

### Side-effect reporting

THE UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has released new research looking at the rate of side effect reporting by parents of children being treated with medicines.

The results showed that Londoners were the least likely to inform healthcare professionals about suspected Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) with just 69% of parents noting that they would report a side effect to a doctor and 39% saying they would ask their pharmacist, compared to a high of 88% and 59% by parents in Wales.

The research was conducted as part of a campaign to increase reporting from parents and carers of suspected side effects associated with medicines taken by children.

Research has suggested that only 10-15% of serious side effects are reported in the entire population.

### Guild: Audit MedsCheck

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has called for an audit of the MedsCheck program.

This follows reports that Chemist Warehouse has been pushing MedsChecks within its pharmacies, with one store completing more than 300 in a fortnight.

In *forefront*, executive director David Quilty said the Guild had been contacted by concerned pharmacy owners and staff, who were upset that their use of MedsChecks was being curtailed in the 01 Mar cap (PD 13 Feb), particularly if due to other groups allegedly not abiding by the rules.

He said the Guild was passing on any written and anecdotal information it received about alleged questionable behaviours to the Departments of Health and Human Services.

Quilty said the Government

should audit any pharmacies who had been claiming an "inordinately large number" of MedsChecks and any pharmacies found not to be abiding by eligibility criteria and requirements should be required to repay the money, with examples of fraud sent to authorities.

"By taking firm action, the Government will send a strong signal that it is determined to maintain the integrity of these important medication management programs to the benefit of patients and the overwhelming majority of Australia's 5,300 pharmacies who do the right thing."

The Federal Department of Health said it took any report of inappropriate use of services very seriously and would investigate where appropriate.

A spokeswoman said she could not comment on any internal audits or investigations planned or underway, until they were completed and action taken where necessary.

Chemist Warehouse had not replied to a request for comment at time of writing.

### No stress-Crohn's link

A STUDY has suggested that job strain is not a major risk factor for Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

Published in *PLOS One*, 'Job Strain and the Risk of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases: Individual-Participant Meta-Analysis of 95,000 Men and Women' looked at 95,379 participants who did not have inflammatory bowel disease.

It found 111 people developed Crohn's and 414 developed ulcerative colitis during follow up, however job strain was not associated with incident of either.

To read the study, [CLICK HERE](#).

### FDA lifts Oxycyte hold

OXYGEN Biotherapeutics Inc has said the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has lifted the clinical hold on Oxycyte, meaning the company can continue with the clinical development program in the country.

The company said it had submitted animal studies' results to address FDA concerns about the use of the drug in treating traumatic brain injuries, and in particular the interactions between OxyCyte and the immune system.

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## DVA Webclaim

**THE** Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has announced a new web-based claiming channel, called DVA Webclaim.

The channel will be available from 01 Jul and would be a no cost service, the department said, designed to assist allied health providers who had a small number of DVA clients, removing postage costs and delays from the claiming process.

"DVA Webclaim will provide efficiencies to these providers by removing the need for posting manual claim forms."

It would allow medical and allied health claims to be lodged online by manually inputting information into a smart form, providing instant responses to most claims, as well as allowing access to statements for processed claims, the DVA said.

The channel would be available on the Department of Human Services Health Professional Online Services portal to health professionals with an individual Public Key Infrastructure certificate.

The Department said it had been working in partnership with the Department of Human services to develop the channel since 2012.

## Ignite participants named

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has announced the eight successful participants in its 2014 ignite leadership program which aims to develop high-performing early career pharmacists into future leaders who will drive strategy, change and innovation.

The 2014 ignite participants are Rhyhan Stanley ACT, Anna Barwick NSW, Elise McGilchrist NSW, Anjana Rao NSW, Colleen Niland NT, Laura Gabriel Tasmania, Katherine Hancy Vic and Paul Buise WA.

PSA national president Grant Kardachi said ignite offered young pharmacists a unique leadership development experience that broadened their understanding of leadership and aimed to develop

## New orphan addition

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has listed as a designated orphan drug Clinical Network Services' Anti-H5N1, for passive immunotherapy in case of post-exposure or suspected post-exposure to H5N1 avian influenza virus.

their leadership skills.

