

### Friday's comp winner

FRIDAY'S winner of the derma e pack was **Belinda Mann** from Actegy Health.

This week's *Pharmacy Daily* competition is sponsored by Caroline's Skincare - see [Page 3](#).

### New AusPARs

**NANOPARTICLE** albumin-bound (nab), paclitaxel (Abraxane) and Normal human immunoglobulin (Hizentra) AusPARs have been added - [CLICK HERE](#) to access it.

## \$35m for diabetes research

**MINISTER** for Health Peter Dutton announced approval of \$35m in funding for the Special Research Initiative for Type 1 Juvenile Diabetes, allowing the first funding payments to be made and work to start.

The initiative, administered by the Australian Research Council, looked to build a national collaborative research network that supported and promoted the most promising researchers and projects, and a research program working towards finding a cure for the disease, the Department of Health said.

Dutton said it affected 122,000 Australians, of which about 20,000 were children.

The Australian Research Council told *PD* \$7m per year over five years would be provided and as there was still a competitive process to be undertaken, it was not able to answer specific questions about the research program with regard to pharmaceutical treatments, and whether this would be a focus.

"The Initiative will involve researchers with track records in quality research outcomes and coordinating team-based cross-disciplinary projects."

Medicines Australia ceo Dr Brendan Shaw said there had been advances in the availability of innovative diabetes medicines over the past decade, with many new medicines under development.

"Australia's public and private sectors continue to work hard to develop new treatments for a range of chronic diseases including diabetes, and the collaboration between the Australian Government and industry is crucial to delivering discovery-driven research and incentives for new and improved treatment options."

### RCPA HIV test warning

**FOLLOWING** the announcement regarding the legalisation of HIV self-tests in Australia (*PD* 10 Jul), the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) has called for caution around the test accuracy.

RCPA president associate professor Peter Stewart said a positive result would require a laboratory blood test to be taken, in order to confirm the result, and that if an HIV self-test had a negative result, the person might not be free from HIV, as the test was known to produce a "concerning rate" of false negatives.

### Primary care access

**CREATING** a geospatial index of access to health services relative to need for health care has enabled a comparison among and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, says the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The Institute has released its report titled *Access to primary health care relative to need for Indigenous Australians* utilising the index in its analysis.

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

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## Pharmacy Alliance management change

**PHARMACY** Alliance Pty Ltd managing director Simon Reynolds has been appointed executive chairman and will step aside from his day to day responsibilities.

Executive general manager Darren Dye has been appointed ceo as a consequence effective as of 01 Jul, Pharmacy Alliance said.

The board said it had also brought the operations/business development and sales function of the organisation into a single management structure to meet the changing marketplace and needs of the members, under the management of Scott Carpenter, who joined Pharmacy Alliance on 02 Jul in the newly created position of general manager operations and business development.

Carpenter was previously gm retail operations at Terry White Chemists.

Pharmacy Alliance said it was confident these organisational changes would strengthen the support offered to members.

## Self Care program expands

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has expanded the Self Care program to provide pharmacies with information on how to run a targeted health promotion.

Many of the program's resources had been tailored to focus on health promotions, the successful running of which would help pharmacies make the most of the Community Pharmacy Agreement incentives while improving health outcomes for consumers, PSA ceo Dr Lance Emerson said.

These incentives are offered under the Primary Health Care element of the CPA for screening and risk assessment and/or disease state management services.

Running a successful health promotion was an area most pharmacies would like to cover and the 12 health topics available included asthma, hay fever, immunisation, smoking cessation and Home Medicine Reviews, the PSA said.

Each topic has a one page 'how to' document on running a promotion, and a planner.

The program is free to subscribers who have already purchased the Self Care program for \$860 per year, and subscribers can also order a marketing kit containing posters and fact cards.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

## MHRA drug alert

**THE UK** Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has issued a 'Caution in Use' drug alert to hospital ward level for Amoxicillin Sodium 250mg, 500g & 1mg Powder for Solution for Injection, manufactured by Wockhardt UK Ltd (EL (14)A/09).

Extravasation and injection site reactions in neonates and infants have been observed and health care professionals are being cautioned not to use the product in neonates until further notice.

The product is not available here.

## NZ drop-in kids clinics

**NEW** Zealand Health Minister Tony Ryall recently visited sore-throat drop-in clinics in Auckland suburbia to assess the impact of the free clinics, speaking with pharmacists about their effect.

The NZ government has invested \$67m in a rheumatic fever prevention campaign, enabling more than 3,300 children who are most at risk of developing the disease to be checked, Minister Ryall spoke with pharmacists and other healthcare professionals about the difference the clinics are making. "There are now 108 free drop-in sore throat clinics around the country.

