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Prozac pregnancy fail

THE most commonly prescribed antidepressant, fluoxetine, sold as Prozac and other brands, has been linked to an increased risk of birth defects when used by pregnant women, according to a meta-analysis published in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*.

CLICK HERE for the study.

PSNZ Gold Medal

THE Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand (PSNZ) has honoured Dr John Dunlop with the Society's Gold Medal, the highest award that can be made to a member.

The Gold Medal recognises

significant and outstanding contributions to the pharmacy profession, a higher level award than a Fellowship.

In his 78th year John has seen and participated in extensive changes in pharmacy and has led the profession in a diverse range of initiatives that have enhanced the status, the role and even the salaries of pharmacists.



Pharmacist steroid charges

THE Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC) brought charges against 32-year-old pharmacist Adam Kennedy before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, which has handed down its decision including further restriction of products to be dispensed by Kennedy.

In Apr 2014 the NSW Police informed the Pharmaceutical Services Unit (PSU) of the NSW Health Ministry they had concerns about some dispensing matters especially relating to privately imported anabolic steroids.

PSU officer Paul Smith inspected the pharmacy where Kennedy was Pharmacist in Charge, with the inspection revealing numerous breaches of regulations relating to the storage and record-keeping of pharmaceutical goods.

In addition, significant quantities of the anabolic steroid, Stanozolol, including Diamond-branded Stanozolol products, were found during the inspection.

Stanozolol is rarely prescribed as medication in NSW and is known to be abused by some body builders.

Diamond-branded Stanozolol products are not registered by the

Therapeutic Goods Administration, and are prohibited for use here.

Subsequent investigations resulted in Kennedy this week being reprimanded and ordered not to work as a Pharmacist in Charge or be a pharmacy proprietor or seek to review this position within two years.

He was also ordered to operate under a mentor and not handle a range of medicines.

Draft ACMS decisions

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is proposing allowing advertising of emergency contraception drug ulipristal, with an Appendix H listing of the item one of the interim decisions by the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling released yesterday.

Other proposals include new scheduling for ibuprofen, penciclovir and loratidine.

The ACMS is suggesting loratidine be exempt from scheduling in preparations containing 10mg or less in packs of up to ten when used in kids from six years of age for the treatment of allergic rhinitis.

Penciclovir is also set to be exempt from scheduling in preparations containing 1% or less for the treatment of herpes labialis.

Ibuprofen's scheduling will allow S3 versions in a modified release dosage form, as well as a new entry for the NSAID in Appendix H because "there is a public health interest to inform consumers about pain relief options through advertising" - see tga.gov.au.

Guild Bus-Plan comp

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced that registrations have now closed for the 2017 National Student Business Plan Competition, with 14 teams ready to compete.

This year's entrants include multiple registrations from several pharmacy schools and registrations from first-time entrant, New Zealand's University of Otago.

The competition, which commenced in 2006, encourages innovation amongst pharmacy students.

Competitors progress through several rounds culminating in the finals to be held at the Pharmacy Connect conference in Sydney 01-03 Sep and will provide \$15,000 in cash prizes to the finalists (top three teams) in addition to registration, flights and accommodation to attend the conference.

Dental fines top \$10m

THE Australian Dental Industry Association (ADIA) has alerted its members to the new penalties for illegal importation or supply of dental products, exceeding \$1m for individuals and \$10m for companies, effective 01 Jul.

By enhancing the level of penalty, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is emphasising that private importation and sale of dental products that have not been assessed and approved by the TGA is not going to be ignored - as may have been perceived by some members, ADIA said.

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Dispensary Corner

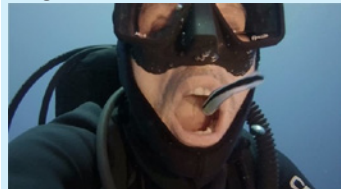
EFFICIENT dentistry - a Russian professional deep sea diver has caused an online sensation after he allowed some fish to clean inside his mouth.

Vitaly Bazarov was about 30m underwater off Egypt's Sinai Peninsula at a famous dive site called the Blue Hole in Dahab.

"At a depth of nearly 100 feet the cleaner fish approached me and started biting my lips...I knew they were trying to find food."

He removed the regulator from his mouth and the cleaner fish swam in, with Bazarov quickly switching on his camera (**below**) to capture the moment.

"It was really funny because they are like living toothbrushes, although they can be a little rough," he said.



NALOXONE came to the rescue of a Canadian rodent last weekend, after someone brought in a rat that had apparently eaten some heroin to Vancouver's Overdose Protection Society which helps drug users in need.

A spokesperson for the group said the creature was barely moving when the volunteers administered a "rat-sized dose of Narcan" to reverse the effects.

"The rat came back to life and survived," she said.

The black and white rat was named Snuggles, and was later adopted as a pet by one of the volunteers at the facility who had helped to save its life.

AusCann taps Tas expertise

ASX-LISTED medicinal cannabis producer AusCann has announced it is partnering with Tasmania Alkaloids, the world's largest poppy processor and producer and exporter of Thebaine (the ingredient in oxycodone, hydrocodone and buprenorphine - common to pain medications), to produce its medical cannabis stock.

Tasmanian Alkaloids produces 40% of the world's opiate crop, has extensive good manufacturing process (GMP) manufacturing facilities and relationships with the world's largest pharmaceutical companies.

The partnership also intends to jointly investigate and develop new international opportunities for cannabis products.

Under the partnership, the cultivation and manufacture will be undertaken at Tasmanian Alkaloid's GMP facility in Tasmania.

It is less than two weeks since AusCann was granted a cultivating license in Western Australia by the Office of Drug Control, so this move



significantly accelerates its plans, the firm said.

Through the strategic partnership, AusCann will have access to Tasmanian Alkaloids' extensive experience and expertise.

Together the two companies have said in

their ASX announcement that they will secure a licence to cultivate and manufacture medicinal cannabis in Tasmania.

AusCann has also said it will continue to source product from its partner Canopy Growth Corporation, North America's largest producer of medicinal cannabis, to cover the period until the new arrangement can supply Australian medicines.

AusCann md Elaine Darby (**pictured**) said, "This partnership with Tasmanian Alkaloids significantly builds on our position within the Australian market as a leading medicinal cannabis company that intends to cultivate, manufacture and supply the Australian market with access to high quality medicinal cannabis products".

WIN WITH PLUNKETT'S

Each day this week, Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away Plunkett's Vita E Cream, Ointment and Oil.

Plunkett's Vita E combines potent levels of Vitamin E plus rich Rosehip Oil. Natural Vitamin E ensures quick absorption and a soft cream texture while helping skin retain moisture. Rosehip Oil is rich in vitamins A and C and helps improve skin elasticity. For more **CLICK HERE**.



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

What potentially irritating ingredients are not in Vita E?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Song Huan Eow from Scarborough Beach Pharmacy.



Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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