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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from APP 2017.

Pharmacare website

THE correct website address for Medscope's Pharmacare system (PD yesterday), a console that attaches itself to the dispensing system to provide a patient-centric view of the pharmacy's dispensing activities, is www.pharmacare.com.au.



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TWC rebrand rolling out

ALL pharmacies within the combined Terry White and Chemmart networks will be trading under the TerryWhite Chemmart brand by the end of 2017, according to an update issued yesterday by the company.



So far a total of ten pharmacies have rebranded, with ceo Anthony White saying the integration of the groups was "tracking well ahead of schedule".

He said the merger had cemented the group in the market, with about 500 pharmacies nationwide.

"The substantial scale we've achieved will deliver a range of critical benefits to our members, including significant supply-chain efficiencies that will support continued sales growth across the network," he said.

White said as a result of the merger member pharmacies have access to substantially increased infrastructure which will deliver improved in-pharmacy efficiencies and higher levels of customer service.

He confirmed that the new brand would be supported by "a significant investment in above-the-line marketing to generate high levels of customer awareness and brand recognition".

MEANWHILE the Terry White Chemmart Group also yesterday reported its results for the six months to 31 Dec, with

consolidated pre-tax earnings of \$3.4 million.

That was a 66% increase on the previous corresponding period - however net profit after tax rose just 3% to \$1.3 million.

Total revenue doubled, from \$16.9 million to \$33.9 million, while service revenue rose 55% to \$19.9 million for the half.

"The increase in revenue and EBITDA was directly attributable to the merger of Terry White Group with Chemmart, and we expect to see continued earnings improvement," White said.

He confirmed the group was committed to a five year goal of doubling its network size "to secure a strong and sustainable future for our pharmacy owners."

"Since announcing the merger of Terry White Group and Chemmart, we have received strong interest from pharmacy owners wishing to join our network," he said.

"We are confident that this will support an increase in organic growth, which will further supplement our planned acquisitive growth with like-minded community pharmacies."

Bubs boosts pharmacy distribution

ASX-LISTED organic baby food and infant formula producer Bubs Australia yesterday confirmed a major focus on the pharmacy channel, signing agreements with Sigma Pharmaceuticals nationally and Symbion in NSW and WA.

The company has also started distributing some of its products through Chemist Warehouse, with Bubs Advanced Plus Infant Formula products also available on the Chemist Warehouse e-commerce platform including the Tmall flagship store in China.

Bubs Australia md Kristy Carr also confirmed the launch of the products in Discount Drug Stores.

"The distribution agreements announced today are a significant demonstration of our ability to deliver on our strategy to consolidate and grow our domestic position in the important pharmacy channel," she said, with expectations many new stores will be adding the products this year.

After the announcement yesterday the Bubs Australia share price surged almost 30% to 22c.

Bubs Australia became publicly listed last month after raising \$5.15 million in capital at 10c per share.

AHPRA Tas closure

THE Hobart office of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency will be closed from 3pm this afternoon for an official opening ceremony.

The office will reopen at 9am tomorrow, 22 Feb 2017.

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PSA's new improved CPD tool

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Continuing Professional Development planning tool for pharmacists has been improved "to be more user-friendly and responsive," with the makeover coming some months after it was launched at the PSA16 conference in Sydney (PD 04 Aug 2016).

Free for PSA members, the tool promises to easily identify professional development needs relevant to each pharmacist's unique scope of practice and related competencies.

PSA spokesman Shane Jackson said "we've listened to the feedback for making the process of developing a CPD plan as easy and efficient as possible.

"These new updates make an already great tool even better...the tool aids pharmacists in building

a dynamic CPD plan that supports lifelong learning and career development," Jackson said.

Enhancements include a single sign-in if a PSA member is already logged into the PSA website; the ability to 'clone' a scope of practice from a previously developed CPD plan; and the ability to move forwards and backwards through the self-assessment process.

There's also a new self-assessment facility for Domains 1 and 2, easier identification and assessment of professional development opportunities, and the ability to upload completion certificates for self-recorded CPD activities.

More at psa.org.au/cpdplan.

Government "already acting on obesity"

THE government has confirmed a new focus on preventive health to be announced in the coming months, which will "give people the right tools and information to live active and healthy lives".

A statement from health minister Greg Hunt yesterday acknowledged a new report from Deakin University which said obesity is costing Australia \$56 billion annually.

However, the government said the study did not take into account existing programs such as the \$160 million Sporting Schools scheme, the \$7 million Girls Make Your Move Campaign, the Health Star Rating system and the Healthy Weight Guide website.

"Obesity and poor diets are complex public health issues with multiple contributing factors, requiring a community-wide approach as well as behaviour change by individuals," the statement said.

In particular suggestions of a sugar tax were downplayed, with fresh fruit and vegetables already effectively discounted as they are not subject to GST.

"We're committed to tackling obesity, but increasing the family's weekly shop at the supermarket isn't the answer," Hunt added.

The Deakin report urged a national plan to improve Australia's nutrition, with author Gary Sacks saying it showed "clear actions that the government can take now, they don't cost very much and the evidence shows that it can make a real difference".

Pharmacy thief dies

A MAN alleged to have perpetrated the armed robbery of a pharmacy in Toowoomba, Queensland has been found dead.

Police confirmed they had found a body in the city's western suburb of Newtown, adjacent to items which were "directly linked" to the robbery at knifepoint of the Mylne St chemist on Wed last week, according to the *Courier Mail*.

