

Zika virus in Australia

SIX people tested positive for mosquito-borne Zika virus in Australia last year, although health authorities said they were all infected overseas, according to a report in *Fairfax Media*.

The first recognised imported Zika case in Australia was in 2012, one case was reported in 2013 and 12 in 2014.

Westmead Hospital virologist Professor Dominic Dwyer said 80% of people who get the virus do not experience any symptoms and it usually clears from their blood within a week, but may pose a risk for pregnant women's offspring.

Zika appears to be related to dengue, yellow fever and West Nile virus and is thought to have originated in primates and first confirmed in humans in Nigeria.

Med rec challenged

MEDICATION reconciliation (med rec) has been examined and not consistently found to be advantageous in a paper summarising the evidence and published in the *BMJ*.

While many studies have shown medical reconciliation can reduce medication history errors in patients' admission and discharge medication regimens, the clinical significance of medication history errors varies significantly with variations between 11% and 59%.

CLICK HERE for the summary.

Codeine record pilot start

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced that, subject to further consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), it is moving forward with its pilot real-time codeine recording and monitoring system, officially titled "MedsASSIST – informing medicine decisions".

The TGA had deferred its decision to up-schedule products containing codeine to S4 status in the face of wide opposition and the prospect of an online real time recording and monitoring system developed by the Guild and Australian Self Medication Industry (PD 20 Nov).

Smaller pilot programs on the new Guild solution have already run in Newcastle and far north Queensland areas involving around 30 pharmacies.

The original software has now been modified to reflect feedback gained during the trials, Guild national president George Tambassis said.

The newly updated program will now be tested on around 150 pharmacies in these regions commencing in Feb.

Tambassis said that the pilot program will collect very important data to help make the case that it is not necessary for the Government to re-schedule codeine containing medicines to S4.

"The data collected in the pilot of MedsASSIST will form part of the

Guild submission to the Advisory Committee on Medicine Scheduling (ACMS) which is meeting in mid-March to re-consider its interim decision to delete the Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 entries for codeine.

"The Guild's submission to the ACMS will once again argue that making these medicines Schedule 4 will simply create a barrier to the majority of consumers who use these products safely and effectively," he said, adding that the Guild has consistently argued that rescheduling codeine will not address issues of misuse and abuse.

The Guild has also contended that the implementation of a Real Time Monitoring system in community pharmacy would be more effective and economical to assist in identifying at-risk consumers, facilitate access to education materials and support appropriate referral when required.

FIP conf rego open

REGISTRATION is now open for the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) 76th World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences to be held in Buenos Aires in Aug.

Abstracts for the congress should be submitted by 01 Apr.

CLICK HERE for more information.

HCF buys into GP2U

HEALTH insurer HCF has taken a 15% stake in telehealth service GP2U, which specialises in video conferencing services to allow patients to remotely connect with doctors for consultations.

GP2U also has agreements in place with Terry White Chemists and Priceline, offering discounts on consultations for pharmacy customers - and direct connections meaning that once the GP approves a prescription it is sent directly to the pharmacy for collection.

GP2U is continuing to innovate with the launch this month of a decision support tool to guide treatment options for Hepatitis C medication, and a weight loss program via a dedicated website at theweightlossgp.com.au.

HCF said it would now run a pilot program "to ensure the telehealth services are scaled to the wider HCF membership as smoothly as possible".

iv.me clinic under fire

SHADI Kazeme, identified as a pharmacist in yesterday's article "Pharmacist under fire for intravenous drips", is a pharmacy graduate and was an intern pharmacist but her registration expired earlier this month, according to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

Doubleview Chemmart award

DOUBLEVIEW Chemmart Pharmacy in Western Australia beat almost 300 stores from around the country to be named Chemmart Wellbeing Pharmacy of the Year for 2015.

The award recognises the pharmacy most dedicated to promoting health and wellbeing in the local community with their focus on Chemmart's five 'wellbeing pillars' – in physical, financial, social, community and career categories.

The National Award for the pharmacy follows their



achievements as both 2014 and 2015 State Award winners, Chemmart said.

Pharmacist and co-proprietor Rebecca Wiltshire thanked pharmacy customers for allowing Doubleview Chemmart to become an active part of the community.

Win with DESIGNER BRANDS

This week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away three DB Certified Organic Pure Rosehip Oils each day.

Perfect for normal to combination skin, DB Pure Rosehip Oil helps to promote a luminous and blemish free complexion. Clinically proven to diminish the appearance of fine lines & wrinkles, scars and uneven skin tone this product is essential in any beauty routine. Now in a convenient roller ball format, simply apply to the face at night for skin that is prepped, hydrated and ready for daily make-up application. DB Rosehip Oil also works perfectly as a primer for dry skin or under the eyes for smooth and crease free concealer application. Visit www.dbcosmetics.com.au

To win, be the first from **WA, SA or NT** to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



What time of the day is best to apply the DB Rosehip Oil?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Anita Makoare from Symbion.