"By the end of the year, over 200,000 children will be able to get their sore throats checked and be provided with medication for free."

A related program is also being provided by the NZ Ministry of Health, National Health IT Board, Midlands Health Network and four district health boards to prevent disadvantaged children missing out on important health services.

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## Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD*'s weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Associate Professor Luke Bereznicki, Deputy Head of the School of Medicine, University of Tasmania**



### The Importance of Research to Pharmacy

I AM often asked by students, pharmacists and people outside the profession the question - What has research got to do with pharmacy? Clearly, the development of the pharmacy profession over time will largely be determined by the skills and healthcare roles performed by pharmacists.

To enable pharmacy to continue to be a profession with value and standing within the community, best practice facilitated by research is paramount. Not only do we need academics whose area of focus is pharmacy practice, but we also need a workforce that understands the need for research and has the knowledge and skills to be active participants in research.

The importance of practice-based research to the future of pharmacy cannot be over-emphasised. Research is the lifeblood of any professional group. It is largely through the knowledge research contributes that a profession will advance and develop services that are effective, efficient and essential.

Research provides pharmacists with the opportunity to be recognised in a particular area of practice and work with other professionals who appreciate the value of research.

Pharmacists make great researchers, and I encourage you to take the opportunity to get involved in pharmacy practice research.

## EMA Rienso review

THE European Medicines Agency's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) has finished its review of Rienso (fermoxytol), used to treat anaemia in patients with long term kidney disease, concluding that the benefits outweighed the risks.

PRAC said it looked at recent reports of serious hypersensitivity reactions with the medicine and that to better manage the risks of such reactions, it recommended that it be given by infusion over at least 15 minutes, instead of by injection, and that it should be contraindicated in patients with any known history of drug allergy.

The Committee also completed an European Union-wide review of bromocriptine-containing medicines for preventing or suppressing lactation.

The Committee recommended that the medicines only be used for this purpose when there are compelling reasons for stopping lactation, since an association with rare but potentially serious cardiovascular, neurological and psychiatric side effects could not be ruled out.

To read the other PRAC review conclusions, [CLICK HERE](#).

**MEANWHILE** the European Medicines Agency has recommended 39 medicines for human use for marketing authorisation in the first half of this year, compared with 44 in the first half of 2013 and 33 in 2012.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.



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## Donor streamlining

A NEW national clinical information system to streamline organ and tissue donation processes across Australian hospital networks has been announced by the Assistant Minister for Health Fiona Nash.

The DonateLife Electronic Donor Record (EDR) went live nationally from 01 July and was commissioned by the Organ and Tissue Authority.

The EDR makes donor referral data, medico-social history and family consent information readily available in digital format replacing a 28 page paper based system.

It would expedite the allocation and viability assessment process, Nash said.

## FDA global controls

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published a summary of its actions to better protect the global drug supply chain.

These actions include a proposed rule to extend its detention authority to include drugs and a draft guidance which details what the FDA sees as actions that delay, deny or limit an inspection, taken from the behaviours observed by field investigators, including a facility leaving an investigator "in a conference room without access to necessary documentation or responsible individuals for an unreasonable period of time."

[CLICK HERE](#) for the 12 month summary.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**ADAM** and Eve drug.

More research, this time on a matter close to many people's hearts, the natural love drug, the apple.

The study, published in the *Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics*, surveyed 731 Italian women, finding those who ate apples every day had better sex lives than those who didn't.

The authors say apples contain polyphenols and antioxidants, which can stimulate blood flow to the genitalia boosting arousal, as well as phloridzin, which is similar to the female sex hormone estradiol.

**CONFERENCE** by any other name.

*Pharmacy Daily's* sister publication *Business Events News* featured a column by SPIKE Presentations director Andrew Klein, who argued for more interesting and out-there conference names.

He said while he understood the benefit of having a theme and linking key messages together in a title, he would like to see a truly honest conference theme.

"Get the Remainder of your CPD Points 2014", "Ditch the Partner & Kids for a Few Days 2015", "Gold Coast is Lovely This Time of Year" and "Help Us Use the Remainder of the L&D Budget Convention 2015" were some of his suggestions.

Send us yours by [CLICKING HERE](#) and to read more from Klein, [CLICK HERE](#).

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## WIN A CAROLINE'S SKINCARE GIFT PACK

This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five readers the chance to win a **Caroline's Skincare** pack, containing two tubes of the New Caroline's Cream.

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