

## FDA Humira biosimilar

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has approved Amjevita (adalimumab-atto) as a biosimilar to Humira (adalimumab) for multiple inflammatory diseases.

Amjevita is approved for a range of indications including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and plaque psoriasis in adult patients, as well as polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis in patients four years of age and older.

Amjevita, manufactured by Amgen, is the fourth FDA-approved biosimilar, with the approval based on a review of evidence including structural and functional characterisation, animal study data, human pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamics data and clinical immunogenicity data demonstrating biosimilarity.

## Linfox supply chain plan

**TRANSPORT** giant Linfox says optimising the pharmaceutical supply chain in Australia would generate annual savings of at least \$200 million from the Community Service Obligation funding pool.

The company has made a submission to the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation outlining its analysis based on the principles of "network efficiency and balance".

Linfox says there is significant duplication of inventories and resources, and making the supply chain more efficient would provide significant savings, visibility of true supply and demand and greater transparency of cost.

While PBS reform has relieved cost pressures, it has also had a "negative impact on the viability of the pharmaceutical supply chain," with Australia's National Medicines policy now facing the pressure of an "inefficient and structurally unsustainable supply chain that

requires greater subsidy".

Rather than the current inefficient distribution network which is estimated to cost govt over \$680m annually, Linfox is proposing a single distribution centre in each of seven major centres plus smaller cross-docks in regions.

The company said this would create opportunities to effectively manage inventories to meet the true demand at all locations.

"The adoption of contemporary logistics methodologies can deliver and reduce duplication of service while maintaining clinically appropriate service levels and enhancing delivery of the National Medicines Policy," Linfox said.

## ACT/WA offices closed

**THE** Pharmacy Board of Australia is notifying pharmacy health professionals that the ACT Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) office will be closed today for Family and Community Day and the WA AHPRA office will also be closed today for the Queen's Birthday.

Both offices will reopen on Tuesday 27 Sep 2016 at 9.00am, local time.

## Oz indigenous health

**INDIGENOUS** Australians continue to face a substantially higher disease burden than non-Indigenous Australians, but some improvements have been seen, with more possible, according to a new report released on Fri by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The report revealed what the Heart Foundation called "disturbing burden of disease figures", given that "Indigenous Australians experience a burden of disease that is 2.3 times the rate of non-Indigenous Australians."

Chronic diseases caused 64% of the overall burden among Indigenous Australians, with mental & substance use disorders accounting for 19% followed by injuries including suicide (15%), cardiovascular diseases (12%), cancer (9%) and respiratory diseases (8%).

Total burden of disease in the Indigenous population fell by 5%, with an 11% reduction in the fatal burden, the report said.

**CLICK HERE** to access the report.

## Further work needed on AMA plan - PSA

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia says while it "broadly supports" the proposed Australian Medical Association model for pharmacists working within general practice (PD Fri), there is "still much discussion to be had on the best model for payment".

In particular PSA executive director Lance Emerson said the Society "firmly believes that the pharmacist hourly rate modelled in AMA's submission is too low".

He also noted that the "PSA supports the retention of the current provisions relating to ownership of pharmacies and State and Territory legislative restrictions on the co-location of pharmacies and supermarkets".

## NSW PATY winner

### COURTNEY

Boyall (pictured), pharmacy assistant at Morisset Main Street Pharmacy on the central coast of NSW has been chosen to represent the state at the national finals of the 2016 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/GuildSuper Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY).

Guild Training Manager and National PATY judge Deborah Scholz said the award received more than 580 nominations this year.

"The PATY Award was created to recognise pharmacy assistants who not only go the extra mile to help their customers but are also proactive in developing their careers," she said.

The National Finals will be held at the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference on 28 Oct at the Gold Coast, with the winner taking home over \$10,000 in cash and prizes.



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## Weekly Comment

Welcome to PD's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Catherine Cervasio, Founder - Aromababy Natural Skincare.**



### Bathing baby

**BABIES** have skin which is one third the thickness of an adult - for babies born prematurely this is a concern as they have not yet built up adequate protection to keep harmful bacteria away and sebaceous glands (which help to lubricate the skin) are not yet active.

