



## Scheduling proposals

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration is calling on stakeholders to provide comment on proposed amendments to the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling (ACMS) in relation to twelve medicines.

The items include the possible down-scheduling of preparations containing 1mg or less of **melatonin**, & a proposal to exempt combinations of **paracetamol and caffeine** from Schedule 2 when supplied in primary packs of not more than 10 tablets/capsules.

Also on the agenda is a possible new Schedule 3 entry for **varденаfil** 10mg in packs of 8 - which would make the erectile dysfunction drug available as a pharmacist-only item.

The ACMS is also considering a proposal that **vitamin D** be included in Appendix H, while there's also the possible exemption of **nicotine** from Schedule 7 for delivery via e-cigarettes for the purpose of tobacco harm reduction.

Input is sought on a proposal to exempt **cetirizine** from Schedule 2 with a maximum pack size of ten days' supply, while the agenda also includes proposals in relation to **panobinostat, ceritinib, ilaparib, brivaracetam and follitropin delta**.

A full consultation document is now available on the TGA website, with interested parties invited to provide submissions by close of business on 01 Sep.

For details see [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## GSK-NPS COPD partnership

**GLAXOSMITHKLINE** will fund an offshoot of NPS MedicineWise to produce and deliver a new education program to GPs on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

VentureWise is an "independently run, wholly owned commercial subsidiary of NPS MedicineWise," established last year to explore commercial opportunities with pharmaceutical manufacturers, health insurers and other providers.

Under the new GSK deal, the VentureWise program will aim to "provide greater clarity to health professionals on medicine choice for COPD, improve adherence and inhaler technique, and reduce confusion associated with medicines for COPD and asthma".

VentureWise retains complete independence in determining all aspects of the design, content and implementation of the program, according to the organisation's managing director Greg Hughes.

The move follows the introduction earlier this year of GSK's new framework for medical education and interaction with health professionals to increase transparency.

GSK Australia medical director Andrew Weekes said VentureWise and GSK both recognise there are challenges for GPs in keeping up with advances in COPD therapeutics, given a proliferation

in options and in the evidence base.

"GSK's recent commitment to supporting independent medical education around such identified gaps gave us the opportunity to support this important program.

"Our new funding framework guarantees the independence of this education, developed and delivered entirely at arm's length from GSK...we believe this model has the potential to make a meaningful difference for patients in Australian primary care," Dr Weekes said.

Educational visits on the COPD program have already started in selected locations across Australia.

## Nerve-block therapy

**BLOCKING** neural signals may become a whole new way to manage certain diseases such as type 2 diabetes, arthritis and asthma, according to GlaxoSmithKline vice-president of bioelectronics Kris Famm.

Animal experiments have attached tiny silicone cuffs, containing electrodes, around a nerve and then used a power supply to control the nerve's messages, restoring sensitivity to insulin in T2 diabetes rat models.

"It isn't just a one-trick-pony, it is something that if we get it right could have a new class of therapies on our hands," Famm told the BBC.

He added that the fledgling field of bioelectronics was only "scratching the surface" when it came to understanding the geography of nerve signalling.

## Visine campaign

**JOHNSON & Johnson Pacific** is set for a major promotion of eye care product Visine, with a three month multi-million dollar advertising campaign to kick off next month.

J&J group marketing manager Sonya King said the campaign was a "great opportunity for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants to proactively educate customers on eye care and drive retail sales".

The company has also added the new Zyrtec Nasal Spray to its allergy portfolio in the lead-up to spring, complementing Zyrtec tablets, liquid capsules, eye drops, kids liquid and kids drops.

## Generic Tamiflu

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has approved the first generic version of Roche's influenza medication Tamiflu (oseltamivir phosphate).

The generic has been produced by Indian group Natco Pharma, which has partnered with Alvogen in the US to offer the product.

## TWG-Chemmart video

**TERRY** White Group has released a video in conjunction with the big news of the merger with Chemmart (**PD** yesterday), in which TWG ceo Anthony White answers key questions about the plan.

White describes the deal as "the perfect merger of equals" with key benefits for members including marketing, supply chain & support.

The video can be viewed on the Pharmacy Daily website at [pharmacydaily.com.au/videos](http://pharmacydaily.com.au/videos).

