



EMA valproate alert

THE European Medicines Agency has recommended a range of new measures to avoid exposure of unborn babies to valproate medicines in the womb - more details at ema.europa.eu.

MedReleaf statement

WITH reference to the article, 'Pharmacy Cannabis Training', which appeared in *Pharmacy Daily* on February 6, 2018, MedReleaf Australia wishes to retract the statement that 'a comprehensive medicinal cannabis education program under development by NPS MedicineWise subsidiary VentureWise had an aim of "building confidence in MedReleaf's formulations"'. MedReleaf Australia wishes to acknowledge the staunchly independent nature of NPS MedicineWise and the highly valuable contribution that its educational programs make to health professionals.

Close the Gap, urges PSA

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has called for a national approach to integrate non-dispensing pharmacists into Aboriginal Health Services.

Such an initiative would help to Close the Gap for Indigenous Australians, according to PSA president Shane Jackson, who said the Society is currently developing an evidence-based primary care and funding model to boost health outcomes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Jackson said having a culturally responsive practice pharmacist integrated with an Aboriginal Health Service (AHS) builds better relationships between patients and staff, leading to improved results in chronic disease management and Quality Use of Medicines.

"The integration of a non-dispensing pharmacist in an AHS has the potential to improve medication adherence, reduce chronic disease, reduce medication misadventure and decrease

preventable medication-related hospital admissions to help Close the Gap," Dr Jackson said.

Last year Health Minister Greg Hunt launched a 'Pharmacists in Aboriginal Health Services' trial under the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (**PD** 31 Jul 2017), with the PSA developing the trial in partnership with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

The PSA has also established a national ACCHO Pharmacist Leadership Group (**PD** 01 Nov 2017) to foster collaboration and inform policy in support of pharmacists working in Indigenous health.

MEANWHILE Indigenous Health Minister Ken Wyatt on Fri announced a four-year Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) program, which will provide "certainty, continuity and record funding for proven local campaigns and new initiatives to save lives and reduce the devastating impacts of tobacco-related disease".

Tropical disease work

SYDNEY University researchers have launched a new drug discovery project which takes an "open source approach" to find compounds for the treatment of mycetoma, a tropical infectious disease which causes devastating deformities.

The Mycetoma Open Source (MycetOS) project is backed by the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative and ErasmusMC, inviting the global scientific community to review a manuscript sharing results of early work to screen 800 molecules for active compounds against the causative pathogen of eumycetoma.

MycetOS will "progress drug discovery efforts through community-driven, in-kind scientific contributions and a robust, fully transparent online presence" with all ideas and results to be published immediately in real time to an open-access database.

Twitter will be used for communication while Github will share data and key project files.

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Dispensary Corner

MOST people know that basic human hygiene is one of the best defences against disease, however a recent study by Mattress Advisor found that the average person waits four times too long to wash their bed sheets.

Single men were the worst offenders, waiting on average 45 days to change their bedding - that's almost seven times longer than expert recommendations.

So what's the big deal? Well, given the average person sweats around 100 litres into their sheets every year, and sheds 3.7kg of skin in the same time, it should give your rather smelly, repulsive body some pause for reflection.

So the next time you wash your sheets after neglecting the job for a few months, just remember that your bed would have been so chock-full of human bacteria it technically qualifies as murder.



IN WHAT can only be described as one of the most puzzling studies you're ever likely to hear about, Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania in Romania has concluded that it's totally cool to eat snow.

Their testing showed that it was safe to eat snow that was less than a half-day old, and also safer to eat it in the colder months.

The two day mark proved to be the danger zone for the study, suggesting people should abstain from chowing down on old snow - we needed a study for this!!?

VentureWise splits with MedReleaf

NPS MedicineWise offshoot VentureWise has formally announced the discontinuation of its partnership with medicinal cannabis company MedReleaf (**PD** 06 Feb), which included the development of educational resources on medicinal cannabis for pharmacists, GPs and specialists.

VentureWise managing director Greg Hughes issued a statement on Fri afternoon, confirming that his organisation had been engaged by MedReleaf "to

develop independent information for healthcare professionals to improve prescriber knowledge about medicinal cannabis and the regulatory framework".

Hughes said the project aligned with the NPS MedicineWise group's overarching mission of improving the quality use of medicines in Australia.

However "unfortunately the scope of the project was presented by MedReleaf beyond what we originally agreed, and as a result our partnership will cease effective immediately," Hughes said.

"We wish MedReleaf all the best with their future endeavours."

MedReleaf Australia is headed up by pharmacist Russell Harding, who has established a joint venture with Canada's Medreleaf Corp, an ISO 9001 and GMP certified producer of medicinal cannabis.

MedReleaf plans to sponsor universities in Qld and South Australia to perform a series of trials involving the firm's products across several disease states.

Sunset for sunset

THE Federal House of Representatives last week passed an amendment to the National Health Act which will remove the sunset clause on pharmacy Location Rules.

The legislation changes fulfil a promise by Health Minister Greg Hunt (**PD** 09 May 2017) to remove a provision which could have seen Location Rules phased out in 2020.

The bill now moves to the Senate.

Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away an Aloe Vera prize pack valued at over \$50 each including Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera gel 150g, Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera gel 75g, Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera Spray 125ml, Plunkett's Pure Aloe Vera Moisturiser 200ml and one Plunkett Aloe Vera towel.

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

Name one use for Plunkett's Aloe Vera.

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Leanne Virtue, Recruitment Consultant at Raven's Recruitment.**



Counter offers - not that flattering

GREAT news - So you have been offered a new and exciting position with more benefits and a much higher hourly rate resulting in a better package and lifestyle for you and your family! Well done; now all you have to do is tender your resignation giving the required notice period in preparation to join the new exciting crew. Perfect!

You have gone through the interview process; waited for feedback; waited as the package was negotiated before an offer was made. Not a short process; this is your future and financial security and should not be taken lightly.

What do you do if your current employer offers to match the new offer to keep you? Were you not worthy of a salary review before this? Why is it now that you are about to leave that your value to the organisation has suddenly gone up?

Many candidates have shared with me that they felt insulted when this has occurred. Think carefully about why you are making a move and the value you can bring to an employer.

Across the board there are some fabulous opportunities out there at present offering both career progression and job satisfaction. Maybe it is time to see just what is waiting for you too?