

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, our regular health & beauty feature plus a full page from Sensipure.

MA bridges the gap

PHARMACEUTICAL industry peak body Medicines Australia (MA) has said it warmly welcomes the commencement of The Bridge Program, an initiative of a consortium of Australian innovative pharmaceutical companies and MA, together with QUT and Medical Technologies and Pharmaceutical Growth Centre, who will "translate Australia's impressive innovation and discovery research into the marketplace".

The Bridge Program will commence in June this year for 100 participants and will also give two participants a travel scholarship to visit overseas pharmaceutical research facilities and develop global experience.

MA ceo Milton Catelin said, "Collaborative programs such as this one boost opportunities for commercialisation and investment, and sets the nation on a path to a more innovative and entrepreneurial economy."

PPA urges Hunt on Review

PROFESSIONAL Pharmacists Australia has formally written to Health Minister Greg Hunt, urging him to continue to support the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation which was initiated by his predecessor, Sussan Ley.

The union group cited concerns about the "longer-term impact the Pharmacy Guild's attacks" on the review would have on the sector.

"It's essential that the review continues to be supported, as it has given a platform to employees, consumers and other stakeholders to put forward positive plans for

the future," said PPA president Geoff March.

"We're encouraging the Minister to listen and learn from people other than the powerful lobbyists at the owners' guild to identify the core issues facing the sector".

The Review appears to have stalled, with a draft report flagged for release in Feb failing to materialise, and the department confirming delays "due to the serious illness of one of the Panel members" (PD 06 Mar).

A planned appearance by Review chair Stephen King at the APP conference a month ago on the Gold Coast also did not proceed.

March's letter to Minister Hunt says current policy settings are failing, with the review an "opportunity to chart a new roadmap for the sector".

Hepatitis C update

THE Health Department has updated its Hepatitis C Medicines Fact Sheet for Community Pharmacy Dispensers, with the addition of Zepatier (grazoprevir with elbasvir) which has been PBS listed alongside seven other drugs.

Pharmacists can now dispense General Schedule (S85) scripts for Harvoni, Solvadi, Daklinza, Ibvayr, Pegasys-RBV, Viekira Pak, Viekira Pak-RBV and Zepatier.

The prescriptions are all Authority Required and are not streamlined authorities.

Champix streamlined

EFFECTIVE 01 May smoking cessation product Champix (varenicline) has its authority to prescribe level reduced to a streamlined level.

This means prescribers will not need to ring the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme office to prescribe the drug, and can include the relevant streamlined authority code using prescribing software.

Go to pbs.gov.au for PBS codes.

Grey hair cardiac link?

SEEING that gentleman walk into the pharmacy with distinguished looking



greying temples may be a sign he has underlying cardiac disease, according to a new observational study presented at the EuroPrevent 2017 conference of the European Society of Cardiology and reported by Medical Search.

Atherosclerosis and greying hair have similar causes: the damaged DNA that comes with ageing, increased oxidative stress, and the ageing of cells including pigment in hair, the researchers said.

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Hennessy backs pharmacy vax



Uruguay legalises marijuana sales

URUGUAY has the dubious privilege of being the first nation in the world to legalise the cultivation, sale and consumption of marijuana, in an attempt to tackle drug cartels, reports the *BBC*.

After nearly 12 hours of debate, senators in the South American country gave the government-sponsored bill the historic final approval, which follows up on the lower house approval given in July last year.

The law allowing registered Uruguayans over 18 to buy up to 40g (1.4oz) of the drug a month is expected to come into force this month - just trumping a move by Canada which intends to also move on legitimising cannabis use.

The Canadian government has just last week said it will introduce legislation within two weeks to legalise recreational marijuana for anyone over 18, with expectations of having a regulated legal marijuana market up and running by next year's Canada Day which occurs on 01 Jul 2018 (*PD* 06 Apr).

Both governments have said they are hoping to rein in illegal drug trafficking by regulating and controlling the market.

Presenting the bill to fellow senators, Uruguay's Roberto Conde said it was an unavoidable response to reality, given that the "war" against drugs had failed.

ABOVE: Victorian health minister Jill Hennessy visited Priceline Pharmacy in Williamstown yesterday to highlight the government's Pharmacist-Administered Vaccination Program.

More than 500 pharmacists across the state are now trained to provide influenza vaccinations, and "with 87% of Victorians living within 2.5km of a pharmacist, families now have another close and convenient option to access these critical vaccinations," she said.

As well as influenza, Victorian pharmacists are able to deliver vaccines under the government's Parents' Whooping Cough Vaccination Program.

"Most of us live within a five minute drive of a pharmacy. We're making it easier for all Victorians to get vaccinated closer to home," the Minister said.

Hennessy was accompanied by Guild National President George Tambassis and Victorian Guild Branch President Anthony Tassone.

Briviact AusPAR

UCB Australia's epilepsy treatment Briviact (brivaracetam) is the subject of a new TGA Australian Public Assessment Report (AusPAR).

Briviact is presented as immediate release film coated tablets, oral solution and a solution for injection to be used as add-on therapy in the treatment of partial-onset seizures.

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NZ pharmacy software deal

NEW Zealand pharmacy software developer Toniq has been acquired by Dublin-based Clanwilliam Group, joining the company's portfolio of "best-of-breed" solutions in the UK, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand.

