

Did you know that goat's milk contains prebiotic oligos which are structurally closer to breast milk\*

Please contact Pharmabroker 02 8878 9777

\* When compared to cow's milk. Source: Urashima and Taufik, 2010.

FIND OUT MORE



## NPS on otitis media

NPS MedicineWise has released a new interactive online case study about acute otitis media - middle ear infection.

84% of cases in Australia are treated with antibiotics, increasing antibacterial resistance for the most common pathogens.

NPS medical adviser Andrew Boyden said health professionals have a key role to play in raising awareness of antibiotic resistance, including helping parents and carers of children with the condition understand both the potential benefits as well as harms of antibiotics.

The free case study presents two clinical scenarios and covers initial treatment options, the role of antibiotics, delayed prescriptions, minimising recurrence and when to refer to a specialist - [nps.org.au](http://nps.org.au).

## Diabetes underestimate

WITH more than 12% of global health expenditure directed to diabetes treatment, the methodology of data collection around the public health needs related to one of the largest chronic disease epidemics in human history, diabetes, has been seriously underestimated both globally and in Australia, according to Monash Professor of Diabetes, Paul Zimmet.

Writing in a new paper with co-authors from the UK and the US, all leading global figures in diabetes epidemiology research, Zimmet said, "There are major and serious gaps in our knowledge of the burden of diabetes, particularly in developing countries which will have significant unforeseen impacts on national health care systems."

"As the fasting blood sugar has been used as the diagnostic test for these conditions in the Australian 2012-2013 National Health Survey, it is almost certain that the true burden of disease has been underestimated.

The WHO recommendation of a fasting blood glucose test followed by a two hour test after a glucose challenge has resulted in a prognostic estimation error of up to 25%, Zimmet explained.

An alternative test, HbA1c (glycated haemoglobin) is now being recommended by WHO and the American Diabetes Association to replace the fasting glucose test.

Research is still underway to ensure it achieves the objective.

Co-author Professor Sir George Alberti, a former president of the IDF and the Royal College of Physicians (London), said accurate data is crucial.

"Accurate data on the burden of diabetes is required so that countries can identify current and future healthcare priorities to estimate direct and indirect economic and societal costs of the disease and to allocate appropriate healthcare resources and expenditures for healthcare delivery," Alberti said.

## Advantage chief heads for \$100k

STEVEN Kastrinakis, ceo of the Advantage Pharmacy Group, is a man with a mission.

He's currently half way towards a \$100,000 fundraising goal, as part of the Million\$Mission for priority research into brain cancer.

Kastrinakis is joining brain surgeon Professor Charlie Teo and twelve CEOs from across Australia with the aim of raising a million dollars for the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation.

"As a pharmacist, I've come across many patients who have suffered from brain cancer," Kastrinakis said, with the issue becoming deeply personal last year when he lost a close school friend to the disease.



To raise awareness as well as funds for the cause Kastrinakis, Teo and the rest of the group will travel to Africa to make the eight day trek to the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro.

He's pictured training for the trek - for more information or to donate to the cause [CLICK HERE](#).

## QCPP webinar

QUEENSLAND pharmacists and their staff are being invited to participate in a complimentary webinar to assist with the implementation and maintenance of the Quality Care Pharmacy Program.

The session on QCPP Quality Assessment and Workplace Health & Safety will be held from 10am-11am on Fri 22 Jul - for more details see [www.guild.org.au/qld\\_branch](http://www.guild.org.au/qld_branch).

## DUSC Feb releases

THE Health Department has released outcomes from the Drug Utilisation Sub Committee (DUSC) meeting in Feb, with reports on medicines for Alzheimer's disease, bDMARDs for psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis, ticagrelor and smoking cessation therapy.

The smoking cessation report found the change in restriction for Nicotine Replacement Therapy items to a streamlined authority did not significantly impact the utilisation trends - see [pbs.gov.au](http://pbs.gov.au).

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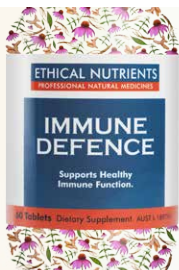
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## Weekly Comment

Welcome to PD's weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Kylie Mouat; Marketing Manager, Healthnotes.**



### Security in our world of innovation and technology

THE innovation and technology landscape in pharmacy has raised concerns regarding data, privacy, security and confidential medical information. It is important that pharmacists and patients are aware of the security measures in place to alleviate any concerns. After all – this is the world that we now live in. Many of the activities that we engage in on a daily basis now have a technological and/or online component.

