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## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today has two pages of news, plus a full page from **Pharmacy Alliance**.

## NDARC drug seminar

**THE** National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) is hosting a series of free seminars on topics around research on alcohol and other drugs.

The 2016 series kicks off on 04 Feb with a presentation on England's drug policies by Professor Alex Stevens from the University of Kent, United Kingdom.

March will see Ted Noffs Institute Clinical Services Manager Kieran Palmer deliver on local programs.

For more detail, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Post-approval tracking

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration is not properly monitoring medicines that have gone to market after fast-track release, says a report in the *British Medical Journal* by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the auditing service of the US Congress.

The FDA's post-market data have been "found to be incomplete, outdated, to contain inaccuracies" and more, the report stated.

## Unite for superbug fight

**MORE** than 80 pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies worldwide have united in an attempt to battle drug-resistant superbugs.

The declaration on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance was signed by 83 companies and eight industry associations from 16 countries yesterday at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Companies taking part include AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Merck and Pfizer as well as some smaller biotech companies and some generic manufacturers in India.

Chairman of the review, Lord Jim O'Neill, said the declaration from industry was "a major step forward in establishing a properly global response to the challenges of drug resistance."

"The pharmaceutical industry, as well as society at large, cannot afford to ignore the threat of antibiotic resistance, so I commend those companies who have signed the declaration for recognising the long-term importance of revitalising research and development in antibiotics, and for their leadership in overcoming the difficult issues of collective action at play here,"

O'Neill said.

The declaration calls on governments around the world to support investment in developing antibiotics, diagnostics, vaccines and other products vital for the prevention and treatment of drug-resistant infections.

It also supports continued efforts to conserve antibiotics with recommendations as to how they are prescribed.

Changes are also being sought in incentive structures within health systems that directly or indirectly reward doctors, pharmacists and veterinarians for prescribing antibiotics in greater volumes.

## Ebola vaccine deal

**GAVI**, the Vaccine Alliance of public bodies and companies committed to saving lives through vaccination, has signed a \$5m deal for an Ebola vaccine to help manage future outbreaks of the virus infection.

The Alliance sealed the deal at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where authorities from many disciplines have converged for global impact discussions, agreements and planning.

Under the arrangement, pharmaceutical company Merck will keep 300,000 vaccines ready for emergency use or for further clinical trials.

The company will also submit an application to license the vaccine before the end of 2017 which would enable Gavi to develop a global stockpile.

Merck has conducted trials of the VSV-EBOV vaccine, which combines a segment of the Ebola virus with another safer virus in order to train the immune system to beat Ebola.

Early results suggest the vaccine provides up to 100% protection.

## Pfizer YouTube claims

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Office of Prescription Drug Promotion has hit Pfizer subsidiary Hospira with an untitled letter over the company's "misleading" YouTube video on its sedative Precedex, according to the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society (RAPS).

FDA is taking issue with the way the video "makes representations about the use of Precedex for intensive care unit sedation."

Hospira has been ordered to immediately cease violating the FD&C Act and confirm compliance in writing.

## Researchers named

**MORE** than 100 Australian-based researchers have been named on the Thomson Reuters 2015 Highly Cited Researchers list that recognises the world's most influential researchers.

Around 3,000 researchers are listed as being among the top 1% most cited for their subject field across 21 subject categories.

To see the named researchers and their topics, [CLICK HERE](#).

## Alcohol in Australia

**ALCOHOL** consumption among the heaviest drinkers has increased in recent years with the top 10% of consumers accounting for 49% of the consumption in 2001 and increased to 53% in 2013, according to work out of La Trobe University Centre for Alcohol Policy Research published in *The Conversation*.

Chances of dying from an alcohol-related illness, including cancer, is 4.0-4.5% for those who imbibe an average of four drinks per day, and around 5-8% for those who take in 7.8 drinks per day.

To access the full subject summary, [CLICK HERE](#).



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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Mackay region, QLD (Job# 2012004)  
Within 20mins of Mackay - 12mth maternity leave contract \$100K +
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Canberra, ACT (Job# 2011802)  
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- **Oncology Pharmacist** - Melbourne's south east, VIC (Job# 2012041)  
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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).

