

## World Pharmacists Day - 25 September

**TOMORROW**, pharmacists and pharmacy students around Australia will celebrate World Pharmacists Day with a series of health promotion events, health check services and fun activities.

The theme of this year's events, 'Access to pharmacists is access to health', aims to increase public awareness of the role pharmacists play to support healthy living and how pharmacists provide essential healthcare services to Australians.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) said that the event was an initiative of the International Pharmaceutical Federation and highlighted the respected role of pharmacists in the local and broader community.

## COPD exacerbation

**CLINICAL** trials of prevention, rather than acute treatment, of respiratory exacerbations with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) have shown "promising results".

Published in the *BMJ*, the research found long acting  $\beta$  agonist (LABA) or long acting anti-muscarinic (LAMA) bronchodilators and inhaled corticosteroid-LABA combinations prevented exacerbations in at risk patients, with relative risk reductions of 14% to 27% on average, compared with placebo, and new potential drugs such as mitogen activated protein kinase inhibitors offered "additional hope" for treatments, it said.

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

## Health leadership call

**HEALTH** organisations are calling on the government to show leadership when it comes to health funding.

A new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) showed government spending on health overall fell by 0.9% from 2012 to 2013.

Governments funded \$100.8b or 68.3% of total health expenditure in Australia, 1.6% lower than in 2011-12 and the largest reduction of the decade, the report found.

AIHW director and ceo David Kalisch said it was the lowest growth recorded since the mid-1980s and more than three times lower than the average growth over the last decade at 5.1%.

The report identified the PBS, public health, dental services and e-health as the main drivers of reduced government spending.

Organisations including the Consumers Health Forum and Australian Council of Social Service have signed a Joint Community Sector Statement on Health, calling on the government to reject new mandatory healthcare co-payments, recommit to funding of health programs targeting early intervention and reverse decisions that reduced health budget spend.

The groups acknowledged health was one of the largest expenditure areas for government and there were opportunities to make the health system more efficient, but said changes should preserve universal and free access to care.

Total health-related spending in Australia was estimated at \$147.4b

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## Online reg available

**ONLINE** renewal of registration for pharmacists is now available.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia said pharmacists due to renew general or non-practising registration by 30 Nov could now submit an online application.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

## WIN A HYDRALYTE PACK

This week **PD** is giving five readers the chance to win a **Hydralyte** pack.

Did you know? Dehydration is the biggest health risk associated with vomiting and diarrhoea - you can lose up to 3L of fluid.\*

Hydralyte's formulation contains the correct balance of fluid, glucose and electrolytes for rapid and effective hydration. When sickness strikes, offer fluid replacement (Hydralyte) immediately.

\*Mild Hydration, 4% fluid deficit, in an 80kg adult.

See [HERE](#) for more details.

To win, be one of the first from WA to send the correct answer to:

[comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

What does Hydralyte contain the correct balance of?

Congratulations to yesterday's winners from QLD, **Sherree Walters, Alice Buchanan, Noelene Morris, Aaron Doyle and Kaye Hazel**.

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## Sleep tabs hit elderly

**HYPNOTIC** agent zolpidem can affect the elderly more dramatically than younger users even at standard doses, according to new research out of the US.

The work evaluated the dose proportionality of zolpidem in both male and female elderly patients compared with younger counterparts, finding that the elderly had higher maximum concentrations (Cmax) and area under the curve (AUC) values.

Both Cmax and AUC were higher in elderly women than in elderly men.

Zolpidem is marketed in Australia by Sanofi-Aventis, Lupin and Pharmacor.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration in Australia warns that less common adverse effects of zolpidem can include rage reactions, insomnia, confusion, agitation, hallucinations and other unwanted behaviour whilst apparently asleep, such as eating food, making phone calls or having sexual intercourse.

**CLICK HERE** to source the paper.

## Pharmacy in rural GPs

**PHARMACISTS** practising in rural GP clinics could save government money, the Senate Select Committee on Health has heard.

Dr David Rivett, a GP from Batemans Bay, told the Committee at a public hearing in Moruya that loosening the pharmacy regulations would be good for the general health of the population, with pharmacists getting more involved in rural practice.

He said current reduced pharmacy regulations with GP Super Clinics were still restrictive, and location restrictions made it difficult to place pharmacies within general practice.

"There is a surplus of young pharmacists coming through the system who want to be clinically involved.

"You could at least trial somewhere putting them into larger general practices and trying to reduce costs of medications and create better efficiency of medications.

"They could have a very useful role and get some clinical benefit at the same time, but at the moment the pharmacy regulations are making that difficult."

Pharmacist involvement was particularly important when it came to the ageing population, as people had more comorbidities and were taking multiple medications, Rivett said.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia recently announced it was working with the Australian Medical Association to develop a model of pharmacists working in GP clinics (**PD 23 Jul**).

In this model, pharmacists would not be involved in dispensing but might undertake activities such as medication management reviews and supporting GP prescribing.

