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## APP2016 headliner

**CARLO** Berardi, chair of the Canadian Pharmacists Association (pictured), has been confirmed as a keynote presenter at APP2016



which takes place on the Gold Coast 17-20 Mar next year.

Berardi will explore issues around the expanded scope of practice for pharmacists and their role in primary care.

See [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com).

## APLF rejects homeopathy

**THE** Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum (APLF) representing the peak professional bodies for pharmacy, has issued a position statement to clarify their position on homeopathy.

Backing the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) report on homeopathy published in March this year, the members of the APLF unanimously agreed that the pharmacy professional organisations should support the NHMRC findings of the lack of effectiveness of homeopathy in treating health conditions.

It has also firmed on the role of pharmacists saying that they should not recommend, sell or support the use of homeopathic treatments.

Recently when the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) issued their statement endorsing the NHMRC report (**PD** 10 Sep), Complementary Medicines Australia (CMA) came out in defence of homeopathy (**PD** 11 Sep).

CMA ceo Carl Gibson said,

## Antibiotics partnership

**NPS** MedicineWise and Webstercare have announced their latest collaborative Medicinewise Report to assist in the review of use of antibiotics for urinary tract infections (UTIs) in residential aged care facilities (RACFs).

The RACF Medicinewise Report enables RACFs to identify patterns of medicine use, and reports are free to access via pharmacies using the Webstercare Medication Management Software.

This latest report will enable review of antibiotic use for UTIs, help improve resident care in line with evidence-based guidelines, identifying residents who may benefit from a review of their medicines and more.

"We are very disappointed that the homeopathy report is being endorsed by health associations, given that a number of independent experts in the sector have expressed strong concerns with the methodology of the review, according to information obtained from NHMRC under Freedom of Information laws."

Industry watchdog Ken Harvey has referred to the NHMRC FAQ from the public consultation to answer CMA concerns.

**CLICK HERE** for NHMRC FAQs.

## Shingles awareness

**BIOSL**, the maker of Zostavax (Zoster virus vaccine), is urging pharmacy staff to brush up on their knowledge of shingles, with an upcoming awareness campaign likely to see an increase in enquiries.

Recent data shows a 51% increase in cases of herpes zoster amongst Australians aged over 60, and the Fairfax radio network campaign titled "Don't Shhh Shingles" aims to encourage consumers to speak to health professionals about the risk of the condition which affects about one in three adults during their lifetime.

## Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today has two pages of news plus full pages from: (**click**)

- Pharmacy Choice
- Monash University

## Industry hails ministry

**DESCRIBING** the new ministry team for the health portfolios as "now one of the strongest the sector had seen", national president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Joe Demarte has welcomed the continuing appointment of the Hon Sussan Ley as Minister for Health, that of Hon Fiona Nash as Minister for Rural Health and Ken Wyatt AM as Assistant Minister for Health in the new ministerial line-up announced by PM Malcolm Turnbull.

The Australian Self-Medication Industry also welcomed the appointments, with ceo Deon Schoombie saying ASMI looks forward to working to advance policy, "particularly reshaping the regulatory framework for OTC and complementary medicines".

And Medicines Australia welcomed the strong focus on innovation in the new ministry, saying it was an opportunity to create a "smarter, stronger and healthier Australia".

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### Guild Update

## The Guild supports Walk4BrainCancer

ACROSS the country in late October and November, Australians will be getting to their feet for brain cancer.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia charity partner, Cure Brain Cancer Foundation, have set up an initiative to raise awareness and funds for cancer research.

Ten thousand Australians will be taking part in charity walks for brain cancer during the month of November. Community pharmacies are urged to support a local walk. Get your staff and customers involved and maybe even start a walking group.

This is a good opportunity to raise awareness about an important issue and build relationships with your customers.

