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APP STAND 329

## J&J talc perspective

**JOHNSON & Johnson** maintains its baby powder made from talc is safe, despite the company being charged \$US72m after a woman's death from ovarian cancer was linked to the product (*PD* 25 Feb).

An official statement by the company claims "few ingredients have the same demonstrated performance, mildness and safety profile as cosmetic talc".

Further to this they said the talc they use is "carefully selected and processed to be asbestos free".

Professor of Cancer Epidemiology at the University of Cambridge Paul Pharoah said while there was possible association with genital talc use, he disputed the risk in relation to some types of ovarian cancer was actually significant.

"In my view the decision of the court is flawed for two reasons.

"First, the evidence of a causal association between genital talc use and ovarian cancer risk is weak.

"Second, even if the association were true, the strength of the association is too small to be able to say on the balance of probabilities that any cancer arising in a woman who used talc had been caused by the talc," he said.

## Orphan drug addition

**TOBRAMYCIN** solution for inhalation has been added to the Therapeutic Goods Administration designated orphan drugs list.

The product is from Boucher & Muir and is used to treat patients with cystic fibrosis infected with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

## Mayne profit up 380%

**MAYNE** Pharma has reported stellar revenue and profit growth for the first half full year (1HFY15) ending 31 Dec, positioning the company "to deliver continued financial growth success across FY16 driven by opportunities across multiple channels and all business segments."

Revenue for the period hit \$127.3m, an increase of 114% on 1HFY15, with reported EBITDA of \$40.7m, up 201%.

Reported net profit after tax was \$19.2m, up a staggering 380%, while net operating cashflow touched \$30.5m, up 259%.

Commenting on the result, Mayne Pharma's ceo Scott Richards said, "We are pleased to report an exceptionally strong half with increases in revenue, EBITDA, net profit and operating cashflow over the 1HFY15."

"All three US-based segments contributed significantly to growth in both US dollar and Australian

dollar terms."

Richards explained that the US and Australian generic divisions (GPD) delivered strong growth and direct sales through the division's own distribution operations now represent 83% of GPD sales in the period.

Referring to plans to continue to invest in facilities and pipeline, he added, "The dual-site expansion to materially enhance both manufacturing capacity and capability announced in Aug 2015, remains on track for completion in FY18."

"The outlook remains very positive and the Company has significant growth opportunities across multiple channels and business segments," said Richards.

## Alert pharmacist picks fake scripts

**A PHARMACIST** became suspicious of a doctor's actions in script shopping and called police, who found him in possession of 70 diazepam tablets.

The doctor, named by *stuff.co.nz* as Ashley John Hodgson was based in Tauranga, NZ, and had a history of addiction to opioids and benzodiazepines.

He has been censured by the health tribunal.

## Phcists fight back

**THE** New Zealand Police has partnered with Wellington City Council in a bid to tackle increasing theft in the pharma industry.

"Theft in the pharmaceutical industry is a serious problem that is identified as a precursor for other crimes," Wellington Police Sergeant Mathew McKenzie said.

They will be running a theft prevention and staff safety event for pharmacies on 09 Mar at the Wellington Central Police Station.

## Nat Pharm negotiates

**NATIONAL** Pharmacies has said it is negotiating with the pharmacist union for a new enterprise agreement that takes reasonable and responsible steps to adjust to the changing pharmacy industry.

The pharmacy chain was responding to the strike action taken by pharmacists employed by National Pharmacies (*PD* 24 Feb).

The chain spokesperson said the group "is committed to negotiating in good faith to reach an outcome that is fair, equitable and sustainable for everyone, including all of its valued and respected pharmacists."

National Pharmacies thanks its members and customers for their patience and understanding.

## High sunscreen alert

**SALES** of sunscreen in Australia are on the rise with 500,000 extra sunscreen purchases in any given month last year, according to Roy Morgan Research.

In the 12 months to Sep 2015, 11.6% of Australians aged 14+ (or 2.3 million people) bought sunscreen in any four week period.

The spike in sunscreen purchases down under coincides with a slight increase in the number of Australians worried about getting skin cancer: from 57.9% of the population in 2014 to 58.9% in 2015.

## Priceline health & beauty

**ON WEDNESDAY**, Priceline Pharmacy celebrated its focus on health and beauty with its inaugural *The Beauty Prescription*, an event showcasing its expertise in Sydney.

In attendance were representatives across all media platforms as well as influencers and Priceline Sisters Ita Buttrose, Ada Nicodemou and Samantha Harris (*pictured*).

There were more than 50 stands at the event which championed products ranging from new



launches for 2016, innovations, exclusives and "cult favourites".

The trade show was divided into key areas including cosmetics, skincare, haircare, accessories, fragrances, vitamins and medicinal health.