The Competition Policy Review draft report has recommended removing the ownership and location regulations for pharmacy (**PD 23 Sep**), which the Guild has said it rejects.

## Clinton-Aust project

**WITH** an objective no less ambitious than "transforming health in the Asia Pacific Region", the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together to transform access to health in developing countries over the next five years.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop and former US President Bill Clinton witnessed the signing.

The Department says that the MOU would support Australia's \$5b aid program, which encouraged innovation in research and new technologies to promote sustainable economic growth and alleviate poverty.

Bishop also announced the establishment of a Development Innovation Hub to test creative ideas and strategies to address different development challenges.

Australia has previously worked with CHAI and since 2006 has contributed \$88m to the Initiative.

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## Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### New Dry Mouth Strip from CareDent

Twenty five per cent of older people and 10% of the general population suffer from dry mouth, a problem that occurs from a lack of saliva in the mouth, says CareDent. Consequently, the company has launched **Rapids Dry Mouth Strips**, a fast acting relief for dry mouth sufferers. Rapids Dry Mouth Strips dissolve effectively when placed on the tongue and increase the flow of saliva by more than 100%, said the company. They are effective for up to two hours and the application can be repeated as often as necessary, up to 12 times per day.

Stockist: 1800 369 273

RRP: \$9.95

Website: [www.doward.com.au](http://www.doward.com.au)



### Scholl Footcare new Antifungal Nail Treatment

**Scholl Fungal Nail Treatment** is promoted by Scholl as a scientifically proven, advanced formulation liquid for treatment of mild fungal nail conditions. Scholl Fungal Nail Treatment features a uniquely designed system, with a discrete, one-way file dispenser mechanism that is easy to use and comes with five disposable files. Scholl says that the product has been clinically tested to gently remove the top layer of the infected nail. Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist see your healthcare professional.

Stockist: 1800 022 046

RRP: \$49.99

Website: [www.scholl.com.au](http://www.scholl.com.au)



### Hamilton sunscreen SPF50+ - Everyday Face

Hamilton sunscreen offers attractive profits to pharmacies and is a pharmacy only brand. Hamilton sunscreen has been protecting Australians for more than 80 years, and is proudly Australian made and owned. One of the world's first commercial sunscreens, Hamilton is relaunching with its most advanced protection. The new **Hamilton SPF 50+** range provides UVA/UVB broad spectrum protection in a dry-touch formula that is non-greasy and does not leave any white residue. The iconic sunscreen range has been consolidated into eight essential SKUs that cover the needs of the entire family.

Stockist: 1800 653 383

RRP: \$12.95

Website: [www.hamiltonsun.com.au](http://www.hamiltonsun.com.au)



### Sally Hansen's 2014 Spring Collection - Complete Salon Manicure for race day

The **Spring Collection** is comprised of seven Spring Racing inspired shades of premier polish. As the ultimate colour authority, Sally Hansen has always set the trends when it comes to nail shades. These latest Sally Hansen shades are perfect as a spring racing fashion accessory and are designed to complement any outfit. From pretty pastels to chic neutrals these new shades of **Complete Salon Manicure** are sure to have you race-day-ready this spring. Sally Hansen says there are seven benefits of a salon manicure in one bottle. The formula includes a base coat, a strengthener, a growth treatment, colour, the top coat and a sparkling chip resistant gel shine finish.

Stockists: 1800 812 663

RRP: \$9.95 each

Website: [www.au.sallyhansen.com](http://www.au.sallyhansen.com)



### DISPENSARY CORNER



**PRAISE** the breakfast toast!

Science research doesn't always have to be serious, as the IG Nobel Prizes can attest.

The awards are handed out to those who make people laugh, and then think, organiser *Improbable Research* has said.

University of Toronto Professor Kang Lee was awarded an IG Nobel Prize for a study on 'face pareidolia', or the recognition of famous faces in normal formations such as toast.

His paper, titled 'Seeing Jesus in toast: Neural and behavioural correlates of face pareidolia' was written with colleagues and published in *Cortex*.

The winners of the physics category were Kiyoshi Mabuchi, Kensei Tanaka, Daichi Uchijima and Rina Sakai for their paper 'Frictional Coefficient under Banana Skin', which, yes, measured the amount of friction between a shoe and a banana skin, and between the skin and the floor, when a person steps on a banana peel.

Honourable mention goes to the public health prize winners, for their paper investigating whether it is mentally hazardous for a human to own a cat, and to the Australian representatives in the psychology prize for a paper showing evidence that night owls are more psychopathic than early risers.

**MORE** on marijuana.

As several Australian states begin looking at trialing medical marijuana (**PD 18 Sep**), a television reporter in Alaska quit her job on air to fight for its legalisation.

KTVA's Charlo Greene reported on the Alaska Cannabis Club last week before revealing at the end of her report that she was its owner, *AP* reported.

Greene said she would dedicate herself to fighting for legalising marijuana in the state, before quitting with an expletive to boot as she walked off air, *AP* reported.