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Back-to-school promo

SUPPLIERS are being alerted to the opportunity to participate in the upcoming Back-to-School Spotlight feature in **Pharmacy Daily**.

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To have your products included call 1300 799 220 or email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.



Animal testing ban

TESTING of cosmetics on animals will be banned by the Department of Health under the government's plan to implement its pre-election promise on the matter.

The announcement "recognises the strong view many Australians have on this issue and brings Australia into line with similar policies implemented in other countries", the Department said.

In addition, the impact on business, trade and industry will be taken into account and minimised, while maintaining Australia's standards in public health, worker safety and the environment.

For details and to input on the consultation go to health.gov.au.

Revisit codeine decision?

NORTH Queensland's Calanna Whole Health Pharmacy group is calling for a rethink on the controversial decision to reschedule codeine-containing medicines to prescription-only, announced by the Therapeutic Goods Administration just before Christmas (**PD 20 Dec**).

In a statement issued yesterday Calanna group general manager Matthew Calanna said real-time monitoring of all codeine based products had shown less than 2% of customers misused the drug - equating to 70,000 denied sales during 2016.

"This shows pharmacists have played an important role in their scope of practice and with the infrastructure we have access to, we are already reducing the inappropriate use of over-the-counter codeine based products."

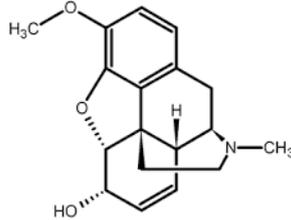
Calanna said the MedsASSIST program had been taken up by more than 70% of pharmacists nationwide, with over four million transactions recorded.

He said if the system was mandated "it would prove a very effective means to reduce abuse, and allow government to focus on other important substance abuse issues".

Calanna said local GPs in his region were expecting to see their surgeries flooded when codeine becomes prescription only.

"What we are talking about here is lots of people requiring scripts for low dose codeine based products which are effective and can be monitored and sold under the supervision of a pharmacist very safely and reliably," he claimed.

"This will only take the focus off doctors working with chronic disease management and have them more involved in minor ailments such as headache and general pain complaints, which is not a constructive use of a GP's time or resources," he concluded.



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Ezetimibe consult

THE public consultation on the draft Ezetimibe Post-market Review Report will open on 30 Jan 2017 and close at 5pm 10 Feb.

Visit pbs.gov.au for details.

Earlybird rego closing

APP2017 early bird registration is closing soon with delegates still able to access the \$100-off deal if they register before 31 Jan.

APP Chairman Kos Sclavos said that over 6,000 industry leaders, business owners, and pharmacists would convene for an inspirational four-day educational, social and networking program at APP2017.

Visit www.appconference.com.

Ley in negative gear

AFTER initially defending every case that has been raised against her as "within entitlements", Health Minister Sussan Ley has now backpedalled and agreed to pay back the costs of her additional trips to the Gold Coast.

The controversy arose around Ley's purchase of a \$795,000 Gold Coast ocean view apartment while travelling officially with her partner in May 2015.

Other related perception issues have been raised around her visit with her partner to watch a Big Bash cricket match in Perth while on official business as Sport and Health Minister in the same year.

After speaking with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Ley apologised for her "error of judgement" saying, "The distinction between public and private business should be as clear as possible when dealing with taxpayers' money".

She has asked the Department of Finance to invoice her accordingly and review all of her funded travel.

MRA GMP clearance process time drops

DEC 2016 saw the MRA GMP clearance application processing times drop to an average of 3.5 weeks, with 90% completed within 5.4 weeks.

This was the fifth consecutive month of decreases in processing time according to the Therapeutic Goods Administration records, along with reductions in time for 90% of completions - tga.gov.au.

Win with MOVICOL

This month, Pharmacy Daily and MOVICOL are giving readers the chance to win a pack of MOVICOL[®] Ready to Take (1 box of 10 sachets), a Keep Cup and an EOS Strawberry Lip Balm.



MOVICOL[®] Ready to Take is the latest MOVICOL[®] product in the trusted MOVICOL[®] range. The product is used for treatment of acute and chronic constipation in children over 12 years old and adults. MOVICOL[®] Ready to Take is great for those who are busy, family-focused or time poor. The product comes in a box of 10 (\$11-13) premixed, natural fruit flavoured (banana & strawberry) sachets that provide effective relief on the go and fit comfortably into daily life. **CLICK HERE** to see more.

