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## Cannabis for autism?

**ASX-LISTED** medicinal cannabis research company Zeldia Therapeutics has announced that it will be partnering with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) in the US to run initial observational trials on children with autism spectrum disorder.

Zeldia said the arrangement would allow the company to utilise CHOP's extensive resources to measure the effectiveness of medicinal cannabis as a possible treatment for children with autism.

Data generated from the initial study will contribute to evaluation of the extensive positive anecdotal evidence that already exists while providing the foundational knowledge needed to develop new safe, effective and affordable cannabinoid based medicines.

As one of the most prevalent neurological conditions in children, with one in 160 affected globally, current autism treatments present with a "number of serious side effects" and there is no single recognised therapy.

Zeldia is also researching with Complutense University in Madrid, Spain, as well as the Australian Telethon Kids and Curtin University.

## CSL plasma pact

**THE** Federal Government's National Blood Authority has signed a new national contract with CSL Behring Australia for the manufacture and supply of fractionated blood plasma products.

CSL will manufacture the items from Australian plasma provided by the Red Cross Blood Service.

## Amgen amends direct deal

**AMGEN** has announced changes to its controversial direct-to-pharmacy distribution model for Prolia, as part of its "ongoing commitment to work closely with community pharmacy to provide support through the transition".

Effective this month, Amgen confirmed it would remove Prolia (denosumab) from the major CSO pharmaceutical distributors, instead requiring pharmacies to order direct via DHL (**PD** 23 Nov).

The company has received significant feedback from pharmacies, and overnight announced changes to the commercial offer including free delivery for second monthly orders of 1-3 units of Prolia.

"This change reflects Amgen's efforts to better support pharmacies that may have smaller order requirements," Amgen said.

Additional discounts will also now be offered on larger orders effective from 01 Jan, with 4-16 units of Prolia receiving a 2% discount (was 1.5%), and orders of 17+ units discounted by 2.8% (up from 2.5%).

"Ordering has been progressing very well, with almost 10% of community pharmacies using the DHL Direct to Market Service to order Prolia on the first day it came into effect, December 1," said Amgen Australia md My Linh Kha.

"We remain committed to working with community pharmacy and providing support during this transition period, and over the longer term as we build a partnership to support improved outcomes for patients with osteoporosis," Kha said.

## Guild checklist

**THE** Pharmacy Guild's new consumer-facing website (**PD** 24 Nov) features a collection of "advice articles" and consumer information on over 50 health topics and medical conditions.

There's also a medicines checklist for people planning a trip away with their children, with the site aiming to educate consumers on the range of services available in community pharmacies.

It combines the previous 'Find a Pharmacy' and 'Ask your Pharmacist' sites, with the updated version now available online at [findapharmacy.com.au](http://findapharmacy.com.au).

## SHPA research focus

**PHARMACEUTICAL** research as a foundation of medical advancement is the focus of the final 2017 Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research (JPPR)*, which is now available online, free to members.

This latest issue "reflects the growing role of the National Translational Research Collaborative (NTRC), established by SHPA in April to harness, expand and leverage the research capability and capacity of Australian pharmacists and organisations," editor-in-chief Chris Alderman said.

Several examples of fundamental pharmaceutical sciences are included - members **CLICK HERE**.

## CMs 'next big thing'

**THE** University of Sydney says Complementary Medicines are "the next big thing in community pharmacy," in an update on its new Graduate Certificate in Evidence-based Complementary Medicines (**PD** 16 Aug) which kicks off in 2018 - see [sydney.edu.au](http://sydney.edu.au).

## Gold Coast charges

**A MAN** who allegedly attempted to rob a pharmacy in Southport on the Gold Coast has been charged.

The 47-year-old entered the Marine Parade pharmacy on Sun evening claiming to have a gun.

Two men in the store restrained the man until police arrived, reports [MyGC.com.au](http://MyGC.com.au).

## E-cigs are a gateway

**THERE** is a growing evidence base for the theory that e-cigarettes act as a gateway to cigarettes for young people, leading experts to argue for maintenance of strict regulations around their use in Australia.

Research published in *Paediatrics* this month, out of Yale University in the US, found that past-month e-cigarette use predicted future conventional cigarette use across three longitudinal waves among 808 Connecticut high school students, whereas the reverse did not apply.

A 'Perspective' article published online in *MJA InSight* has summarised this and other reviews which build the database of evidence against relaxing laws for their distribution and use.