**8 Feb:** PSA Immunisation Training; Mantra Parramatta; see: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**8-10 Feb:** 2016 Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar; Crowne Plaza Melbourne; see: [www.pharmeducation.com.au](http://www.pharmeducation.com.au)

**13-14 Feb:** Evidence Based Practice Seminar; Rydges Sydney Central; details at: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)

**19-21 Feb:** Foundation Clinical Pharmacy Practice; Novotel Brisbane; for more info visit: [www.cpd.shpa.org.au](http://www.cpd.shpa.org.au)

**20 Feb:** Provide First Aid; UoNDRH Tamworth Education Centre; visit: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.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)

## Aust honey contaminates

**AUSTRALIAN** honey has been labelled as the "most contaminated" honey in the world by a Irish study which showed the level of pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs) exceeded the European and German standards.

The researchers found 41 of 59 samples were contaminated with echimidine and lycopsamine in 76% and 88% respectively, meaning that the average daily exposure of those consuming honey would be more than seven times the recommended maximum.

University of Sydney Faculty of Science bee researcher Dr Nadine Chapman said, "Industry is aware

of the issue and has taken steps to mitigate it.

"To say that Australian honey is the most contaminated in the world is an exaggeration and it depends on the contaminant.

"As Australia does not have the Varroa mite and a number of other pests and diseases, we use less chemicals to manage our bees; we also try to minimise exposure to pesticides," she said.

**CLICK HERE** for the study.

## Oral morphine studies

**ORAL** Morphine Equivalent (OME) doses are taking on the role of a morphine substitute of known strength for pharmacoepidemiological studies according to a study published in *Pharmacoepidemiology & Drug Safety*.

Opioid utilisation studies need a standard dosing metric to establish the impact of various opioids in different geographical locations.

This work has established a synthesis of published OME conversion factors that can be applied to different studies.

**CLICK HERE** to access the study.

## Online phcy support

**THE** All India Drugs Control Officer's Confederation (AIDCOC) has recommended online pharmacies be allowed, provided sufficient safeguards are in place to protect the interest of the consumers, *Pharmabiz* reports.

The regulatory organisation argued that the internet is only a technology advancement and its benefit should be available to the consumers in India.

## Win with MILANI

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Milani are giving away everyday a prize pack including Transparent Anti-Feathering Lipliner, Tuscan Toast Matte Lipstick and Venice Fierce Foil Eyeshine.

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)

**What country do the four Fierce Foils Eyeshine names come from?**

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Sally Brown from Flinders Medical Centre.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

**SLOW** moving sperm is a common fertility problem for couples.

If only there was a simple way to speed them up?

How about a tiny robot to give the sperm a speed boost?

German scientists have designed a 'spermbot' to propel the sperm towards the egg.

This tiny metal helix is just large enough to wrap around the tail of a sperm using a rotating magnetic field.

The fertilisation method has been successfully performed in the lab at the Institute for Integrative Nanosciences in Germany.

Scientists say a lot more work needs to be done before it can be tested on humans.



**DID** you ever think blowing your nose could be dangerous?

The simple act nearly left a woman in England blind!

The 32-year-old admitted herself into the Accident & Emergency department at Leicester Royal Infirmary with swollen eyes the size of golf balls after an incident of "forcefully" blowing her nose went terribly wrong.

Doctors said if her injury went untreated she could have ended up blind due to pressure swelling up and damaging her optical nerve.

Tests determined that she had a condition called "orbital emphysema", swelling caused by air that builds up in the soft tissue around the eyes.

Next time you've got a stuffy nose, be gentle!

*Pharmacy Daily* is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

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**Happy New Year from the team at Pharmacy Alliance!**

It's time to create new business resolutions in 2016.

We've helped our 518 member pharmacies achieve their business goals in 2015 and with our range of business tools you can look forward to big results in 2016. Our tools will:

- Optimise dispensary profitability with our market-leading generics platform, **PAGM**
- Boost front-of-shop performance with our all new **AllianceIQ Retail**
- Position your pharmacy as the destination for health in your community with our new co-brand, **Alliance Pharmacy**
- Gain great efficiencies with the latest in POS, dispense, office systems through our exclusive arrangement with **Z Software**
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