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## NZ HIV proposal

NEW Zealand's PHARMAC is seeking input on a proposal to list GSK's Tivicay (dolutegravir) for the treatment of HIV, as well as amend the listing of the currently funded HIV treatment Kivexa (abacavir sulphate with lamivudine).

## Govt responds to TGA review

THE government this morning released its long-awaited response to the Review of Medicines and Medical Devices Regulation, which kicked off in 2014 under the leadership of Professor Lloyd Samson, Will Delaat and Professor John Horvath.

The response has been keenly anticipated since the final report was delivered to health minister Sussan Ley last year and later publicly released (PD 20 Nov 15).

The government says following consultation with consumers, the industry and health professionals it is supporting the "majority of the recommendations in the review," with a plan to phase in changes over the next three years "in order to maintain continuity of business".

Effective immediately the Department of Health will "commence work on designing implementation of the recommendations with a view to implementing early opportunities in 2016-17," the response advises.

Key changes will include expediting access to innovative and life-saving products via new, abbreviated pathways for approval.

Consumers will also be able to access certain medicines and medical devices that are approved based on assessments from comparable overseas regulators.

There are plans to develop a more comprehensive system of post market monitoring which will provide the TGA with better information about emerging safety issues, while access to items under the Special Access Scheme and the

Authorised Prescriber Scheme will be streamlined "reducing burden for healthcare professionals and enabling ease of access to products not on the ARTG for individual patients who meet the relevant criteria."

The government has also accepted a key recommendation relating to the advertising of therapeutic goods, which will see the removal of the current arrangements requiring vetting and pre-approval of promotional activities "in favour of a more self-regulatory regime".

The current mechanisms for managing advertising complaints are also set to be disbanded, with a new single agency to become responsible for complaints handling.

Complementary medicines will continue to be regulated by the TGA, with reforms to provide "new pathways where evidence of efficacy will be reviewed by the TGA prior to market".

And a real-time catalogue of approved ingredients for use in listed medicinal products will also be developed, for access by both sponsors and the general public.

View the response at [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## Vale Ann Dalton



THE Australian pharmacy fraternity is this week mourning the death of Ann Dalton, who had a distinguished career in the sector including senior roles at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia where she worked for over 15 years.

Her most recent role was as Group Executive Engagement and Advocacy, and she was formerly Director of Government Relations and Director of Quality Care.

She was diagnosed with brain cancer early last year and died on Tue in Canberra aged just 53.

Guild executive director, David Quilty, said Dalton's "passion for and commitment to community pharmacy was unparalleled.

"She never stopped advocating for proper recognition of the vital role community pharmacies play in our health system," he said.



## Three First to market generics

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### Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from Pharmacy 4 Less.

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## Tasmania's PATY winner

**PHARMACY** Assistant Teagan Crawford from Lauderdale Pharmacy in Hobart, Tasmania will represent her state at the National Finals of the 2016 Pharmacy Guild of Australia Guild Super Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award.

Guild Training Manager and National PATY judge, Deborah Scholz said this year the award is celebrating ten years of recognising 'the best of the best' pharmacy assistants in Australia, and received over 580 nominations.

Crawford was chosen from 12 other state finalists and will compete with other state representatives for the national



title at next month's Pharmacy Assistant National Conference on the Gold Coast.

## Mitochondrial week

**PHARMACISTS** and pharmacy assistants are being urged to learn more about mitochondrial health during Global Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week, taking place from 18-25 Sep.

Initiatives include a medical symposium on mitochondrial health and fundraising activities such as a "National Stay in Bed Day" on Sun 25 Sep, when Aussies are invited to 'sleep in for mito'.

Mitochondrial disease is a complex genetic disorder that starves the body's cells of energy, depriving organs and muscles of the power they need to function properly - see [www.amdf.org.au](http://www.amdf.org.au).

## Cannabis law update

**THE** federal government has introduced amendments to the *Narcotic Drugs Act* which will enable the "safe and legal distribution of cannabis products for medicinal use for painful and chronic conditions".

The landmark move aims to give law enforcement agencies the confidence to provide sensitive information to the Commonwealth to assess the suitability of applicants to cultivate cannabis for medicinal purposes.

Health minister Sussan Ley said it was vital that cultivated legal medicinal cannabis was not diverted to illicit purposes.

## Tambassis to present at ASMI

**PHARMACY** Guild of Australia national president George Tambassis has been confirmed as a keynote speaker at the upcoming Australian Self-Medication Industry annual conference next month.

Tambassis plans to present opportunities on how ASMI members, who include the key suppliers of non-prescription medications in Australia, can "leverage pharmacy to benefit health computers".

"Australia's 5500 community pharmacies are a vital part of the health system and provide the most accessible of all health professionals - the community pharmacist," Tambassis said.

"In an evolving market and regulatory environment it is important that pharmacies work with the wider sector to ensure that patients always come first, and that the regulatory environment

encourages excellent service and quality care," he added.

Topics in his address are expected to include the progress of the Guild's MedsASSIST real time monitoring program for tracking of OTC codeine sales, the current Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement, and thoughts about the "prescription-to-OTC switch".

Tambassis will also cover the recent Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Guild with the China Medical Pharmaceutical Material Association (*PD* 28 Jun) and what opportunities this might present for the Australian OTC and complementary medicines sector.

The ASMI conference takes place from 8.30am on Thu 27 Oct at Sydney's Le Montage in Lilyfield - details at [asmi.com.au](http://asmi.com.au).

## PBA lodges review submission

**THE** Pharmacy Board of Australia is among 37 organisations and individuals which have so far made formal submissions to the government's Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation.

The Board's submission articulates how the work it has undertaken via the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme intersects with the issues raised in the discussion paper.

