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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus our *Spring Spotlight* feature on page three.

## \$50m for Australian dengue, Zika fight

**MONASH** University's World Mosquito Program (WMP) has been awarded a further \$50 million by the Wellcome Trust and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The WMP uses Australian-developed technology to introduce naturally occurring *Wolbachia* into *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos to reduce their ability to transmit dengue, Zika and chikungunya.

Once released they breed with wild mosquitoes, passing on their ability to block the viruses.

The additional funding brings the joint contribution of the Trust and the Foundation to \$185 million since 2010, with WMP director Scott O'Neill saying the Monash-led program is now operating in 12 countries worldwide.

"Thanks to this funding we're on track to having a really major impact on these mosquito-borne diseases globally," he said.

## New TWC advisory group

**TERRYWHITE** Chemmart (TWC) ceo Anthony White has announced the launch of the new TerryWhite Chemmart Advisory Group (TAG), a trusted group of members to represent and advocate for the wider TWC network.

White unveiled the initiative at this week's TWC conference in Sydney, saying the advisory body would play an important role in the network's development, particularly around customer engagement, new health initiatives and pharmacy engagement.

"The role of the TAG as a trusted peer group is to provide leadership and ongoing engagement with members, and importantly, input and feedback into key initiatives and their rollout throughout the group," White said.

He also outlined other moves within the TWC group, including fast-tracking enhanced health programs around cardiovascular disease, asthma and diabetes, complemented by targeted health campaigns.

"We recognise that medication adherence is one of the key issues



facing our society and one we are committed to addressing through the ongoing development of our Health App," he noted.

White also highlighted the success of the retail transformation program being implemented across the TWC network.

The conference wraps up tonight with a gala dinner and the announcement of a range of awards for top achieving pharmacies in the TWC group.

## Hydration product

**MUNDIPHARMA** has launched a new product for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers to help them achieve high levels of hydration more easily.

"Aquamamma" sachets contain added folic acid but are low in sugar, sodium, calories and with natural colours and flavours.

The product provides an alternative to complement a pregnant woman's increased fluid intake, with flavours available including orange, lemon and mixed berry - [aquamamma.com.au](http://aquamamma.com.au).

## Herbal claims OK

**SPONSORS** of herbal medicines may continue to "make claims about herbal components on their medicine labels without pre-market evaluation by the TGA as long as they are not confusing or scientifically incorrect" the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has stated following its consultation on the subject.

Including one from Complementary Medicines Australia, the TGA received only seven submissions on the subject, the majority of which supported the option of industry and the TGA working together to produce a workable mechanism that allows for the discontinuation of pre-market evaluation of herbal component names (HCNs) applications.

The TGA's position is that the pre-market evaluation of such low-risk products "was not commensurate with a risk-based approach to the regulation of complementary medicines".

Given that the evaluations were never cost-recovered, this was an expensive piece of unnecessary red tape that was costly to the taxpayer and a frustratingly lengthy and unpredictable hurdle for industry sponsors.

Accordingly, effective immediately the TGA is no longer accepting new HCN applications, with existing HCN forms and links on the agency's website to be archived.

Relevant guidance documents will also be updated, while IT system changes will deactivate existing non-mandatory HCNs in the Ingredients Repository.

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## Dispensary Corner

**AN AMERICAN** entrepreneur has made it his mission to boost the nation's protein intake, with the launch of an array of meat vending machines.

Joshua Applestone has already deployed a few of the ingenious gadgets across New York State, and eventually hopes to bring them to every city in America.

The machines (pictured) are available 24/7 to satisfy those meat cravings, and offer a choice of beef, pork, lamb, mince or sausages for anyone who swipes a credit card.

So far it's been a huge success, with about 1,500kg of meat being purchased via the devices each week, meaning they require restocking several times a day.



**SOMEONE** in New Zealand may be feeling a little off balance, after a fisherman discovered a prosthetic leg floating in the Temuka River, near Christchurch.

Daniel Manson (pictured) was relieved to find there was no body attached to the artificial limb.

The matter has been referred to the police who are looking for its owner, but apparently at this stage investigators are stumped.



## Specialised Therapeutics plan

**MELBOURNE-BASED** Specialised Therapeutics has unveiled an expansion plan which may see the company publicly list a subsidiary to co-fund future developments.

The initiative was confirmed by ceo Carlo Montagner at the official opening of the company's new Australian headquarters, a decade after he co-founded the business with Bozena Zembruski with a single chemotherapy product.

Since then Specialised Therapeutics has grown to what he claimed is the largest privately owned specialty pharma company in the region, with almost 50 staff and annual revenue around \$30m.

Montagner attributed the company's success to a strategy of in-licensing mid- to late-stage products for full commercialisation, with the portfolio now spanning oncology, haematology, neurology, ophthalmology & supportive care.

"Our vision for the first 10 years was to build a profitable pharmaceutical company

partnering with leading global biotech and pharmaceutical companies," he said.

"While we continue to invest aggressively to further expand our global partnerships and product pipeline into new therapeutic areas, it is now time to build on these solid foundations and execute the next stage of our company's development," Montagner added.

The plan for the next 10 years includes in-licensing of earlier-stage drugs, steering them through full clinical development and then globally commercialising them.

### Medlab cancer trial

**MEDLAB** has commenced a safety study for oncology patients undergoing chemotherapy using its Multibiotic nutraceutical product.

The phase 1 trial at the Northern Cancer Institute in St Leonards, NSW, will focus on safety and tolerability in reducing intestinal inflammatory ulcerations.

## Homeopathy recall

**THE US Food and Drug Administration** has advised of a nationwide voluntary recall of King Bio homeopathic remedies, after a small percentage of the products produced since 2015 tested positive for microbial contamination.

## Guild Update

### My Health Record

**THE** opt-out period for having a My Health Record has been extended until 15 November this year.

There will also be two key changes made to strengthen the legislation and provide more protection for consumers:

- **The ability to permanently delete a record** – if an individual wishes to cancel their record they will be able to do so permanently, with their record deleted from the system forever.
- **Greater privacy and security** – no record will be released to police or government agencies, for any purpose, without a court order.

Until 15 November 2018, individuals who do not want to have a My Health Record can opt out by:

- Going to MyHealthRecord.gov.au
- Calling the Help line on 1800 723 471
- Contacting their Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service.

## Win with Bellé Botanique

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Belle Botanique are giving readers the chance to win a 'BRIGHT STAR' cleansing balm valued at \$55 each.

'BRIGHT STAR' cleansing balm is a unique product, which provides powerful skin cleansing while being gentle, mild and soothing to your skin. Additional benefits include skin moisturization, pore size reduction, and brighter complexion.

[www.bellebotanique.com.au](http://www.bellebotanique.com.au)

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



Bright Star cleansing balm contains a blend of essential oils to calm and soothe the irritated skin. In this blend, which are the two oils renowned for their anti-irritancy properties?

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Julie Sage*



# Spring spotlight

Pharmacy Daily's Spring spotlight is your guide to all the essential products for the change of seasons.

To feature here email [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au).

## Helping Australians breathe easier with Flo!

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Always read the label. Use as directed. Consult your healthcare practitioner if symptoms persist.



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