Visit [mja.com.au](http://mja.com.au) for the article.



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Pharmacy Daily



## Dispensary Corner

**COULD** dressing up become part of the pharmacy curriculum?

Researchers in the USA have found that students perform boring tasks more effectively if they are pretending to be Batman.

A study looked at the behaviour of 4-6 year olds who were given a repetitive job, with the option of playing on an iPad when they became bored.

The kids were told the task was extremely important - and the researchers found that when the participants thought of themselves as superheroes they were more likely to stick to it rather than be distracted by technology.

The scientists conducting the study, from the University of Minnesota, described the dress-up phenomenon as 'self-distancing'.

As you would expect, even the most enthusiastic workers still spent 2/3 of their time on the iPad.

**OBESITY** is definitely an issue for a very fat squirrel in New Jersey, USA, which was spotted stealing chocolates left out as a holiday treat for delivery workers.

The miscreant was captured on a surveillance camera after a basket of treats on a home's doorstep was repeatedly raided.

The homeowner, Michele Boudreaux, said the rodent thief was definitely targeting the pricier items including a significant quantity of Ghirardelli chocolate.

She wrote on her blog "this squirrel is so obese - a jolly ol' chap - he must be prepping for a decade of winters".

The issue has now been solved, with Boudreaux saying she is putting the sweet items in a jar that requires opposable thumbs.

## CPAP pharmacist training

**PHARMACISTS** are being empowered to consider offering professional services around sleep apnoea, with the release of a new training program focusing on continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) delivery.

The module, titled 'Sleep Apnoea Services for Pharmacists', has been created by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia in partnership with the Australasian Sleep Association (ASA).

The course is delivered in a blended format, with three online modules followed by a face-to-face workshop with hands-on experience in a sleep clinic.

PSA national president Dr Shane Jackson said PSA was delighted to continue its productive collaboration with the Association, after the organisations worked together in 2015 to develop the 'Practice guidelines for the provision of sleep apnoea services within pharmacy'.

"This training program equips pharmacists with both the knowledge and hands-on experience needed to establish and deliver a high-quality CPAP service in a community pharmacy," he said.

ASA president Peter Eastwood said sleep physicians from around the country were looking forward to working with PSA to support pharmacists to provide a better CPAP service for their patients.

The first face-to-face workshop will be held on Sat 10 Feb 2018 at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne. Visit [psa.org.au](http://psa.org.au) for details.

## Global formula recall

**FRENCH** dairy giant Lactalis has ordered a global product recall of hundreds of infant milk powder products sold under the Celi, Picot and Milumel brands.

The company has warned of the possibility of salmonella contamination, with almost 7,000 tonnes of product affected due to an issue at the Lactalis factory in northwest France.

Lactalis products are exported to the UK, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sudan, reports the *BBC*.

## Win with Burnaid®

Each day this week **Pharmacy Daily** and the makers of Burnaid® are giving away 3x bottles of mundicare® Burnaid® Sunburn Gel Spray valued at \$44.97.

mundicare® Burnaid® Sunburn Gel Spray is an after sun spray specially formulated with aloe vera and Australian melaleuca oil in a cooling hydrogel to help:

- Cool to reduce the discomfort of sunburn
- Soothe to visibly reduce redness
- Rehydrate to minimise peeling

**CLICK HERE** to learn more.

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

What is one of the product's three main benefits?

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Dean Kelly from Phytologic.*



## Holiday PBS payment

**THE** Department of Human Services has posted details around timings of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) online payments which it says will be paid in advance over the holidays.

Payments due on 22 Dec or on 29 Dec will be made early, on 21 Dec, but none will be paid on 29 Dec.

**CLICK HERE** for full details.

## Guild Update

### Guild Digest

**THE** Pharmacy Guild is seeking the assistance of community pharmacists in providing data for the latest Guild Digest survey update.

To enable the Guild to fully represent members' interests and those of the industry, it needs access to information on which to base arguments, develop economic models and present accurate forecasts and scenarios.

The key to having a pharmacy represented accurately is for it to submit data on its businesses operations for the Guild Digest.

The Guild is now seeking information for this year's Digest and to ensure their pharmacy is represented, pharmacies are asked to complete the survey sent to them in November.

For further information about the survey or to request a link to the survey please contact the National Secretariat on (02) 6270 1888 or [analysis@guild.org.au](mailto:analysis@guild.org.au).