

## Pharmacist pinged for self-prescribing

THE NSW Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) has ordered that the registration of pharmacist Marianne Tanios be cancelled for unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct, in relation to her dispensing of medication to herself without valid prescriptions.

Tanios was found guilty of dispensing large quantities of the weight-loss drug Duromine as well as medications including Motilium, Modavigil, Stildem, Diabex, Deralin and Valpam for her own use.

She also was found to have inappropriately dispensed under the name of a close relative and pharmacy customers, creating false records in the dispensing system and misappropriating a significant quantity of drugs without making payment.

The NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal noted that the conduct was 'deliberate, calculated and knowingly contrary to the law'.

The Tribunal also ordered that Tanios be prohibited from working as a pharmacy assistant or in any capacity where she would handle schedule 8 or schedule 4D drugs for a one year non-review period.

## Sigma launches pathology

SIGMA Healthcare has today launched pathology health screenings throughout its Amcal Pharmacy network across Australia.

Named Sigma Pathology Health Screening, the company explained the new service would be provided in accordance with best practice by SmartHealth utilising their network of 1,500 accredited participating collection centres and laboratories throughout Australia.

Amcal senior pharmacist James Nevile said the health screening service would benefit members of the community who were currently disengaged with the traditional healthcare system.

"We recognise the important role that pharmacists play in the Australian healthcare system and are committed to working collaboratively with GPs and other allied healthcare professionals to deliver integrated health care solutions to the community that result in improved health outcomes," Nevile said.

"In health care, it is essential that patients are the central focus, and our health screening services have been designed to engage or re-engage patients with their GP and the wider health care system united by the common goal of improving health outcomes."

As part of the service, Amcal will offer clinical bundles including diabetes, heart, kidney, fatigue, vitamin D deficiency and general health and wellbeing bundles.

Nevile added that with patients as the central focus, and doctors as the most appropriate and qualified to explain and discuss abnormal or out of range pathology results, "Amcal pharmacists will refer patients to their GPs and specialist for follow up as appropriate."

## Self-care convocation

EARLYBIRD registration for the upcoming World Self Medication Industry General Assembly closes this Fri, 30 Jun 2017.

The Sydney event on 18-19 Oct, co-hosted with ASMI and its NZ counterpart, will discuss how policies promoting consumer self-care can have a positive impact on global issues.

Visit [wsmiga2017.com](http://wsmiga2017.com) to access the full program.

## MA blasts Review

PEAK pharmaceutical group Medicines Australia has raised major concerns about the Interim Report from the Review of Pharmacy Remuneration and Regulation (PD Fri), with ceo Milton Catelin saying some of the ideas suggested are ineffective, could diminish medicine quality or lead to potential shortages.

Issues include an option to reduce competition for off-patent medicines by tendering for a maximum of five suppliers per drug; changes to chemotherapy compounding payments that would allow non-TGA approved premises to offer chemotherapy compounding; and possible changes to the Community Service Obligation for wholesalers.

Catelin said Australian pharmacists already deliver world-class healthcare and "any reforms to how medicines are supplied to patients must maintain this standard".

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from Wizard Pharmacy.

## Paracetamol pregnancy problem

PARACETAMOL taken by a mother during pregnancy may impair the sexual development of male offspring, according to a recent study involving mice.

In the study, exposed mouse pups were found to be less aggressive and less likely to mate with females, with the results now available online at [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov).

The Australian Self-Medication Industry (ASMI) reminded consumers that OTC analgesics, like all other medicines, should only be used during pregnancy under the advice of a health professional.



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## Dispensary Corner

**A TODDLER** from the US state of Massachusetts had a close call last week after accidentally falling out of a window onto concrete about 5m below.

The two year old was reportedly jumping on his bed and could have easily been killed - but fortunately he was holding a large stuffed cow at the time, which broke his fall.

A photo of the creature (**below**) was posted on Twitter by the local fire chief, who confirmed the boy was OK, but "could easily have broken bones or been very seriously injured".



