

## Certificate for Leave

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### Levy to open ASMI conference

**THE** Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) has confirmed that Health minister Sussan Ley will present at the organisation's upcoming conference taking place on 27 Oct in Sydney.

ASMI said it was keen to hear from the newly reappointed minister on "progress of regulatory reforms impacting the consumer healthcare sector" - and in particular consumer communication of Pharmacist-Only (S3) medicines.

"Minister Ley has been an advocate of self-care," ASMI said, with other items on the agenda including an overhaul of the scheduling framework and provisions for market exclusivity/data protection for OTC and complementary medicines in order to incentivise innovation.

The conference will also feature sessions on "Leveraging Pharmacy to enable the health consumer" and "Chinese Demand and Australian Consumer Healthcare Products".

### Rockmelon alert

**HEALTH** authorities have warned people not to consume rockmelon until further notice, after a national outbreak of Salmonella Hvittingfoss which has been found in fruit from an NT rockmelon grower.

A trade level recall of 'Red Dirt' rockmelons will be undertaken and all contaminated items will be removed from the supply chain, but in the meantime rockmelon should be avoided, according to SA chief medical officer Paddy Phillips.

## Terry White, Chemmart deal

**EBOS** Group ceo Patrick Davies this morning unveiled a seismic shift in the Australian pharmacy landscape, with the proposed merger of Chemmart with the Terry White Group (*PD* breaking news).

The deal, which will see the creation of one of Australia's largest retail pharmacy networks, will see EBOS sell Chemmart to Terry White Group and at the same time take a 50% shareholding in TWG.

Davies said the pharmacy industry was positioned for growth, with Australia's ageing population and positive community attitudes towards health and wellbeing.

"The combined businesses will take a leadership position on health services within community pharmacy, whilst also maintaining a value for money offering," he said.

Davies said the combined businesses would have about 500 pharmacies in total, with retail turnover of \$2 billion per annum.

EBOS will consolidate TWG into its financial statements effective from the completion of the deal, which is subject to approval by Terry White Group shareholders.

Terry White Group ceo Anthony

White said both networks had complementary retail offerings, strong cultural synergies and a "mutual focus on value for money and front line health services" that would deliver a stronger, more capable network of pharmacies.

"The merger of the two networks creates a comprehensive national footprint and increased scale which, when combined with capabilities across retail, merchandise and private label, will improve the group's competitiveness and front line health service delivery for the benefit of all our pharmacy owners and customers," White said.

The franchise management entity will be renamed to reflect the multiple brands within the group, with the team to be led by White as ceo while Chemmart executive director Duncan Phillips will become chief operating officer.

### Biogen a target?

**BIOTECHNOLOGY** giant Biogen has drawn takeover interest from drug companies Merck and Allergan, raising the prospect of yet another huge acquisition within the health-care industry, according to a report in the *Wall Street Journal*.



Communications at this stage were said to be "informal and preliminary", and by no means indicative of a definite result.

Biogen shares closed up 9.4% on the news of talks, the report said.

### New guidelines layout

**THE** European Medicines Agency (EMA) has improved the presentation of its scientific guidelines for medicines on its website, with each guideline displayed on a single page with drafts, reflection papers, concept papers, previous versions and links.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

Did you know that goat's milk contains prebiotic oligos which are structurally closer to breast milk\*



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\* When compared to standard cow's milk;  
Source: Urashima and Taufik, 2010.

### Q1 AHPRA report

**THE** Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has issued its quarterly performance report summarising data for each state and territory.

The data can be used to compare states and territories to national activity as well as to inform research.

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

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## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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### Cruise the Norway coast with Bentours

**SCANDINAVIAN** specialist travel group Bentours has released its flash MEGA-sale, offering savings of up to 35% on 2017 departures.

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## PSA unveils new CPD tool

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has confirmed details of the Continuous Professional Development planning tool launched at last weekend's PSA16 conference (*PD 01 Aug*), with the online system aiming to simplify the process of developing a CPD plan in accordance with the Pharmacy Board of Australia's

### NZ e-cig consultation

**THE** New Zealand Ministry of Health has opened consultation on proposals to adjust the legal status of e-cigarettes.

A consultation document proposes that all e-cigarettes (with and without nicotine) are made available for sale and supply lawfully in New Zealand, but that they are subject to some of the same restrictions as legal, smoked tobacco products, a proposal which would require legislative change.

This would restrict the sale of e-cigarettes to people 18 and over, the advertising of e-cigarettes, and prohibit the use of e-cigarettes in smoke-free places.

The consultation closes 12 Sep.

revised registration standard.

The PSA CPD Planning Tool is free for the Society's members, an provides a "step-by-step process to assess your skills against your areas of practice, identify gaps and what you need to do to upskill yourself," said PSA national vice president Michelle Lynch.

Jan Ridd, PSA Executive Director of Practice Support and Education, said the key advantage of the tool is how it simply identifies learning opportunities, linked in with PSA's extensive suite of educational and training resources.

The Society will run free workshops for pharmacists across the country, offering hands-on guidance and support in developing and maintaining CPD plans - registrations at [psa.org.au](http://psa.org.au).

### Board Communiqué

**THE** Pharmacy Board of Australia has released a communique following its most recent meeting, highlighting a call for applications for appointment to the Scheduled Medicines Expert Committee.

See [pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://pharmacyboard.gov.au).



## Dispensary Corner

**THE** Pokemon Go phenomenon is certainly addressing the stereotype of children not getting enough exercise because they play video games all day.

An 11-year-old boy from Hong Kong took it a little too far this week when he collapsed from fatigue while playing the augmented reality smartphone game shortly after it was launched in the city.

He apparently quickly became addicted by the challenge of "catching 'em all" and walked more than 50km around Hong Kong over a 24 hour period.

His distressed mother lured him home with the promise of an iTunes card, but he fainted outside a convenience store as the purchase was being made.

After being admitted to hospital he was found to simply be suffering from exhaustion.



**AND** speaking of exhaustion, scientists in Germany have discovered that some birds are actually able to fly while asleep.

The researchers were studying great frigatebirds, which cover massive distances and are said to be able to fly continuously for as long as 60 days.

They fitted some of the birds with brain activity monitors and movement trackers, and found they actually sleep for an average total of 41 minutes per day, even though they are in flight.

The micro-sleeps are usually only about 12 seconds long, and happen while they are circling in rising air currents meaning they don't need to flap their wings.

## Win with MOR

This week Pharmacy Daily and MOR are giving away each day the Essentials Collection in Sugar Rose worth \$149.65.

The Essentials collection presents five memorable fragrances in an assortment of quality products to embrace everyday self-indulgence. Experience the collection with Triple-Milled Soaps, Vitamin enriched Hand Creams, Hand & Body Washes and Lotions, regenerating Body Polish and fragrant Candles and Reed Diffusers.

For more information visit [morboutique.com](http://morboutique.com).

To win be the first person from SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

What natural exfoliating beads can be found in MOR's Essentials Body Polish?

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Eliza Ma.*



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