"The program combines interactive workshops, experiential and distance learning, inspirational speakers, mentoring, networking opportunities and a practical workplace project to develop participants as future leaders."

## MM2014 abstracts

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is calling for abstract submissions for the Medicines Management 2014 conference, held from 11 to 14 Sep.

The closing date for submissions is 16 May and SHPA reminds those wanting to submit that time spent writing a paper or poster for presenting at a conference is a Group 3 CPD activity.

Conference themes include Sink or Swim: Leadership in health care.

For more information on submitting an abstract or attending, **CLICK HERE.**

## Omega-3 for acne

**A NEW** study out from Seoul National University Hospital has demonstrated that Omega-3 and  $\gamma$ -linoleic acid can be used as adjuvant treatments for acne.

Published in *Acta Derm Venereol*, the 10 week randomised, controlled parallel dietary intervention study was performed in 45 participants with mild to moderate acne, aiming "to evaluate the clinical efficacy, safety, and histological changes induced by dietary omega-3 fatty acid and  $\gamma$ -linoleic acid in acne vulgaris."

The authors stated that after 10 weeks, inflammatory and non-inflammatory acne lesions decreased significantly and patient subjective assessment showed a similar result.

Objectively, haematoxylin and eosin staining of acne lesions demonstrated reductions in inflammation and immunohistochemical staining intensity for interleukin-8.

**CLICK HERE** to see the paper.

## Client Relationship Manager/ Team Leader

**Travel Daily** is Australia's leading travel trade publisher, with a portfolio of publications also including **Business Events News**, **Cruise Weekly**, **TD Cruise Update** and **Pharmacy Daily**.

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## WIN A DERMASUKIN PACK!

Everyday this week **Pharmacy Daily** are giving two lucky readers the chance to win a **DermaSukin** prize pack, valued at \$34.90.

DermaSukin is the latest offering from leading natural skincare brand, Sukin. Consisting of five products specifically formulated to be naturally gentle on sensitive, dry, itchy or problem skin, DermaSukin proudly wears the Dermatologist Certified label, with accreditation on all five non-irritating and non-sensitizing formulations in the range. They are soap free, fragrance free and are free from the myriad of harsh chemicals, also not present in Sukin's core range.

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Hint! Visit [www.DermaSukin.com](http://www.DermaSukin.com)

*The DermaSukin range consists of two products for dry skin, what are they?*

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner **Jacqueline Mattock** from **Beenleigh Discount Drug Store.**

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## Antiretroviral success

**TWO** studies by different groups have found 100% protection against AIDS in monkeys that received monthly injections of antiretroviral drugs.

There was evidence that one injection every three months could work on humans as well, the *New York Times* reported.

'Long-Acting Integrase Inhibitor Protects Macaques from Intrarectal Simian/Human Immunodeficiency Virus', published in *Science*, said the injections could decrease adherence problems associated with daily preexposure prophylaxis, or taking antiretrovirals daily.

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

## Travel Specials

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



This weeks travel specials are brought to you by Travel on Sale.

Travel on Sale have specials to Vietnam on offer this week.

Travel to Saigon for four nights with return flights and taxes on Vietnam Airlines from \$925 per person.

Or try four nights at the five star Sofitel Legend Metropole in Hanoi, including flights, breakfast and a reduced rates bonus from \$1359 per person.

You can add on the Street Food and Market Breakfast tour in Hanoi for \$79 per person, or if you're staying in Saigon, a private Cu Chi Tunnel Tour starts from \$68 per person, including transfers to/from your hotel, entrance fees and an English speaking guide.

Indulgence packages including flights start from \$1895 per person.

For more, call 1300 013 729.

## Varicella supply resumes

**GLAXOSMITHKLINE** (GSK) has said shipments of varicella-containing vaccines will resume gradually by the end of February.

The company warned in January that a "global manufacturing issue" meant a temporary disruption in supplies of Varilrix and Priorix-Tetra, used to prevent chicken pox and in the case of the latter, measles, mumps and rubella as well (*PD* 29 Jan).