**THERE'S** a hospital staffing crisis in Hungary - and apparently it's all because of IKEA.

An entire department of Jahn Ferenc Hospital in Pest region of the capital Budapest has been forced to close due to "the excessive number of nursing staff quitting their jobs for better wages at the nearby IKEA store," according to Hungarian news service *HirTV*.

The new furniture outlet - Hungary's biggest IKEA - opened two weeks ago and apparently offers better salaries and working conditions than the hospital.

The report was based on social media posts, with the hospital declining to comment and IKEA saying it doesn't provide information about the previous jobs of its employees.

## Apotex launches new vaccine ordering site

**APOTEX** has today launched the APOaccess online vaccine ordering portal, which it says offers pharmacy a "one stop solution" to vaccine ordering needs.



The launch follows the acquisition of Reform Management's platform earlier this year (*PD* 10 Mar), providing pharmacy with national access to over 50 vaccines.

The streamlined APOaccess website simplifies vaccine purchasing and is claimed to offer market-leading pricing.

"Access to high quality low-cost medicines is pivotal to everything we do," said Apotex sales director Ben Sullivan.

He said APOaccess "represents the next step in further diversifying our offer to pharmacy and signifies our unwavering commitment to supporting pharmacy businesses in Australia."

The new site is now live online at [www.apoaccess.com.au](http://www.apoaccess.com.au).

## Pharmacists impact

A **NEW** study published in *Clinical Therapeutics* has once again shown the positive impact made by pharmacist interventions during diabetes clinical trials.

Echoing findings in another recently published *BMJ* article (*PD* 27 Mar 2017), in this case a research organisation employing clinical trial research pharmacists to communicate with patients performed a retrospective descriptive analysis of 12 clinical trials that involved two non-insulin glucose-lowering medications.

The study demonstrated across some 25,829 communications that pharmacists were able to identify, support, and address multiple types of interventions related to medication management during the clinical trials, including those related to concurrent medication use, adverse events, and other medication-related issues.

"These pharmacist interventions can result in better patient outcomes and, ultimately, more reliable study results for review and approval by regulatory agencies," the authors said - [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov).



## Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is Dr. Jaspreet Singh, Vicks Senior Scientist.



### The science of massage therapy

**MASSAGE** therapy is one of the most effective and widely used forms of alternative medicine. Research in this area has demonstrated beneficial effects in facilitating growth in infants, increasing alertness, decreasing stress, enhancing immune function & sleep, & reducing pain.

Massage leads to reduction in cortisol and norepinephrine levels, hormones which are increased in depressed individuals. This could explain the calming and relaxation benefits of massage. Massage in infants and toddlers has been shown to reduce sleep latency and increases time they are alert, awake and active.

In a recent study, massage with a lotion or oil by the mother was shown to have a shorter latency and longer duration of sleep for both mother and newborn. Newborns in the lotion massage group woke up fewer times at night and slept longer.

Studies have shown increase in natural killer cells following massage therapy which could suggest an improvement in immune function, as these cells are important to ward off viral infections.

Together with a parent's loving touch, a moisturizing and soothing rub with ingredients like aloe vera, coconut oil and mild fragrances like rosemary, lavender and eucalyptus can do wonders for a baby!

## Win with dreambaby

This week Pharmacy Daily and Dreambaby® are giving readers the chance to win each day a Multi-Stage Potty Seat, 2-Up Step Stool and Watch-Your-Step® Anti-Slip Bath Mat.

Dreambaby's Multi-Stage Potty Seat which makes toilet training easier for both parents and children. It can be used as a free-standing potty or to fit with your existing toilet. The Dreambaby® 2-Up Step Stool, is a great help with toilet training, brushing teeth or simply looking in the mirror! The Dreambaby® Watch-Your-Step® Anti-Slip Bath Mat has a "Too Hot" Indicator and, with its textured surface, is designed to place on the floor of your bath to ensure a safe and secure bathtub environment. For more visit [www.dreambaby.com.au](http://www.dreambaby.com.au)

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

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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:** Matt Bell, Jasmine O'Donoghue

**Advertising and Marketing:** Sean Harrigan and Melanie Tchakmadjian [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**Business Manager:** Jenny Piper [accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**Editorial:** [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au)

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