

Free eLearning

THE Australian College of Pharmacy has announced it is making available a collection of complimentary clinical eLearning modules available to all pharmacists.

Members already have full access to these modules and can incorporate them into their learning plans, but now pharmacists who are not yet members can also access these modules free of charge by registering with the college.

Modules released for wider access include 'Improving the injection experience for patients using insulin', 'Preventing and treating post-herpetic neuralgia', 'Scars: Identification and treatment' and 'Stretch marks: Identification and treatment'.

See also a series of six cancer-related modules - acp.edu.au.

Merger boosts TWG result

TERRY White Group's (TWG) merger with Chemmart in Oct 2016 (*PD* 27 Oct 16) has delivered a "substantial increase" to revenue and earnings, according to its financial statements for the half year to 31 Dec 2017.

Total revenue was up 96% to \$66.5m pushing EBITDA up 24% to \$4.2m.



However net profit after tax decreased 17% to \$1.1 million after accounting for merger and integration costs of \$0.8 million.

"The merger has created a solid foundation for our future growth, and we are now very focused on harnessing the synergies and leveraging the increased customer recognition from the re-brand to deliver enhanced earnings and improved shareholder returns in the future," the company said.

The full integration of the businesses across marketing and merchandising, operations,

store development and corporate functions is now complete.

"We are focused on delivering improved earnings in future periods by harnessing the synergies of the two groups and by leveraging the increased customer recognition from our rebrand to drive growth," the report added.

As well as rebranding and a major consumer campaign, TWC has introduced a new loyalty program.

No interim dividend was declared, and the board also said it was "actively investigating options to provide liquidity for shareholders".

Kids & heart disease

THE Federal Government has announced the commitment of \$150,000 for the establishment of a National Childhood Heart Disease Action Plan to be jointly developed with HeartKids.

Health Minister Greg Hunt said the plan would focus on uncovering new treatments and care options for the more than 64,000 Australians affected by congenital or childhood heart disease.

"The plan will be a co-ordinated policy for this disease and it recognises the fantastic work already undertaken by HeartKids," Hunt said.

"It will also drive collaboration in research priorities, education, services and community awareness to better support people living with this condition."

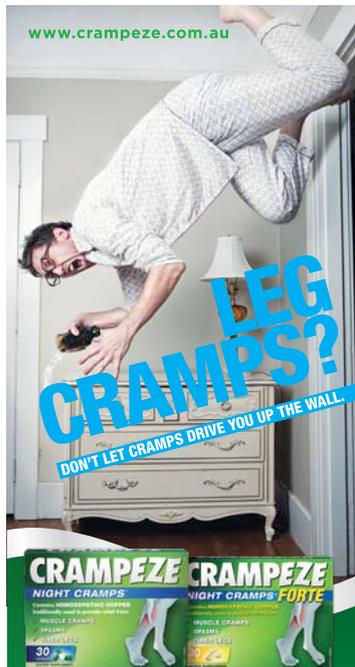
Go to health.gov.au for more.

New PSA building

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has purchased new premises in North Sydney, NSW.

The 600 square metre building at 32 Ridge Street has five car spaces, with the PSA telling *PD* it will occupy the premises from 05 Mar.

"The new office will have on-site training facilities and will be a hub for students, interns and pharmacists to connect and have access to resources and professional development," a PSA spokesperson said.



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Are you part of the picture?

By the end of 2018, all Australians will have a My Health Record, unless they decide not to have one.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is supporting pharmacists to integrate use of the My Health Record system into patient care. Find out more at www.psa.org.au/digitalhealthhub

Drugs and lactation

ASSOCIATE professor of pharmacology in the Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine, at Bond University, Gold Coast, pharmacist Treasure McGuire has summarised the impact of drugs on milk during lactation in NPS MedicineWise's *Australian Prescriber*.

Also assistant director of Practice and Development, Mater Pharmacy Services and conjoint senior lecturer at the University of Queensland's School of Pharmacy, McGuire explores the drugs that enhance milk supply (galactagogues) as well as those that suppress milk supply.

Complementary medicines, which are not all totally innocuous, are also referenced and a comprehensive table of effects is listed.

Visit nps.org.au for the article.

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Dispensary Corner

VALENTINE'S Day supposedly makes the heart grow fonder, but rarely have people accused fast-food giant KFC of doing the same thing - however perhaps the following story might persuade you to think differently.

To mark the international day of romance yesterday, KFC gave away thousands of scratch'n'sniff Valentine's Day cards featuring a swooning Colonel Sanders.

Each card contained a choice selection of "finger lickin'" phrases from the Colonel like "You have the secret recipe to my heart" and "You're the cole to my slaw."

We think we now know why Mr Sanders had all that time to master his fried chicken recipes - with lines like those the guy was obviously a lifelong bachelor.



PEOPLE spend millions of dollars on skin therapies every year for treatments like facials and mud baths, but have you ever considered doing the same thing to your buttocks? We sincerely hope the answer is no, but clearly some people are saying yes.

"Butt facials" are now a thing apparently, with practitioners of the bizarre offering promising to give rears a deep cleaning, flush toxins and prevent skin sagging.

We're not sure why people care what their backsides look like, we guess when you spend time talking out of one it makes sense.

ACT real-time monitoring

THE ACT Government has committed to implementing real-time prescription monitoring in the next 12 months, according to the Territory's Health and Well-Being Minister, Meegan Fitzharris.

Fitzharris said the ACT had progressed in monitoring the prescription of controlled medicines, with existing software identifying about 1,400 patients between Aug 2016 and May 2017 who were potentially accessing controlled medicines without authority, or obtaining larger quantities than needed.

"The next step is enabling prescribers and pharmacists access to the monitoring system," she said, confirming that more

than \$700,000 had already been committed to this project.

"Work is under way on the necessary legislative change so it can be in place by March 2019".

However Fitzharris also noted the importance of a nationally consistent approach for real-time monitoring of controlled drugs.

"This year I will chair the COAG health council and personally seek to advance national prescription monitoring," she promised.

'Baby brain' is real

GENERAL cognitive functioning and memory were significantly poorer in pregnant women than in controls, particularly during the third trimester, according to a meta-analysis of 20 studies looking at relationships between pregnancy and changes in cognition.

Published in the *MJA*, the study reinforces the existence of the so-called "baby brain" effect.

Go to mja.com.au for the study.

EpiPen shortage

MYLAN has advised the TGA that a return to normal stock levels for EpiPen 300mcg autoinjectors has been delayed by about a week, with supply now expected by 23 Feb.

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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Visit: www.Plunketts.com.au.

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

In which country is Plunkett's Aloe Vera made?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Niva Pesa 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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