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If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**13-14 Aug:** Infectious Diseases Seminar; InterContinental Adelaide Hotel; for more info visit: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)

**18-19 Aug:** Pharmacy WA Forum; Crown Perth; for details visit: [www.cvent.com](http://www.cvent.com)

**27-28 Aug:** 2016 Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar; Crowne Plaza Coogee, Sydney; details at: [www.pharmeducation.com.au](http://www.pharmeducation.com.au)

**27-28 Aug:** Cardiology Seminar; Rydges Sydney Central; see: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)

**6 Sep:** Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Brisbane; for more info call: 1800 777 648

**7 Sep:** Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Sydney; for more info call: 1800 777 648

**9-11 Sep:** Pharmacy Connect; Four Points by Sheraton Darling Harbour Sydney; see: [pharmacy-connect.com.au](http://pharmacy-connect.com.au)

**9-10 Sep:** The Friendlies Conference 2016; Old Woolstore Hotel, Hobart; visit: [pharmacyconference.com.au](http://pharmacyconference.com.au)

**12 Sep:** Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Melbourne; for more info call: 1800 777 648

**14 Sep:** Ethical Nutrients Natural Medicine for Today's Pharmacist 2016; Launceston; for more info call: 1800 777 648

**21-25 Sep:** The Pharmacy Alliance 2016 Members' Forum; Queenstown, New Zealand; visit: [pharmacyalliance.com.au](http://pharmacyalliance.com.au)

## Guild to launch 6CPA tools

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia is set to launch new tools which aim to help pharmacies maximise opportunities under the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

The suite will debut during a Guild Members-only breakfast during the upcoming Pharmacy Connect conference which is taking place in Sydney 9-11 Sep at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel - the same venue as last weekend's PSA16 event.

The special breakfast will feature Guild Group Executive Pharmacy Transformation Pam Price, who said the tools help members prepare their business for change, and incorporate professional services in order to access remunerated programs as part of the 6CPA.

"Pharmacy Transformation tools will assist members assess their business model, determine their market's variables and, importantly, identify profitable opportunities when considering professional services," Price said.

The event will showcase Health Advice Plus and the new Professional Services Viability Tool, which helps pharmacies set fees for professional services based on their

individual business parameters.

Conference convenor Kos Sclavos confirmed Guild President, George Tambassis, would also address the breakfast and give an update on the 6CPA and the pharmacy landscape.

"Community pharmacy is changing so rapidly...it is vital for pharmacists, business owners and the wider sector to stay abreast of changing regulations and new business opportunities as they arise," Sclavos said.

See [pharmacyconnect.com.au](http://pharmacyconnect.com.au).

## Supplements slump

**A PRE-OLYMPICS** review of unauthorised medicines being marketed as sports supplements has shown a reduction of almost 50% compared to a similar study carried out in 2012, the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has said.

This new review found 69 unauthorised medicines were being sold as sports supplements and 16 companies were found to be involved - versus 128 unauthorised medicines and 36 websites prior to the 2012 London Olympics.

## Dispensary Corner

**THE** Korean military has come up with a unique stop-smoking initiative - and it involves eight pretty young ladies.

The defence ministry has enlisted K-pop girl band Lovelyz (pictured) as official "anti-smoking ambassadors" with the aim of cutting smoking rates in the ranks by as much as 30%.

The initiative includes special 2017 barracks calendars featuring the band, as well as a talk show on a military TV channel to help spread the message.

It's understood soldiers who manage to quit the ciggies will be invited onto the program to be interviewed, while for those at the army's official training centre in Nonsan, the Lovelyz ladies will act as "personal K-pop counsellors".

And the unit which has the most members who manage to kick the habit will get a special end-of-year show from the group to celebrate.



**MORE** evidence that getting busy is good for you has come from a *Lancet* publication this week, which reported that an hour of "brisk exercise" every day offsets the risk of early death due to a sedentary lifestyle.

Researchers at Brazil's Federal University of Pelotas analysed records of more than one million people as part of a study of physical activity which has been released just in time for next week's Rio Olympics.

Sitting at a desk was somewhat unhealthy, but watching TV was worse, probably because of the associated snacking.

## 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 VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

What makes MOR's Essentials Triple-Milled Soap Bar more luxuriant than other soaps?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Tania King from Symbion.



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