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## Zika vaccine call

**THE** World Health Organization has declared the mosquito-transmitted Zika virus a global health emergency and US president Barack Obama has encouraged health officials to urgently develop tests, vaccines and treatments to fight the disease, which has been linked to birth defects.

Only a handful of Zika virus cases have been reported in Australia so far (**PD** 28 Jan) and all were infected while travelling overseas, but with the prevalence of the transmitter *aedes aegypti* mosquito in far North Queensland, the potential exists for more events, authorities said.

The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has told pregnant women not to travel to Latin America or even to the summer Olympics in Brazil.

US scientists have warned that although testing could begin in two years, it could be a decade before a vaccine is publicly available.

Announcing new research funding on Friday, Brazil Health Minister Marcelo Castro set a goal for the Sao Paulo-based Butantan Institute to develop "in record time" a vaccine for Zika, while the institute director Jorge Kalil said that it is expected take three to five years to achieve the goal.

## Compounding guideline

**THE** Pharmacy Board of Australia has launched a new public consultation on a review of guidance on the expiry of compounded parenteral medicines.

The move follows the withdrawal of previously proposed guidelines, which were published last March but generated significant feedback from across the industry.

These guidelines proposed that pharmacists assign a shelf life of a maximum of 24 hours to compounded parenteral medicines, to avoid risks such as enhanced chemical instability, increased likelihood of microbial contamination and a potential for dose administration errors.

However the 24 hour expiry raised concerns that it would impact access to compounded parenteral medicines due to difficulties in supply to rural and remote locations, the need for some patients to receive a daily dose of a compounded injection, and high costs associated with sourcing compounded products from TGA licensed facilities (which can provide products with a longer shelf life).

The revised draft guidance now requires pharmacists who

compound parenteral medicines for administration to a specific patient to assign expiry dates of "appropriate duration".

While 24 hours should be routinely assigned, longer expiry dates can be used if it's in line with the guidance in the *USP-NF (797) Pharmaceutical Compounding - Sterile Preparations*.

This requires that the pharmacist assesses the contamination risk level of the medicine, assigns a time period for the expiry date that corresponds with storage conditions, and provides evidence that the medicine will remain stable and sterile.

The compounding pharmacist must also confirm with their professional indemnity insurance provider that their policy indemnifies their practice.

Feedback on the revised draft guidelines must be submitted by Wednesday 30 March 2016 - for details see [pharmacyboard.gov.au](http://pharmacyboard.gov.au).

## ASMI labelling push

**COUNTRY** of origin labelling should be voluntary only, the the Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) advocates in its submission to the consultation on the Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) on the matter.

ASMI regulatory and scientific affairs director Steve Scarff said while some sponsors may want to include a country of origin statement on labels, this should not be mandatory "because all therapeutic goods are already highly regulated for safety and quality and all are manufactured in sites that have been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) - including overseas sites."

## Roller raps on rubber

**ASSOCIATE** Professor Louis Roller, from the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Monash University, has posted an update on the use of condoms, explaining why people should use condoms both for personal and partner protection as well as contraception, but not use two condoms due to the increased risk of breakage.

Roller was the 2014 recipient of the PSA Lifetime Achievement Award and was writing for the *AJP* and clarifying the role of the simple, inexpensive but powerful device.

Other aspects he summarised included the effects of latex versus latex-free condoms (usually made from polyurethane, polyisoprene, or lamb intestine) as well as female condoms, usually made of nitrile.

**CLICK HERE** for the *AJP* article.

## CVS Phcy Narcan role

**PREVIOUSLY** available only through hospitals in the US, CVS pharmacy locations in Ohio will now be able to dispense naloxone (Narcan) as an injection, or inhaler for the reversal of the breath suppression effects of opioids, according to a report in *Womanista*. Ohio has apparently enjoyed an unenviable reputation as having one of America's highest rates of heroin and opiate addiction.

## HIV drug resistance

**RESISTANCE** to Tenofovir, one of the main drugs used to both prevent and treat HIV, has been reported as high as 60% in some African countries, according to University College London research published in *The Lancet*.

The work highlighted the need to find new drugs said lead author Dr Ravi Gupta - **CLICK HERE**.