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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - Geelong, VIC (Job# 2012088)  
Multi-Pharmacist team within a short drive of the popular beach-front.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Darling Downs Region, QLD (Job# 2012091)  
3 day weekend every 2nd week. Great team. High end salary
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Riverina Region, NSW (Job# 2012037)  
Time for a "tree change"? Join this great pharmacy culture.

Looking for a different direction for your career? We can help!



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## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

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

- 4-6 Mar:** NSW Annual Therapeutic Update; Crowne Plaza Terrigal; visit: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 5-6 Mar:** Emergency Medicine Seminar; Crowne Plaza Melbourne; details at: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)
- 12-13 Mar:** Oncology Seminar (foundation); Parmelia Hilton Perth; more info at: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)
- 17-20 Mar:** Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual National Conference APP 2016, Gold Coast - more information at: [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com)
- 15-17 Apr:** PharmHack: The world's first pharmacy hackathon; Fishburners, Ultimo; details at: [www.pharmhack.com.au](http://www.pharmhack.com.au)
- 16-17 Apr:** Victorian Pharmacy Conference 2016; Monash University, Parkville; more info at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)
- 1-10 May:** 41st Offshore Refresher; Cape Town and Sun City, South Africa; details at: [www.psaoffshore2016.com.au](http://www.psaoffshore2016.com.au)
- 14-15 May:** Laboratory Tests Seminar; Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart; see: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)
- 18-20 May:** National Medicines Symposium 2016; Canberra Convention and Exhibition Centre; for more info go to: [www.nps.org.au](http://www.nps.org.au)

## Guild negotiating review

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia said it is working with the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation panel along with other stakeholders on a discussion paper planned for release in April this year.

The Guild has announced that a panel, chaired by Professor Stephen King and including Bill Scott and Jo Watson, will present recommendations.

They will cover future remuneration, regulation including pharmacy location rules, as well as other arrangements that apply to pharmacy and wholesalers around PBS matters.

In addition, the Guild said the panel will provide ongoing consultation after the April discussion paper is released, present its interim report in H2 this year and its final report for the minister by March next year.

In related news, the Department of Health said it has launched a Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation section on its main website with details of the review including terms of reference, biographies of panel members, contact details for the review

secretariat and other relevant information.

**MEANWHILE** the Guild has also alerted members in *Forefront* that from 23 Mar, NSW will join SA, WA, Qld and NT in making it mandatory for pharmacists to use Project STOP to record the details of sales of over-the-counter packs of pseudoephedrine from community pharmacy, in an online real-time electronic system, at the time of supply.

The NSW branch of the Guild has been commissioned by the Ministry of Health to assist community pharmacies to access Project STOP, and to provide training on its use.

## PD market to \$3.2b

THE Parkinson's Disease (PD) market is set to hit \$3.2b by 2021, yet game-changing treatments will not be available for the foreseeable future, according to GBI Research.

Market growth will occur despite the patent expiries of several key products including include Azilect, Neupro, and Stalevo.

Research shows symptom-relieving therapies will continue to dominate the market to 2021.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**WOULD** you be tempted by an annual wage of \$400,000 and 12 week's annual leave with the promise of no evening or weekend work?

It seems GPs just aren't interested in this offer.

After two years of recruiting, Dr Alan Kenny in the town of the regional New Zealand town of Tokoroa says he still can't find a suitable candidate to fill the role.

For almost half a year he hasn't even received one application for the highly paid position.

Why? He thinks its the perception of a rural GP being a "dead-end job".

Any takers?



**DO YOU** ever think fresh country air smells so good you could bottle it?

British entrepreneur Leo De Watts thought so and now he's making money selling "harvested air" to the Chinese.

Wait, what? Yes, he's selling British country air to Chinese buyers for £80 a bottle.

He says the 580 ml glass jars he sells under his brand Aethaer have been surprisingly popular with the Asian market.

He sets off early morning to catch air in large nets, sealing it in glass jars (pictured above) before shipping it off to his clients who pay top dollar to inhale it.

Oddly enough some buyers never open their purchase, keeping the jar for novelty value.

## Win with MILANI

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Milani are giving away everyday a prize pack including Supreme Kohl Kajal Eyeliner, Eyeshadow Primer and Tastastic Face & Body Baked Bronzer.

Milani Cosmetics is a cruelty-free brand. They do not test products on animals, nor do they allow others to test on their behalf. The brand is certified by both PETA and The Leaping Bunny Program (CCIC) as cruelty-free. Milani also has a ton of Vegan options also. For more info visit [www.milanicosmetics.com.au](http://www.milanicosmetics.com.au)

To win, be the first from **VIC or TAS** to send the right answer to the following question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

How many Baked Blush Colours are there?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Helena Yeung.

