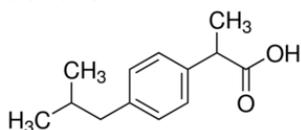


## Ibuprofen access call

THE Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) has said it supports the current supermarket consumer access to ibuprofen.

ASMI was responding to the proposal to re-schedule ibuprofen to pharmacy-only status, up for consideration at the Nov meeting of the ACMS.



OTC ibuprofen is available in supermarkets in Australia and around the world but the restrictive pharmacy-only proposal would lead to Australia being out of step with comparable markets such as the UK, Canada, US and NZ, ASMI said.

Consumer access to effective pain relief is already limited in Australia so further limitations are neither appropriate, nor are they based on scientific evidence, ASMI added.

## AHPRA paramedics

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and National Boards said they welcomed the passage of legislative reforms to establish the Paramedicine Board of Australia and introduce additional measures to protect the public.

The amendments to the National Law will mean extra protection for the public when they see a registered health practitioner, AHPRA ceo Mark Fletcher said.

The changes will mean AHPRA can better meet community safety expectations, he explained.

## Sigma builds and rewards

SIGMA Healthcare yesterday announced a strong group building move with the acquisition of MPS, described as Australia's largest provider of dose administration aids to the aged care sector and community pharmacy across Australia (PD Breaking News yesterday).

The announcement coincided with the release of Sigma's half yearly results.

Company ceo Mark Hooper said MPS was a natural and compelling addition for the company, and enjoyed a market share of almost 20% - "almost three times that of its nearest competitor".

"We see tremendous opportunity to not only take a leading position in the dose administration market, but to achieve further growth in what remains a very fragmented market," he said.

MPS will draw product, services and support from Sigma's distribution centres across Australia, and provided a model that complements the Sigma Hospital Services and community brands, Hooper added.

The half yearly results announcement highlighted a 14.6% increase in reported earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) to \$42.8 million. The company's reported net profit after tax jumped 16.7% to \$29.7 million, despite a 6.1% decline in overall revenue to \$2.02 billion.



The decline was attributed to "a combination of the pull back in sales of the low margin Hepatitis C medicines, the exit of a non-compliant branded customer

group, and general softer consumer sentiment".

Adjusting for hepatitis C drug pull back, the

company said sales revenue was down 1.4%.

Return on Investment Capital was posted at an

enviable 16.1%. Shareholders will receive 2.5 cents per share dividend, payable on 5 Oct, with promise of a very positive outlook for FY19 to emerge from "a pipeline of initiatives".

## Mark Smith to chair API board

THE Board of listed Australian Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd (API) today announced that Mark Smith has been appointed a non-executive director of the company.



Smith has also been nominated as chair-elect following the decision of the current chair Peter Robinson to retire at the AGM on 24 Jan 2018.

API chair Peter Robinson said that Smith's senior executive experience and non-executive director roles equip him well for the API Board.

## Diet or drugs: reflux

GASTRO-OESOPHAGEAL reflux disease, commonly treated with H2RAs or PPIs, can also be managed equally well by a plant-based, Mediterranean-style diet with alkaline water, according to a new US study published yesterday in [jamanetwork.com](http://jamanetwork.com).

## WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Designer Brands are giving away each day their DB Sheer Radiance Tinted Gel Moisturiser in Light/Medium and Medium/Dark.

The perfect oil-free alternative to cakey foundations and CC Creams, for light to medium coverage that doesn't feel heavy on the skin. This tinted formula works to create the perfect 'no-makeup-makeup' look and glowing skin. Vitamins A, C & E keep skin hydrated and looking fresh. Aloe Vera and Green Tea soothe skin and reduce redness. [CLICK HERE](#) to find out more.



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

What is one of the ingredients in the Sheer Radiance Tinted Gel Moisturiser that reduces the appearance of redness?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Michael Venn from Gambier Village Pharmacy.