Choosing the right bath care product is vital especially during those early weeks and months following birth - particularly so for a pre term baby.

"Sulphate free" is common these days and options are widely available across a variety of price points however there are more skin-drying culprits used in baby bath wash products which may be best avoided.

Suggest parents seek out specialty products which are low-foaming, utilise mild vegetable based surfactants and are fragrance free. Highly foaming baby washes can strip the delicate skin of its natural, protective oils which are there to protect. Ingredients such as lauryl sulphate, laureth sulphate (there are many variations of these) and cocoamphodiacetate can all be not only drying to the skin but potential allergy triggers.

Fragrance free (essential oil free) and selecting product from a baby care category specialist can all play a part in keeping babies skin integrity at optimum levels.

## Pharmacists celebrated

**THE** International Pharmaceutical Federation yesterday marked World Pharmacists Day with a global video message from president Carmen Pena, expressing her "heartfelt thanks to pharmacists around the world".



It's the sixth year that World Pharmacists Day has been celebrated, with the 2016 theme being "Pharmacists: Caring for you".

"As care providers, we pharmacists have achieved tremendous success in our goals to improve patients' quality of life," she said, urging pharmacists to make the most of World Pharmacists Day as an opportunity to promote the profession.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia also urged recognition of community pharmacists' contribution and their role in the future of healthcare.

PSA's Early Career Pharmacist national director Taren Gill said World Pharmacists was also an opportunity to recognise the next generation of pharmacists who

will provide innovative healthcare solutions into the future.

"PSA has been strongly advocating for expanding innovative models of evidence-based, interprofessional healthcare within pharmacists' scope of practice to better utilise the role of pharmacists to improve health outcomes for patients.

"As an ECP leader, I am proud to be helping the profession address these challenges and achieve reforms to help ease the burden on Australia's health system," she said

Gill, who became PSA's first ECP Director in June this year, said the future leaders of pharmacy were committed to long-term healthcare outcomes.

"As Early Career Pharmacists, we all have one thing in common: we chose pharmacy and it's a privilege," she said.

## Dispensary Corner

**TAXIDERMISTS** tend to react a little differently to regular citizens when discovering a dead animal.

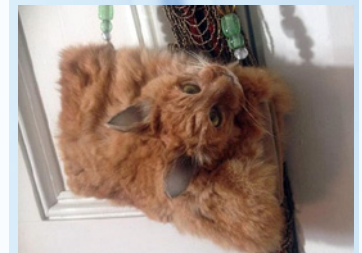
"What could I turn that into?" is likely one of the first thoughts to pass through their minds.

One New Zealand artist who found a dead cat decided to repurpose the body as a 'one-off, glamour puss' purse.

The finished product (pictured below) polarised opinions online when it was posted for sale on the online marketplace TradeMe for NZ\$1,400.

The creator said the bag was a perfect expression of her "desire to engineer the surreal, particularly using feral and domestic felines".

It reportedly sold for NZ\$400.



**A ROYAL** mint worker in Canada managed to smuggle \$180,000 worth of gold out of his workplace by secreting it up his backside.

Butt smuggler, Leston Lawrence, is now facing charges including theft, laundering the proceeds of crime, possession of stolen property and breach of trust.

He is accused of sneaking out the "cookie-sized" nuggets of gold along with gold coins between Nov 2014 and Mar 2015 (we're pleased to know it wasn't all in one go).

He would then allegedly sell the gold (hopefully after giving it a good wash) to a local gold buyer before depositing the cheques.

It was the bank teller who raised initial suspicions.

## Win with MOR

This week Pharmacy Daily and MOR are giving away each day the Essentials Wash and Lotions in Black Iris valued at \$39.90.

The Essentials collection presents five memorable fragrances in an assortment of quality products to embrace everyday self-indulgence. The prize contains a hydrating Hand & Body Wash to leave skin cleansed and refreshed, complemented by a nourishing Hand & Body Lotion to moisturise and hydrate. For more info visit [morboutique.com](http://morboutique.com).



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

What key ingredients can be found in MOR's Essentials Hand & Body Lotion?

*Check here tomorrow for today's winner.*