Some of the major walks are:

- Newcastle, Sat 25 Oct
- Brisbane, Sun 26 Oct
- Centennial Park - Sydney, Sun 1 Nov
- Canberra, Sun 8 Nov
- Gosford, Sun 8 Nov
- Melbourne, Sun 8 Nov
- Adelaide, Sun 22 Nov
- Albury, Sun 22 Nov
- Perth, Sun 22 Nov
- Tasmania, Sun 22 Nov
- Manly, Sun 29 Nov

More walks are announced on the Walk4BrainCancer Find a walk page (<http://www.walk4braincancer.com.au/events>), so keep an eye out for updates.

If you want to discuss how your pharmacy can become involved in Walk4BrainCancer, including starting your own walk, please contact Emily at Cure Brain Cancer on 02 9550 5244 or email [events@curebraincancer.org.au](mailto:events@curebraincancer.org.au).

## Blackmores runs the course

THE streets of Sydney were dominated by Blackmores last weekend, with the company's collateral plastered across thousands of participants in the annual Sydney Running Festival.

As well as singlets highlighting Blackmores' "Be a Well Being" tag line, runners wore Blackmores headbands, were encouraged to relax at the end with the help of Blackmores yoga, while some lucky VIPs were able to view the passing parade from the comfort of a Blackmores marquee complete with masseurs, a hearty breakfast and some reviving coffee.



The Blackmores team was out in force, and pictured above after completing the course are the company's chief operating officer Richard Henfrey with chairman Marcus Blackmore.

### Price disclosure Q&A

THE Department of Health has published a set of questions and answers in relation to comments made during the current consultation on price disclosure originator brand removal.

See [www.pbs.gov.au](http://www.pbs.gov.au).

### RGH Phcy E-Bulletin

THIS week's E-Bulletin covers the complex topic of contraception in women with a history of migraine, referring to the World Health Organization (WHO) 5th edition of "Medical eligibility criteria for contraceptive use" - **CLICK HERE**.

## Win with Bosisto's!

This week Pharmacy Daily is giving readers each day the chance to win a Bosisto's prize pack including Natural Saline, Eucalyptus, Calming, and Moisturising nasal sprays.

Flush away pollen and irritants and enjoy Spring sneeze-free with Bosisto's range of PH-balanced saline nasal sprays. Choose four varieties including fragrance-free Saline, Eucalyptus, Calming and Moisturising formulas – all including naturally-derived ingredients such as Essential Oils, Aloe Vera, Pro Vitamin B5 and Vitamin E. Visit [bosistos.com.au](http://bosistos.com.au).

To win, be the first person from QLD to send the correct answer to

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

Fill in the gap: Bosisto's Nasal Sprays contain \_\_\_\_\_-balanced natural saline.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Danielle Kaminski from Link Healthcare.



### DISPENSARY CORNER



A BRITISH man caused quite a stir last month when he was admitted to hospital after taking 35 Viagra pills in an hour.

According to the UK *Sun* newspaper, Daniel Medforth was dared by a mate to take the tablets and did so "for a laugh".

After he took the Viagra Medforth began to feel unwell and told his wife, who called an ambulance.

"I ended up feeling sick, dizzy and hallucinating, everything I saw was green," he said.

"The paramedics were very professional but you could see they were trying not to laugh. The doctors and nurses told me off," Medforth said.

He ended up with periodic erections over the next five days which "would not go away".

"Every time I brushed against something...it sprang into life and it was no use to me," he added.

DOCTORS may soon be prescribing a dose of Tai Chi, after a study published in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine* found the ancient Chinese art helped with the pain and stiffness associated with arthritis.

The researchers from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada reviewed several dozen studies looking at the health benefits of Tai Chi, confirming it had also been helpful in improving the quality of life for patients suffering chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

"Tai Chi can improve some physical performance outcomes in four chronic conditions (cancer, osteoarthritis, heart failure and COPD) but not at the expense of worsening pain or dyspnoea," according to lead author Dr Yi-Wen Chen, who suggested in the future it may be possible to consider prescribing the exercise.



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