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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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APT Six Sensational Summer cruise deals

LUXURY travel operator APT is celebrating its broadcast sponsorship of Seven's Summer of Tennis with the launch of its Grand Sale, running until 29 Feb. All deals offer free flights.

- 1. Douro Delights:** Book this APT 14-day river cruise for 2016 with three land stays and cruising seven nights from Barca d'Alva to Porto from \$8,995 pp.
- 2. Kimberley Complete:** Travel in September with APT's 15-day journey across the remote northerly part of Western Australia - from \$8,995 pp.
- 3. Magnificent Europe:** Book the 04 Nov departure of APT's 15-day through five countries: Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary from \$7,795 pp.
- 4. Vietnam and Cambodia Highlights:** book APT's 13-day journey including the seven night lower Mekong cruise to Siem Reap - from \$5,345 pp.
- 5. Majestic Rockies and Alaska Cruise:** Apr departure for an 18-day journey with many inclusions from \$10,395 pp
- 6. Spirit of India:** Book for Sep travel on APT's 15-day itinerary from \$13,695 pp.

Call APT on 1300 196 420 or speak to your local travel agent.

Faulding formula launch

SYMBION Pharmacy's Faulding brand will expand its portfolio this year to include Australian-made infant milk formula.

The Faulding Gold Infant Formula range which is set to debut in Australian pharmacies from Mar will consist of Newborn, Follow-On and Toddler products.

The brand is committed to the entire range being made locally made using milk from Australian dairy cows.

It comes at a time where there is strong demand for Australian made infant formulas after quality control scares with Chinese produced infant formula.

In 2008 about 300,000 babies and toddlers fell victim to milk powder being laced with melamine causing several infants to die from kidney stones and damage and 54,000 babies to be hospitalised.

Faulding's new product will be manufactured in Australia under quality controlled conditions, complying with Australia laws for infant formula.

Endeavour Consumer Health's exec director, Jennifer Luke said

Antibiotic gut harm

INTESTINAL microbiomes of children have been shown to have been damaged by early life use of antibiotics of the macrolide class, according to a study published in *Nature Communications* yesterday.

The Finnish study from the University of Helsinki studied 257 faecal samples from 142 Finnish children aged 2-7 years (median age 5 years), attending day care.

Macrolide use was "associated with a clear shift in the microbiota composition" and a "long-term reduction in microbial richness".

Those treated with penicillin rather than macrolides did not suffer the same loss of diversity in their microbiome, researchers said.

CLICK HERE for the article.

Faulding Gold would be "one of only a few premium formulas made in Australia from Australian milk and sold in Australian pharmacies".

"Many market-leading infant formula brands sold in Australia are currently manufactured overseas," Endeavour Consumer Health's exec director, Luke said.

"We want to ensure greater availability of our premium formula for Australian families".

The new Faulding range follows the launch of the Blackmores/Bega joint venture to produce formula (*PD 18 Jan*) as well as this week's move by Aspen Nutritionals to relocate all of its manufacturing for S-26 GOLD to Australia and New Zealand.

Recall for correction

NUTRICIA Australia, in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), is undertaking a recall for product correction for Flocare transition giving sets (male luer lock [MLL] and mobile giving sets only) with ENFit transition adaptors.

Some overseas reports of ENFit transition adaptors leaking and/or breaking have been followed by one report in Australia.

The TGA said that this issue only affects a very small number of patients who use MLL and mobile giving sets and utilise the white transition adaptor on the patient-end to connect to a luer feeding tube, a configuration not widely used in Australia.

New RA UID therapy

ELI Lilly and Incyte have submitted a new drug application to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the approval of once-a-day (UID) oral baricitinib, a JAK1 and JAK2 inhibitor for treatment of moderately-to-severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

DISPENSARY CORNER

CENTENARIANS have attributed their longevity to a whole gambit of things.

I suppose you're picturing a diet of raw fish and vegetables, waking up at sunrise or a daily green juice cleanse?

Wipe those pure images from your mind and picture this: chain smoking 30 cigarettes a day for 95 years.

That's what an 112-year-old Nepalese woman credits hers to.

Batuli Lamichhane (**pictured** below) took up smoking when she was 17 and believes her daily habit has helped her outlive almost everyone in her village.

Batuli's added advice on smoking is to avoid commercially made cigarettes and recommends locally made tobacco wrapped in tendu leaf.

She also has some more conventional advice to share about being "active and stress free" promoting a long life.



Hey, smoke up Johnny!

YOU'VE all heard of vegans but how about 'veggans', the latest diet trend to follow.

Veggans are vegans that eat a plant-based diet, except they also eat eggs because those free-range, organic, cruelty free eggs are such good protein, right?

If you want to see what the craze is all about simply search #veggan on Instagram for thousands of examples of fashionable 'veggans'.

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