Toniq software is used by more than 850 pharmacies across New Zealand, with functionality including dispensary workflow, point of sale, stock ordering and medication management for aged care facilities.

The Clanwilliam Group's existing pharmacy portfolio includes brands such as RxWeb, PharmaSys, Safescript and CliniScript, with Toniq founder Clive Davidson saying "after 20 years of growing organically to become the leading pharmacy software in New Zealand, I am very pleased that Toniq can retain its identity and location and commitment to all New Zealand pharmacies".

He said Clanwilliam's resources

would enable the company to grow its product offering and services.

"We are expecting a business-as-usual approach for all of our customers...however the company will now benefit from the innovations that a larger group can offer through better information tools and integration with new healthcare technologies," he added.

Clanwilliam's customer base in Ireland and the UK includes both hospital and community pharmacies, with major chains and independents using the software along with national and private hospitals.

Enter the dragon

THE war against antibacterial resistance has a new weapon - courtesy of Indonesia's frightening Komodo dragon.

Scientists at George Mason University in the US found that while the reptile's saliva harbours many different types of bacteria, they somehow do not affect it.

They found Komodo dragon blood contains an important protein compound which could offer a new treatment for infected wounds, demonstrated by healing wounds in mice infected by "superbugs" *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

The study, published in *npj Biofilms and Microbiomes*, suggests that the protein could potentially be developed into an antibiotic in the future.

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

Lose Weight alert

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued an alert advising consumers and health professionals that Lose Weight capsules pose a serious health risk and contain sibutramine, a prescription-only medicine which was the active ingredient in Reductil, and the NSAID diclofenac.

Reductil was withdrawn in Oct 2010 after a study showed an increased risk of major cardiac events.

Visit tga.gov.au for details.

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 WA, SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What are the skin conditions Omega 3 Concentrate can assist with?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



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Dispensary Corner

SESAME Street has a new kid on the block and her name is Julia, and in an interesting development, she has autism.

The show, which has been running for over half a century has introduced the orange-haired girl in the hopes of educating pre-schoolers of the challenges faced by autistic children, particularly in social situations.

In the pilot episode titled "Meet Julia", we'll see Big Bird introduce himself and Julia not respond; despite Big Bird being hurt, he realises Julia's behaviour is different, but her silence doesn't mean she doesn't care.



PREMMIE birth no more!

A new medical advice called amniosense pantyliners could help you discern if you're going to have a premature birth... by changing colour by reacting to pH levels of vaginal secretions.

Blue indicates probable amniotic fluid leakage, yellow indicates probable urine leakage.

It's been launched in the UK for £29.99 for a pack of 12 and can be worn for up to 12 hours.

Around one in ten women have a premmie birth as the amniotic sac leaks prior to baby maturity.

This device could potentially allow women to differentiate between a pregnancy niggles and a serious pregnancy complication and is non-invasive.

Health, Beauty and New Products

New SLEEP Inner Beauty Powder

Introducing The Beauty Chef's New **SLEEP Inner Beauty Powder**, the secret beauty ingredient you never knew you were missing. A delicious organic blend of bio-fermented turmeric root and paw paw leaf, the new SLEEP formula has been enriched with lemon balm and passionflower, used traditionally in Western herbal medicine, to help relieve nervousness, restlessness and mild anxiety. SLEEP contains no artificial colourings, flavourings or preservatives, is lactose, sugar and dairy free. It contains 20 servings per tub.



Stockist: 02 9363 1648

RRP: \$49.95

Website: www.thebeautychef.com

THERA°PEARL Breast Therapy



New from Lansinoh: **THERA°PEARL 3-in-1 Breast Therapy** provides hot or cold breast therapy and is an advanced solution for common breastfeeding challenges. Lansinoh

THERA°PEARL encourages let-down and helps relieve the symptoms of engorgement and mastitis. This product can also be used with a breast pump to reduce the time spent expressing.

Stockist: 1800 653 373

RRP: \$29.95

Website: www.lasinoh.com.au

New Blistex Pearl Soft & Silky

New from Blistex comes the delicious plum-vanilla flavour, Blistex **Pearl Soft & Silky**, packed with silk extracts and conditioners. The innovative package design not only delivers the moisturisation you expect from Blistex, but it looks gorgeous in its compact dome casing and also features a clever flip open lid that remains attached, making it impossible to lose. Blistex Pearl Soft & Silky leaves your lips feeling silky smooth and soft.



Stockist: 1800 653 373

RRP: \$5.95

Website: www.blistex.com.au

Hi-Lights Illuminator - New Look

Designer Brands (DB) Cosmetics brings its new look **Hi-Lights Illuminator** to market in two glowing shades: Bronzing and Starlight. This amazing luminescent complexion booster, is specially formulated to include skin-loving ingredients vitamin E and synthetic Beeswax to help nourish the skin. This is the perfect multi-purpose product that can be applied anywhere

you want to enhance the glow of your skin. Free of talcs, bismuth and parabens new look DB Hi-Lights Illuminator is CCF and vegan certified.

Stockist: 1300 765 332

RRP: \$9.99

Website: www.dbcosmetics.com.au

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