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## Amazon Tonic III alert

**CONTRARY** to label claims, Amazon Tonic III does not treat cancer warns the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

The TGA/ said it contains amongst other ingredients, oleandrin, which has been associated with serious side effects such as fatigue, gastrointestinal effects and cardiovascular effects.

The product is not included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods and is illegal to supply in Australia, the TGA said.

## Guild Update

### PBN2015 videos now available to Members

**MORE** than 20 videos covering every session from last year's popular business solutions conference, Pharmacy Business Network (PBN) have been released to Guild Members.

The PBN2015 program continued to build on the conference's focus to provide the pharmacy industry with tools to improve business planning, management and profitability.

This included practical hands-on workshops and inspiring speakers for all pharmacy owners, managers, staff and students.

Sessions covered a range of topics including customer retention and engagement, business innovation, implementing and charging for professional services and effective business negotiation skills.

Members can watch all three days of PBN2015 sessions, along with slide material on the Business Support page on the Guild's website.

## Terry White sales up 18%

**TERRY** White Chemists says it's significantly outperforming the rest of the pharmacy industry, with retail sales growth of 18% for the six months to 31 December.

CEO Anthony White said the group's Value Health strategy was "consistently achieving above-market like-for-like retail sales growth" as a result of strong ongoing investment.

"Over the past few years we've invested in our systems, capabilities, CRM platform and private label range to drive our retail sales, laying a strong and sustainable foundation for our future growth," White said.

He said retail sales now comprise almost half of total network sales, "giving pharmacists a solid front-of-shop revenue stream, which is critical in offsetting the effects of reforms to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme to ensure ongoing viability in this industry."

"Additionally, in-store efficiencies have improved, local marketing and merchandising activities are more efficient and pharmacists are now better able to focus on their customers," he added.

White said all categories were up, with vitamin, health and beauty performing particularly well.

The Chemplus network, acquired

last year (*PD* 02 Sep 2015), is also growing, with the 60 stores now carrying the Terry White Chemists own-branded products.

Several Chemplus stores have also converted to Terry White, he said.

## ARA appoints Carnell

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Australian Retailers Association have welcomed the appointment of pharmacist Kate Carnell to the role of Australia's first Small Business Ombudsman.

Guild executive director David Quilty said Carnell's vast experience in politics and business, including as a former pharmacy owner, means she has a wealth of relevant insights and a proven ability to deliver practical results.

"We wish Kate every success and look forward to continue working closely with her in the interests of the Guild's small business members."

Formerly CEO of BeyondBlue, the Australian Food and Grocery Council and the Australian General Practice Network, Carnell was the first female to become the National Vice-President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

The five-year appointment commences 11 Mar.

## Win with Efamol

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Efamol are giving away a bottle of Efamol Efalex Original Brain Formula 240 capsules each day.

Efamol Efalex with omega nutrients from fish oil and evening primrose oil may assist cognitive process such as learning and concentration. Always read the label. Use only as directed. CHC70544-04/15. To find out more visit [www.planethealth.com.au](http://www.planethealth.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)

Can essential fatty acids be made by the body?

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



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**FRANK** the bulldog (pictured below) has gone under the knife for a facelift - but don't go thinking he's vain!

The surgery has given the four-year-old bulldog, who suffered a number of medical problems, a new lease on life.

A victim of irresponsible breeding, Frank had painful ulcers on his eyeballs and skin and a partially blocked airway; on top of this a giant flap of skin on his face was further distorting his vision.

He is now on the road to recovery and is continuing to receive treatment for his eyes, skin and ears.



**A SMALL** mountain village in northern Italy is celebrating the arrival of its first baby in 28 years.

The mayor of the small town known as Ostana said the birth of little Pablo was "a dream come true".

Population decline has been a problem plaguing small towns and villages in Italy for many years - with this town home to only 85 people.

"The real decline started in 1975, with 17 babies between 1976 and 1987, when the last boy was born - until little Pablo," mayor Giacomo Lombardo told *La Stampa* newspaper.

A party will be held to celebrate the milestone that he hopes will help reverse the trend - while the local pharmacy is likely to now begin stocking nappies.

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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Publisher: Bruce Piper [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Reporter: Mal Smith

Contributors: Nathalie Craig, Jasmine O'Donoghue, Bonnie Tai

Advertising and Marketing: Magda Herdick [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Business Manager: Jenny Piper [accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

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