According to a police spokesman, the man escaped by bicycle with a quantity of prescription drugs.

The bike was later found dumped in a lane, while the pharmacy staff were left shaken but uninjured.

"The drugs that he stole are drugs that we have a great concern for being out among the general public," the officer said.

The man's death is not being treated as suspicious.



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Roche Bluetooth INR

ROCHE has released a new CoaguChek INRange system, which it says is the first Bluetooth-enabled PT/INR patient self-testing meter to measure coagulation status.

The company said frequent self-testing offers both clinical and patient benefit "as it has been proven that patients that adhere to their monitoring therapy spend more time in their therapeutic range which results in lower incidence of stroke or bleeding".

The system also allows health care professionals to monitor patient PT/INR data, along with various graphical reports enabling patients to track their time in therapeutic range.

It provides INR results in one minute - see www.coaguchek.com.



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

What are the shades?

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



Just one click away from keeping up to date with all the **Pharmacy Daily** breaking news as it comes to hand



Dispensary Corner

YOU'VE heard of maternity leave and paternity leave - but what about paw-ternity leave?

A Scottish beer company has announced a new policy which gives all staff a week off when they get a new puppy.

The pet-friendly business is appropriately named BrewDog, which has 1,000 staff across the globe - many of them in its Aberdeenshire head office where there are 50 "office dogs".

"It's not easy trying to juggle work and settle a new dog into your life, and many members of our crew have four-legged friends at home," said company co-founder James Watt.

"We care about two things above all else - people and beer.

"We also just really like dogs," he added.



POLICE in Albania have arrested a man who has been charged with drying more than one tonne of dried marijuana under his house.

A statement issued last week said the drug stash was found packed in plastic bags, secreted in underground tunnels the man had dug beneath his home in the Flora district, about 160km from the capital Tirana.

Officers allege the man planned to smuggle the cannabis into neighbouring Italy or Greece.

Juvenile diabetes fail

MOST Australian children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes are not meeting recognised HbA1c targets, according to a new study published this week in the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

The first national audit of children with the condition aimed to assess glycaemic control, anthropometry and insulin regimens in a national sample, with 3,279 participants included with a mean age of 12.8.

The study looked at people with type 1 diabetes of at least 12 months' duration for whom data were added to the Australian Diabetes Data Network registry during 2015, with five paediatric diabetes centres in NSW, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia taking part.

The authors concluded that the prevalence of overweight and obesity was high, saying "there is an urgent need to identify barriers to achieving optimal glycaemic control in this population".

Vitamin D for URTI

WELCOME news prior to the onset of winter cough and cold season, vitamin D supplementation has been shown to be safe and protect against acute upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) overall, according to a study published in the *BMJ* last week.

The systematic review and meta-analysis examined 25 eligible randomised placebo-controlled trials involving a total of 11,321 participants, aged 0 to 95 years.

"The body of evidence contributing to these analyses was assessed as being of high quality" the authors wrote.

Visit bmj.com to access the study.



IMS UK pharmacy warning

DATA analysis company IMS Health has identified 315 pharmacies across the United Kingdom that are at "high risk" of closure following recent reforms which have reduced funding.

IMS used data from the UK National Health Service as well as the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee to highlight pharmacy businesses generating low levels of profit, according to a presentation at a conference in Rio de Janeiro last week which was reported in *Chemist and Druggist*.

The 315 "high risk" pharmacies are highly reliant on falling revenue from the government, generating 20% of their gross profit from the declining "establishment payment".

IMS Health UK director of supplier relations, Carol Alexandre, said many of the affected pharmacies were located in London, and 200 of them were within a 10 minute walk of another pharmacy.

Each pharmacy services about 4,500 people, with IMS concluding there would be significant disruption as a result and identifying it as a potential

opportunity for other pharmacies but also a significant knock-on effect on GP surgeries, hospitals and emergency departments in terms of minor ailments.

In the analysis a further 2,400 British pharmacies were classified as at "medium risk" of closure, relying on government payments for 15% of their gross profit.



Guild Update

Saluting rural pharmacies

PHARMACISTS and pharmacy staff at rural and remote pharmacies are reminded of their chance to show their passion for their work by creating short video on 'Why I Love Rural Pharmacy'.

The closing date for submission of videos is February 26, 2017.

The videos are an opportunity for rural and remote pharmacies across Australia to tell the world about their experiences and why they are so passionate about working in rural and remote areas.

The competition is being run as part of the #iloveruralpharmacy theme of the Rural Pharmacy Forum at APP2017.

Rural and remote pharmacists are invited to submit a 30-45 second video about work and experiences in their unique pharmacies.

Prizes will be awarded in the categories of Best Video and People's Choice.

The winners will be announced at the Rural Pharmacy Forum session at APP2017 on Thursday 9 March 2017.

PHARMAC tampon funding proposal

NEW Zealand's PHARMAC medicines agency has confirmed receipt of a funding application for sanitary pads and tampons.

The organisation said the first step is to determine whether the application falls within its scope.

"PHARMAC's role is to obtain the best health outcomes possible from pharmaceuticals, from the funding available," it said in a statement.

"This includes an assessment of evidence to determine the therapeutic benefits of the product under assessment," it added.

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: Level 2, Suite 1 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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Publisher/Editor in chief: Bruce Piper

Managing Editor: Jon Murrie

Reporter: Mal Smith

Contributors: Nathalie Craig, Jasmine O'Donoghue, Bonnie Tai

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Melanie Tchakmadjian advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Editorial: info@pharmacydaily.com.au



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