It said at the time that it was working closely with State and Federal Governments to manage existing supplies of the vaccines and to minimise the impact of the disruption.

GSK said the vaccines did not pass the release standard during testing, and an investigation revealed that

there had been a leak in a bulk container in its factory in Wavre, Belgium.

The resumption of supply followed an investigation and resolution of the issue, including corrective measures being put in place at the manufacturing site to help prevent the issue reoccurring, GSK said.

## easyBLIST upgrade

**EASYBLIST** has released the latest version of its patient profile & workflow management software and DAA packaging range.

The new functionality is designed to enhance the new Guided Fill and Guided Check modules integrating them into their web based software.

Danny Faelis, IT and operations manager for Australia said, "Pharmacists have a key role to play in improving medication adherence by providing a DAA service.

"It's also well known that providing DAAs helps pharmacies to attract and retain new patients in a highly competitive market."

The software integrated with the easyBLIST packaging and automation, enabling production of DAAs quickly and accurately, he said.

Go to [www.easyblist.com.au](http://www.easyblist.com.au) for more information.

## NHMRC: 1.3% to CM

**THE** National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) said by its calculations, it believes the average yearly commitment over the last decade for complementary and alternative medicine research (CAMS) over the last decade was around 1.3% of total funding.

Swisse ceo Radek Sali said that the average yearly commitment was 0.2% (*PD* 03 Mar).

NHMRC said it was unsure what method the company used for generating the figure.

NHMRC said its Strategic Plan 2013-15 identified 'claiming benefits for human health not based on evidence' was a major health issue.

It said it did not allocate research funds to specific disease types or areas, except in very specific circumstances.

"The overwhelming majority of funding is investigator initiated, and therefore the area of research is determined by the applicant team, not the NHMRC."

The NHMRC said CAM'S applications represented 3% of all applications over the 10 year period to 2013 and 2% of all grants.

"Over the same period CAM'S have had an average funded rate of 18.7% compared to 26.8% for all applications."

## Clenbuterol abuse

**THE** prescription-only S4 drug Clenbuterol, used as a bronchodilator in horses and by athletes as a performance enhancer, is increasingly being used by the general public.

A study published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* found 63 cases of clenbuterol exposures over nine years of data from the NSW Poisons Information Centre, with a "dramatic increase" from three cases in 2008 to 27 in 2012, with 84% of patients requiring hospitalisation.

Researcher Dr Jonathan Brett said there were arguments to restrict sales by putting the drug into the same category as benzodiazepines and anabolic steroids.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

### CAVEMAN influenza.

Researchers have revived a virus from Siberian permafrost more than 30,000 years old - and said virus is new to science.

The virus infected amoebae and was not a threat to humans, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported, but raised the possibility that viruses which do harm humans could be lurking in the ice.

How's THAT for a B-grade horror movie?

### NOW that's low.

Counterfeiters have cheated Girl Scouts not once, but twice, using fake bills to pay for cookies and then getting change for the 'purchase'.

At least two thieves used the scam, in two different locations in Rancho Cucamonga, setting the organisation back by about US\$200, the *Sideshow* reported.

The Girl Scouts even used a 'counterfeit pen' on the cash to check, which didn't pick up the fakes and the troop leader has described it as a "life lesson", the publication reported - presumably to take classes on counterfeiting detection.

### TWO million retweets record.

Another record crashed along with Twitter, temporarily at least, when host Ellen DeGeneres posted a selfie with a few friends at the Oscars recently.

The 'friends' were fellow celebs Jennifer Lawrence, Meryl Streep, Kevin Spacey, Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts, Bradley Cooper and Lupita Nyong'o.

DeGeneres encouraged the billion-strong audience to retweet the pic to beat the record, passing the 2m mark in 40 minutes.

### BEST. Omelette. Ever.

If you're an aspiring cook, look away - a drunken NZ man broke into a stranger's house and made an omelette with eggs, honey, butter chicken sauce and cayenne pepper, *stuff.co.nz* reported.