Key topics include pharmacy remuneration for dispensing as well as the expansion of the role of pharmacists into areas such as immunisation and prescribing.

The submission also discusses the supply of vitamins and complementary medicines from pharmacies, along with chemotherapy compounding arrangements.

Most of the other submissions so far are from individuals including community pharmacy owners and employees, with just over a week for additional input prior to the deadline of 23 Sep and submissions expected from key bodies such as the PSA and the Pharmacy Guild.

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



Please contact Pharmabroker 02 8878 9777

**FIND OUT MORE**

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

## WIN WITH BETAHEART

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and BetaHeart are giving away each day a BetaHeart pack.

BetaHeart is a healthy oats and barley drink that tastes great and is high in betaglucan, which is scientifically proven to reduce cholesterol. Simply add one sachet a day to low fat milk, your favourite smoothie or water and enjoy! Our tasty 8-week Swiss chocolate and French Vanilla BetaHeart kit, will get you started for a healthier heart. For more information see [www.betaheart.com.au](http://www.betaheart.com.au)

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

**How many weeks does BetaHeart take to reduce cholesterol?**

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Nijal Shah.



# Pharmacy DAILY

Thursday 15 Sep 2016

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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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**UNTIL** the end of September Bentours and Hurtigruten are extending their offer of no single supplements on a range of their most popular Antarctica combination voyages.

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Choose Antarctica coupled with Falkland Islands and South Georgia or consider Hurtigruten's 16 days 'Patagonia & Antarctica Discovery Voyage' from \$6,625, saving up to AU\$4,970 pp, with many inclusions - see your travel agent or [www.bentours.com.au](http://www.bentours.com.au).

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## SHPA Residency a reality

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has announced that applications are now open for pharmacy sites across Australia to become part of the inaugural SHPA Residency Program.

The scheme aims to establish a structured, formalised, supported and accredited national two-year residency program for pharmacists in their "foundation years".

The push to establish the SHPA Residency Program will align Australian arrangements with other jurisdictions such as the USA which has had similar programs in operation for more than 50 years.

Applications for provisional accreditation as an SHPA residency program site are now open, with hospital pharmacy departments considering taking on residents for the 2017/18 program invited to make submissions which will be considered on merit, based on selection criteria and the Accreditation Standards.

"The SHPA Residency Program is flexible to suit a range of sites and settings, not just metropolitan hospitals," according to SHPA ceo Kristin Michaels.

SHPA is particularly encouraging applications from private hospital pharmacy departments and rural/regional hospitals.

"The SHPA Residency Program will have a positive effect on the future of the profession and will provide a foundation for a variety of exciting career pathways for pharmacists," Michaels said.

She said the opening of applications shows robust progress in the development of the scheme, which offers "meaningful value propositions for Australia's hospitals and hospital pharmacists".

Michaels said the Residency Program would facilitate transfer of skills across practice sites, utilise consistent resources and promote reliable, quality evaluation across a range of training situations.

Locations wanting to find out more or make an application can go to [shpa.org.au](http://shpa.org.au).

## E-Cigs "help quitters"

**MORE** smokers in Britain have apparently managed to quit the habit with the help of electronic cigarettes, according to a study published this week in the *British Medical Journal*.

Researchers from the University College London and Cancer Research UK looked at trends in quit rates, and while there doesn't appear to be a change in the number of people attempting to stop smoking, the actual success rates have been rising.

The authors estimate that 'vaping' may have helped about 18,000 more people in England successfully give up in 2015.

See [www.bmj.com](http://www.bmj.com).

## Email stationery

**THE** Health Department has simplified procedures for eligible prescribers to order PBS and RPBS stationery, adding the ability to request the items by email.

Stationery orders must include prescriber numbers in the email subject line and can be sent to [pbs.stationery.orders@humanservices.gov.au](mailto:pbs.stationery.orders@humanservices.gov.au).



## Dispensary Corner

**COW** flatulence could save the planet but first, Argentinean scientists need to ensure they can harness the expressions for good (to convert it into green energy) rather than evil (the harmful CH<sub>4</sub> methane emissions with 25 times the greenhouse effect of CO<sub>2</sub>).

The big idea they have come up with is using cow backpacks (pictured below) to trap the bovine backside blasts.

The Argentinian backpack is connected via a tube linked into the cows digestive tract, and can draw out an impressive 300 litres of methane a day.

This is reportedly enough energy to power a car for 24 hours.

Holy cow, what an invention!



**A RATHER** potent Indianapolis fertility doctor secretly used his own sperm up to 50 times instead of the donated sperm his patients were anticipating.

Seventy-seven year-old retired Dr Donald Cline wound up being the biological father of at least eight children, unknowingly to the ladies he was treating.

DNA tests have confirmed he fathered several of his patients' children.

Cline who is facing court charges said he felt that he was helping women because they really wanted a baby.

The most notorious fertility doctor to secretly use his own sperm was Cecil Jacobson, who may have fathered as many as 70 children from 1976 to 1998.

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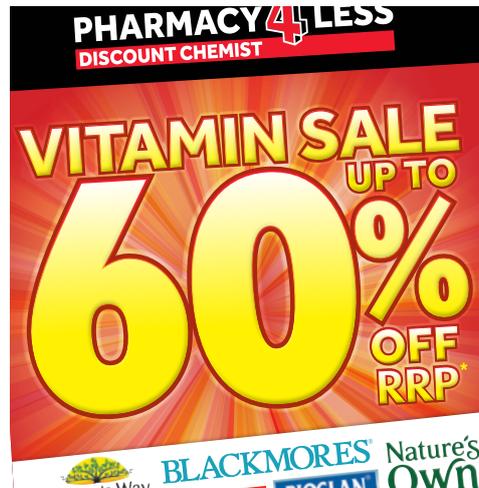
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