far too often.

However the identity of the female voice behind the phrase that has made many a shopper contemplate taking a baseball bat to an inanimate object has been revealed as a former EastEnders actress, Helena Breck, the *Telegraph* reported.

Her calming voice, and the infuriating phrase, can be heard at more than 10,000 supermarkets in the country, it said.

DOWNLOAD the FREE *Pharmacy Daily* iOS App, **CLICK BELOW**.



Snack Attack is back in stock!

The revolutionary hunger busting Snack Attack Chewing gum is now back in stock. Formulated with six scientifically researched natural ingredients the Snack Attack Hunger Craving Support Gum is designed to replenish the vital nutrients needed to resist hunger cravings and help maintain daily energy.

Snack Attack is Australia's only sugar and aspartame free nutrient gum that uses a patented tri-layer compressed gum technology to lock in the active ingredients so they are released within minutes of chewing.

The active ingredients include:

- **Green Coffee (50%GCA)** - Rumoured to be used by the likes of Katy Perry, J-Lo and Demi Moore during red carpet season this unique extract is obtained from decaffeinated green coffee beans and is rich in chlorogenic acids and a source of caffeic and quinic acids.
- **Green Tea extract** - rich in flavonols which are highly regarded for their antioxidant benefits and purported to help reduce fat absorption
- **L-Carnitine** - an amino acid that converts fatty acid into fuel the body can use for energy and also promotes growth and development
- **Chromium** - plays an important role in enhancing the action of insulin for the metabolism and storage of carbohydrates. Studies have shown that high blood sugar levels deplete chromium levels and can impair your ability to metabolise glucose.
- **Thiamin & Biotin** - B-group vitamins that are essential for energy and macronutrient metabolism.

How does Snack Attack work?

The secret to Snack Attack's success is its patented triple layer active release technology that locks in the ingredients so that they are released rapidly into the digestive system as soon as the gum is chewed. Studies have shown that active ingredients are absorbed faster through chewing gum than with pills or capsules - Snack Attack provides 100% release of nutrients after just 5 minutes.

Simply chew 2-4 pieces per day to help beat the urge to snack between meals. In conjunction with a healthy diet and regular exercise Snack Attack is an ideal aid for your customers reach their weight loss goals quickly and easily. Its delicious, long lasting vanilla mint flavor also freshens the breath and keeps teeth and gums healthy.

Each Snack Attack pack contains 8 pieces of gums, lasting 2-3 days and costs \$5.95. Snack Attack is available from leading health food stores and pharmacies.

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