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## Dispensary Corner

**CANNABIS** use does not affect teenagers' IQ, according to new research out of the USA.

Researchers from Arizona State University found that taking the drug between the ages of 12 and 18 did not cause adolescents' intelligence to decline.

Yet, children with low IQs were more likely to use cannabis as teenagers, the research added.

The study was conducted by analysing 1,989 twins born in England and Wales between 1994 and 1995.

Researchers said the study busted an age-old myth about cannabis and the harm it caused.

Previous studies have revealed cannabis use affects teenager's educational achievements, as well as increasing their risk of depression and psychosis.



**IN OTHER** medical news, scientists believe aspirin could reverse the effects of tooth decay. If true, it could result in a reduction in the need for fillings, scientists have found.

The common pain relief medication can do this by triggering teeth to self-repair, they say.

The cheap drug is able to help form new dentine, the hard tooth structure that is usually damaged by decay, according to researchers at Queen's University Belfast in Northern Ireland.

## TWC Pharmacy Awards

**FOCUSING** attention on providing the next generation of pharmacists with tools for success was the theme for this year's annual TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) 'Power of One' Conference in Bali from Sep 03-07.

"The future of community pharmacy in Australia is not just about strengthening the presence of our pharmacists in store but also our network of pharmacy owners," TWC ceo Anthony White told more than 400 delegates.

White added that the industry-leading Masterclass program would continue into its fourth year to ensure TWC pharmacists were the most highly trained and effective in the industry.

The company group said it would maintain current health initiatives in 2017/2018 including selected free health checks each supported with a comprehensive training and development program.

The group said it was also developing a mobile health

application for launch in 2018 in line with its commitment to digital innovation in the health space.

"It's important to us that all our pharmacies have the opportunity to be successful and that is why we are investing significant resources into fine tuning our retail offer." This will include simplifying

the retail offer "through a compression of ranges to allow for easier shopping and in store implementation," he said.

Major winner of the inaugural TWC Pharmacy Awards with the MONTY Leadership Award was Tanya Maloney of TWC Coffs Harbour.

Other winners were Zamil Solanki of Mt Gravatt Plaza as Pharmacist of the Year, Janine Nicholson of Chester Pass as Team Member of the Year and Jordan Shih of Riverton as Intern of the Year.

**Pictured** are (from left) Anthony White, Tanya Maloney and Nick Munroe, TWC Group Operations manager.



## Spiral Parkinson's test

**AUSTRALIAN** researchers have trialled software that measures writing speed and pen pressure on the page while drawing a spiral, which can be an early diagnostic for muscle-restrictive Parkinson's disease.

Authors recommend a longitudinal study to confirm findings - **CLICK HERE**.



## Events Calendar

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**10-14 Sep:** 77th FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences 2017; Seoul, Republic of Korea; register here: [www.fip.org](http://www.fip.org)

**24-28 Sep:** 2017 Pharmacy Alliance Members' Forum; Palazzo Versace, Gold Coast; register here: [www.pharmacyalliance.com.au](http://www.pharmacyalliance.com.au)

**17-19 Oct:** World Self Medication Industry General Assembly 2017; ICC Sydney; registrations opening soon: [www.wsmiga2017.com](http://www.wsmiga2017.com)

**26 Oct:** CMA Annual Conference and Industry Awards; Sydney; details here: [www.cmaustralia.org.au](http://www.cmaustralia.org.au)

**26-28 Oct:** Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; QT Gold Coast; for details see: [www.pharmacyassistants.com](http://www.pharmacyassistants.com)

**16-19 Nov:** Medicines Management Conference 2017; ICC Sydney; details tbc: [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au)

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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Illawarra South Coast NSW (Job# 200014575)  
Exciting \$100k+ package <2hr from Sydney, lower rents small but fun team!
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Far North QLD (Job# 200013479)  
Awesome outlook from accommodation - opportunity for Pharmacist couple or single
- **Aged Care Pharmacist** - Melbourne, VIC (Job# 200014375)  
Be part of this friendly Aged Care team & enjoy your weekends with Mon-Fri hrs!

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