

Today's issue of PD

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

FDA ticks genetic test

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has allowed marketing of 23andMe Personal Genome Service Genetic Health Risk (GHR) tests for 10 conditions. These are the first direct-to-consumer (DTC) tests authorized by the FDA that provide information on an individual's genetic medical predispositions.

The 23andMe GHR tests work by isolating DNA from a saliva sample, which is then tested for more than 500,000 genetic variants which indicate an increased risk for developing a variety of diseases, including Parkinson's disease, late-onset Alzheimer's disease, coeliac disease, alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, early-onset primary dystonia, Factor XI deficiency, Gaucher disease type 1, glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency (G6PD), hereditary haemochromatosis and hereditary thrombophilia.

The results can influence lifestyle choices and inform discussions with health professionals, the FDA said.

TGA launches codeine strategy

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has launched the first stage of communications to consumers about the rescheduling of codeine effective 01 Feb 2018, and is highlighting the importance of pharmacists in minimising harm from the medication.

A new "consumer fact sheet" about the changes has been issued, with the TGA saying "most people should be able to manage acute pain or cough and cold symptoms with safer alternative medicines".

For acute pain this may include products containing paracetamol or ibuprofen, or the two products in combination, the document states.

"Your pharmacist will be able to provide advice on the most appropriate medicines for you... speaking with your pharmacist is particularly important if you have any other medical conditions such as stomach, kidney, liver or heart problems," the TGA advises.

Doctors also have a role to play, with people experiencing ongoing pain urged to speak to their GP to determine better alternative treatment options such as other OTC or prescription medicines or "non-medicine therapies from an allied health professional".



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Slade chemo in SA

SLADE Health has been awarded the SA Health contract to provide chemotherapy compounding services across the state.

The transition of this service is now complete which includes supply to 23 South Australian metro and regional hospitals, the company has announced.

Slade currently operates four TGA-licensed facilities in Vic, NSW and Qld, servicing over 200 clinics and hospitals nationally.



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Dispensary Corner

A BRITISH man and wife are celebrating after having been named "Couple of the Year" by *Slimming World* magazine - after the pair lost more than 69 kilograms by giving up their favourite fry-ups and curries in favour of healthy oats, stir fries and walking.

Mark and Amanda Gibbon from Chepstow in Monmouthshire reportedly lamented their expanding waistlines, especially when Mark had to ask for a seatbelt extension on a plane and Amanda ran to the toilet and cried when she looked at the mirror and was disgusted by what she saw.

The couple said they can also now run around after their grandkids "rather than collapsing in a chair after five minutes".



SOME people will fulfil their icecream craving anywhere it seems...even at the South Pole.

New Zealander Dr Hamish Wright wanted to satisfy his sweet-tooth during his nine and a half month stint in Antarctica at Amundsen-Scott Station.

The doctor didn't see the sun for six months and had a few "weird nuances of life", he reported to *Manawatu Standard* including having to de-frost the icy treat for six hours to make it edible after storage in -50°C conditions.

NSW Guild appt

THE NSW Branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced the appointment of Judy Plunkett as a Branch Committee member.

Plunkett is a prominent pharmacist in Port Macquarie and a tireless advocate for the value of community pharmacy services, the Guild said in its release.

The appointment is due to the retirement of the long term NSW Branch figure and highly respected former national councillor Peter McBeath.

NSW branch president Rick Samimi thanked Peter McBeath for many years of service to the Guild and the pharmacy profession, in particular in the areas of workplace relations, oncology and aged care pharmacy services, as well as his many years of service as a national councillor and prominent contributor to the Guild's Health Economics team.

"I congratulate Judy Plunkett and welcome her to the Branch Committee," Samimi said.

"Judy brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in pharmacy transformation and the potential that can be unlocked in pharmacy services through the network of community pharmacies across Australia."

Zelda oversubscribed

AUSTRALIAN listed bio-pharmaceutical company Zelda Therapeutics has announced it placed 85,714,286 shares at AU\$0.07 per share raising \$6m and was oversubscribed with strong support from Australasian institutional investors.

Zelda has secured exclusive, global access to what it calls "an extensive set of human data related to medicinal cannabis based formulations and treatment protocols" over several years.

The company says it is conducting human clinical trials initially in sleep disorder (insomnia) and eczema indications as well as building a pre-clinical cancer research portfolio.

CLICK HERE for the ASX release.

AusCann has a preferential supplier agreement with Zelda for cannabis product research trials.

TGA SUSAR update

THE TGA has updated its processes for receiving serious unexpected adverse reaction (SUSAR) reports for unapproved medicines and biologicals used in clinical trials under the Clinical Trials Notification (CTN) or Clinical Trials Exemption (CTX) schemes.

Visit tga.gov.au for details.

TGA fake drug alert

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has alerted consumers and healthcare professionals that Nangen Zengzhangsu capsules pose a serious risk to health and should not be taken.

Visit tga.gov.au for details.



Guild Update

PBS Claims over Easter

THE Department of Human Services - Medicare has advised that PBS Online payments will be paid in advance over the Easter period. If your payments are due Friday 14 April 2017 they'll be processed early on Thursday 13 April 2017. No payments will be made on Friday 14 April, Good Friday. Claims lodged in PBS Online from Thursday 6 April to Wednesday 12 April 2017 will be processed as normal on Friday 21 April 2017. The changes are summarised below.

PBS Online claim period	Normal payment date	New payment date
Thu 30 March - Wed 5 April 2017	Fri 14 April 2017	Thu 13 April 2017
Thu 6 April - Wed 12 April 2017	Fri 21 April 2017	No change

WIN WITH SOUTHERNATURE

This week Pharmacy Daily and SOUTHERNATURE are giving away their Omega 3 Concentrate each day, valued at \$51.95 RRP.

IFOS Certified Omega 3 Concentrate Fish Oil is specially designed to help support the health of the cardiovascular and nervous systems and to support eye health. SOUTHERNATURE uses only Premium Fish Oil to ensure a quality oil, high in EPA and DHA to provide optimal health benefits. For more info **CLICK HERE**.

To win, be the first person from QLD to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What does IFOS stand for?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



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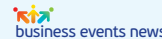
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