Software applications should comply with Australian Legislative requirements for privacy and confidentiality including the Australian Privacy Principles. For example; Healthnotes follows relevant industry standards with the latest and strongest security technology and encryption software available. Generally pharmacists are also required to obtain customer consent at the time of enrolling their customers into software applications. However responsibility must also be in the hands of the users. Standard measures such as password protection on all devices and applications are recommended – similarly to the way in which we are encouraged in our everyday lives to lock our front doors and secure our personal belongings. This combination of data security and every day common sense allows pharmacists and customers alike to greatly benefit from innovation and technology.

## FDA acne OTC approval

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted approval for Differin Gel 0.1% (adapalene), a once-daily topical gel which contains the first new active ingredient for over-the-counter acne use since the 1980s.

Differin Gel is a retinoid, and was originally approved in 1996 as a prescription product for the treatment of acne vulgaris in patients 12 years of age and older.

Distributed by Galderma Laboratories, the OTC approval was supported by data on post-

marketing safety accrued over the last 20 years, along with data from consumer studies and from a maximal use trial.

FDA deputy director Lesley Furlong said with millions of acne sufferers, “now consumers have access to a new safe and effective over-the-counter option”.

Differin Gel was TGA-approved in 1995 and is currently listed as Schedule 4 (prescription only).

## Cannabis savings

RESEARCHERS from the University of Georgia have reported that states where marijuana has been legalised for medical use have also recorded lower levels of prescription drug usage.

The study estimated savings of more than US\$165 million in 2013, when 17 states and the District of Columbia had implemented medical cannabis legislation.

US publication *Pharmacy Practice News* said the result suggested if all states had legalised medical marijuana the overall saving to the US health budget would have been about US\$468 million.

## Challenge accepted?

THE New Zealand pharmacy cricket fraternity looks to have taken up a challenge issued by Pharmacy Cricket in Australia, with plans to send a Kiwi team to next January's Chemists Interstate Challenge Cricket Shield.

First contested in 1908, 2017 will be the first time New Zealanders have been invited to participate.

It's understood a team is being gathered by Auckland pharmacist David Wilson, according to NZ publication *Pharmacy Today*.



## Dispensary Corner

VEGANS have been known to get riled up about anyone who dare challenge their dietary decisions, so you can imagine their utter fury when they learned a UK chef had supposedly been sneaking animal products into their food without their knowledge.

Vegan-sabotaging chef Alex Lambert from The Littleover Lodge Hotel in Derby was caught out after he boasted about his antics on Instagram.

The vegans who spotted the post rallied for him to be sacked - which he eventually was.

He now claims he never fed vegans animal produce but made the comment to upset a “militant vegan” over social media.

## VEGAN TOFU BURGER



THAT awkward moment when you add a liquid eyeliner to your online cart but the supermarket delivers you felt tip permanent markers instead.

“Only @asda can substitute a liquid eyeliner for a pack of two sharpie permanent markers,” one disappointed customer tweeted.

The embarrassed supermarket was instantly apologetic, offering her a refund.

Permanent sharpie tips are definitely not something you'd want too close to your eye!

A Tesco shopper came forward with another mismatched online shopping arrival.

She ordered red peppers only to be delivered red hair dye.

We can't imagine that would be too tasty in your dinner!

## Win with Bosisto's

This week Pharmacy Daily and Bosisto's are giving away each day a Bosisto's EucoSteam Inhaler combo and EucoSteam Inhalant 200mL.

Bosisto's EucoSteam Inhaler is a portable and easy way to use warm steam inhalation for colds & flu. Just fill the lightweight inhaler with hot water (adding Bosisto's Inhalant for soothing eucalyptus vapours) and inhale the steam to help clear nose and chest congestion. Naturally soothing relief, anytime, anywhere.

More info at [www.bosistos.com.au](http://www.bosistos.com.au)

To win, be the first from NSW or ACT to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

What condition, or symptoms, would you use Bosisto's EucoSteam Inhaler to treat?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



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Part of the Business Publishing Group.

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