To win, be the first from NSW or ACT to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

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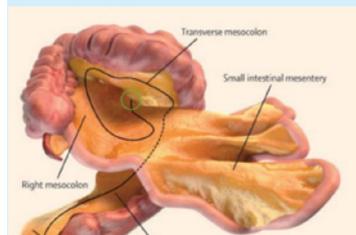
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Dispensary Corner

THROW out your old anatomy and physiology text books - they are now officially out of date. The human body now has a 79th organ according to *Science Alert*, with the mesentery (pictured below), which attaches the intestine to the abdomen and itself, now understood to be not a series of multiple structures, but a self-contained structure, meeting the definition of an organ, according to the *Irish Examiner*. So learning all those 79 organs of the body has become fractionally more difficult - something of a pain in the gut, you might say.



MESSAGE in an egg-shell, as opposed to a message in a bottle - such was the experience of the German North Sea island of Langeoog when it appeared an over-enthusiastic Easter bunny had brought Easter to them a little early last week. A bounty of colourful plastic eggs containing tiny toys was swept ashore after a fierce storm, bringing smiles to the local children who couldn't wait to plunder the booty as quickly as possible. The eggs containing instructions in the Cyrillic alphabet appear to have come from a container lost by a cargo ship en route for the German port of Bremerhaven, reports *Yahoo! News*.

FDA hits deceptive adverts

ACCORDING to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), how well consumers and healthcare professionals are able to identify deceptive information plays a role in the agency's enforcement approach. "Reports of deceptive promotion are useful to FDA because they allow investigators to focus their efforts in an era where the amount of promotion far exceeds the resources available to monitor everything," FDA says. Consequently the FDA says it



will conduct two studies which will include patients and physician populations. An independent agency will develop dummy advertisements and test consumer and physician reactions on both implicit and explicit claims. Perhaps not surprisingly, drug companies have been critical of such studies in the past, the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society (RAPS) said. "The ability to identify such promotion has important public health implications," FDA says.

Nuts to babies

BABIES should be given peanut as early as four months old to reduce the risk of allergy by as much as 80%, according to new US guidance from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. **CLICK HERE** for details.



Paediatric dosing

THE pharmacokinetics of many drugs are different in children compared to adults, with absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion of drugs undergoing changes during growth and development, states a review article in the latest edition of the *NPS' Australian Prescriber*. Consequently, the authors explain, defining the correct doses for children is complicated by a lack of pharmacokinetic studies, and children's doses cannot always be extrapolated directly from adult studies. **CLICK HERE** for the review paper.

Its been a NICE year

THE UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has summarised highlights from its 2016 files with its articles tackling subjects as diverse as access to cancer products, tuberculosis guidelines, new diabetes type 2 treatment options, sepsis, stroke and drug pricing. Access the review at nice.org.uk.

NAPSA jobs board

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) has announced the upcoming launch of a jobs board on its website, established via a collaborative partnership with iTherapeutics. NAPSA president, Shefali Parekh said, "looking for a job in the pharmacy profession can be difficult for many students". A recent survey showed that 68% of students were employed in a community pharmacy and 85% agreed that pharmacy employment while studying was important. The jobs board will be launched to some 300 student delegates at the Perth congress in Jan.

Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Natasha McKay, SOUTHERNATURE Naturopath & Herbalist.**



Get the essentials on essential omega 3!

DID you know the Omega 3 fatty acids are "essential"? We do not have the enzyme to synthesise Omega 3 internally, which means we must make good food choices to acquire Omega 3 from our diet. Are you getting enough Omega 3? Modern diets and busy lifestyles are resulting in eating 'on the go' and they are not the best choices to support healthy Omega 3 levels. A great way to acquire good Omega 3 levels is to supplement with fish oil. The fatty acids found in Omega 3 are so pivotal to health that they become a part of our body's building blocks. The largest impact of Omega 3 is seen in our cardiovascular system. Omega 3 from fish oil has been linked to a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and assisting the maintenance of healthy cholesterol and triglyceride levels. In clinical trials, fish oil has also been shown to decrease inflammation and reduce painful, stiff and tender joints. With all the health benefits, it is fair to say that fish oil is vital for health and well-being.