

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news and a full page from Evomed.

## VPA appointment

**THE** Victorian Pharmacy Authority has confirmed the re-appointment of Joey Calandra as a registered pharmacist member.

Calandra, who is the director of strategic partnerships and engagement for the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, has been appointed for a further term through until 30 Jun 2020.

## Bronchitol PBAC tick

**LISTED** pharmaceutical research firm Pharmaxis has welcomed a positive recommendation from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee for expanded reimbursement for its cystic fibrosis treatment Bronchitol, which has been recommended for PBS listing in combination with reimbursed CF medication Pulmozyme.

## Monash pharmacy EDGE

**THE** Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Victoria's Monash University has launched a new organisational unit focused on workplace learning and strengthening the connections between education and practice.

The Experiential Development and Graduate Education (EDGE) unit will be led by Associate Professor Kirstie Galbraith (pictured) who is an international expert in practitioner development.

EDGE aims to improve links across all experiential programs at the faculty, covering all points in the practitioner development pathway.

Monash said EDGE would recognise the importance of lifelong learning by bridging activity between the faculty's new undergraduate pharmacy degree and its graduate programs such as the Intern Training Program, Intern



Foundation Program and the Master of Clinical Pharmacy. "EDGE is designed to cater to the changing reality of the pharmacy workforce, and better reflect the nexus between experiential development, education and ongoing practitioner development," Galbraith said.

The new unit has partly been developed in response to the new Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)/ Master of Pharmacy course, of which a key feature is "early and enhanced experiential training". It also reflects recent initiatives by the International Pharmaceutical Federation, which last year ratified 13 global Pharmaceutical Workforce Development Goals - five of which specifically focus on developing the pharmacy workforce.

To register interest in EDGE email [pharm.EDGE@monash.edu](mailto:pharm.EDGE@monash.edu).

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## Gardasil-9 for NIP

**THE** Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory committee (PBAC) has recommended that 9-valent human papillomavirus (9vHPV) vaccine Gardasil 9 be made available as a designated vaccine for funding through the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

Recent research at Melbourne's Royal Women's Hospital and Victorian Cytology Service revealed broader protection (PD 14 Aug).

PBAC comments: [pbs.gov.au](http://pbs.gov.au).

## Private in public hosp

**THE** Australian Federal Government Department of Health is seeking input from interested parties around options to reduce pressure on private health insurance premiums by addressing the growth of private patients in public hospitals.

A discussion paper has been released and can be found by going to [consultations.health.gov.au](http://consultations.health.gov.au).

Submissions should reach the nominated address by 15 Sep.



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Byron Bay Frangipani Hand Cream 100ml	258012	436232	27112	\$14.95

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## Dispensary Corner

**WHITE** supremacists in the USA are somewhat disappointed after taking DNA tests which show they aren't actually 100% white.

According to a new study by the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), some members of neo-Nazi groups have been using genetic testing kits in order to prove their "racial purity".

UCLA sociologists studied over 3,000 posts on an online forum convened by a Ku Klux Klan leader, revealing many participants were shocked to learn they had Middle Eastern or African heritage.

The website contained many discussions about what constituted "being white" with some users disregarding the results, saying they knew better.

After receiving what the study described as "bad news," one of the forum participants wrote "my advice is to trust...what your grandparents told you, before trusting a DNA test".

**A GOLDEN** retriever in the USA has received canine congratulations after he dug up about \$100,000 worth of heroin from his owners' back yard.

The puppy named Kenyon began scrabbling in the dirt and uncovered an object that his family initially thought could be a time capsule buried years earlier.

They filmed themselves opening it, only to discover that it contained about 500g of "black tar heroin" presumably put there by a previous resident.

The local police praised the doggy discovery, with Kenyon receiving a citation naming him as an "honorary narcotics dog,"

## Pharmacy first for pain

**SANOFI** Consumer Healthcare has released new research indicating that at least 45% of consumers will visit their pharmacist for pain relief in the first instance after codeine-containing products are rescheduled in Feb 2018.

Sanofi's study also found 43% of people who currently purchase OTC codeine products say they will switch to a paracetamol and ibuprofen combination after the changes come into effect, rather than visit their GP for a codeine pain relief prescription.

In light of these findings the company has launched Mersynofen, a new codeine-free formula as part of its Mersyndol brand pain portfolio.

Mersynofen will only be available in pharmacies, with Sanofi Consumer Healthcare gm Brett Charlton saying the research provides key insights for pharmacists wanting to provide effective options for clients.

"People who are in pain will seek help from an expert and, while

some will visit their GP, a large number of people will still visit their local pharmacy first," he said.

The research indicated that 28% of codeine consumers would ask their GP for higher strength options - however GPs would be most likely to prescribe the same codeine strength that previously worked for their patient, with a preference to prescribe by brand name rather than active ingredients and strengths.

Half of the GPs surveyed said they would not write repeat scripts for codeine, and the majority of doctors also said they preferred to prescribe a smaller pack (20-24 tablets) over a larger one (36-40).

Once the rescheduling takes effect Sanofi's core range of Mersyndol, Prodeine and ProdeineXtra products will move to prescription-only, Charlton confirmed.

He said pharmacies stocking Mersynofen would be supported with educational and point of sale materials about the ibuprofen and paracetamol combination product.

## Liptember support

**CHEMIST** Warehouse is once again sponsoring the annual Liptember women's mental health fundraising campaign.

This year the theme calls on women to "Kiss away the blues" by committing to wearing special brightly coloured official Liptember lipsticks sold exclusively through Chemist Warehouse nationwide.

The charity raised \$1.2 million last year which supported a range of programs including antenatal clinics and parenting assistance.

## Guild Update

### Clear information on medicines

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has introduced improvements to help bring Australian medicine labels up to date and align them with international best practice. They will help Australians to make more informed choices about their medicines and to use them safely.

The TGA has developed posters targeted at healthcare professionals and consumers. These will be gradually released over the four-year transition period.

Medicine labels are already starting to change and the TGA is encouraging consumers to continue to speak to their health professional, including pharmacists, if they have any questions about their medicines.

Further details are available at the TGA's labelling changes page on its website.

## WIN WITH LE TAN

This week Pharmacy Daily and Le Tan are giving away each day Uber Dark Self-Tanning Foam in Green Base.

The next generation in dark tanning is here. Uber Dark is a salon quality dark formulation - developed by tanning and suncare experts Le Tan. Created with highly concentrated tanning actives, Uber Dark delivers the darkest tan possible that is specifically tailored to match your skin tone. With the Uber Dark range, you are able to choose from three base colours of Green, Violet and Ash, to enhance the end result of your tan, as well as a foam infused with Marula Oil. While all Uber Dark bases colours can be used on all skin tones, you are able to tailor your tan to your unique skin type.

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

Name the two variants suitable for all skin tones?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Maria Fenech from Chemsave.



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