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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus our weekly travel specials.

Aptamil complaints

INFANT formula manufacturer Danone has confirmed it is investigating UK reports that a new formulation of Aptamil there is making some babies unwell.

According to the BBC hundreds of British consumers have complained on social media about the changes.

Danone UK said it had undertaken extensive quality and safety checks and was confident the Aptamil range was completely safe.

The company said it had also updated the mixing instructions on the packs because the new formula requires users to shake the mixture vigorously for ten seconds to dissolve the powder.

Other complaints have centred on a reduced package size, despite the price remaining unchanged.

Danone Australia/New Zealand has confirmed the affected formulations are not sold here.

Doom merchants derided

PHARMACY Guild executive director David Quilty has urged community pharmacies to "genuinely and optimistically embrace change," rather than bemoaning a pharmacy future dominated by big business.

Writing in the Guild's *Forefront* newsletter yesterday, Quilty said Chemist Warehouse's wholesaling switch from Sigma to EBOS (PD 02 Jul) and the US purchase of PillPack by Amazon (PD 03 Jul) "seem to have woken the community pharmacy doom and gloom merchants from their slumber".

He noted that despite negative sentiment in the market, "big business is more on the nose today than any time in living memory so what politician in their right mind is going to hand over the ownership of pharmacy to the big corporates".

Similarly, despite ongoing speculation about deregulation, "earlier this year the location rules were locked in by legislation that was supported by all the main political parties".

In regard to the potential for Amazon to enter the pharmacy market, "no online provider can compete with the convenience of community pharmacy while the Federal Government sets the patient co-payment for PBS subsidised medicines," he said.

And no machine - no matter how smart - "can go close to replicating the human touch that is the hallmark of community pharmacy".

Quilty noted that a successful future must always be earned, and it won't be handed to pharmacy on a platter, but for pharmacies that embrace technology, know their patients, are excellent in running their businesses, and can integrate effectively with the broader health system, "there is every reason to believe they will continue to be prosperous for many years to come."

"The news for the naysayers is that community pharmacy continues to have the overwhelming support of the public and is not going anywhere," he said, highlighting the recently completed Community Pharmacy 2025 issues report (PD 27 Jun) which has identified nine growth pathways for the industry.

Tas robberies

TASMANIAN police have confirmed the arrest of a man charged with the armed robbery of two Hobart pharmacies on Sun.

The perpetrator allegedly threatened staff with a knife at the Friendly Care Chemmart Pharmacy in the CBD and the Terry White Chemmart in Sandy Bay.

FIP, CPA seal deal

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has signed a new memorandum of understanding with the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA), defining how both organisations will cooperate to "advance health for the public benefit by developing the pharmacy profession".

The MoU continues ongoing joint activities including advancing the pharmaceutical workforce agenda.

"2018 has provided important opportunities for the CPA's advocacy efforts for the profession around both the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting," according to CPA ceo Victoria Rutter.

"This year our voice was significantly louder due to the support in these efforts offered by FIP...the impact we have made together is significant," she said.

A key achievement was a recommendation to invest in the pharmacy workforce presented to Commonwealth health ministers.

Opdivo + Yervoy

BRISTOL-MYERS Squibb has welcomed the TGA registration of Opdivo in combination with Yervoy for the treatment of patients with advanced kidney cancer.

It's the first combination immunotherapy for the condition, with the approval granted under the TGA's new Priority Review process which aims to review medicines within 150 working days.

The approval is also the tenth indication for Opdivo across six cancer types.

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Dispensary Corner

YOUR mum always said you should carry an umbrella so you don't catch a chill - well a Japanese inventor has gone a step further with the creation of a new "hands-free" parasol.

Oyama-based Asahi Power Service Co. is currently working on a prototype of the drone-based "flying umbrella" which uses artificial intelligence to automatically hover above users as they walk.

The project is the brainchild of ceo Kenji Suzuki, who said it was "bothersome to open an umbrella when your hands are full".

Flight testing is currently underway, with the project hoped to be released in time for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

However there are some distinct limitations with the umbrella at this early stage, with the 5kg gadget currently only able to fly for five minutes.

HERE'S an unusual defence for a drunk-driving arrest.

A US man pulled over in Florida for erratic motoring last week failed a sobriety test and was found to have a high blood-alcohol level, but insists he wasn't drinking while driving.

Despite finding an open bottle of bourbon in the passenger seat, 69-year-old Earle Stevens Jr told police officers he was only taking slugs of the booze while the car was stopped at red lights and stop signs - not while the vehicle was actually moving.

Fortunately for the rest of society, the inventive explanation didn't keep him out of prison on a DUI charge, according to a *USA Today* report.

Pharmacy wound care

PHARMACISTS are being urged to build their wound management expertise, as a way of reducing the impact of chronic wounds on the Australian community.

Wounds Australia ceo Anne Buck described chronic wounds as a "hidden affliction" that should be recognised as a serious health issue.

"Pharmacists need to educate at-risk patients, to support and empower them, and help raise awareness of chronic wounds," she said, particularly with key groups such as patients receiving ongoing medication for diabetes.

Buck said the number of wound sufferers is expected to soar due to Australia's ageing population.

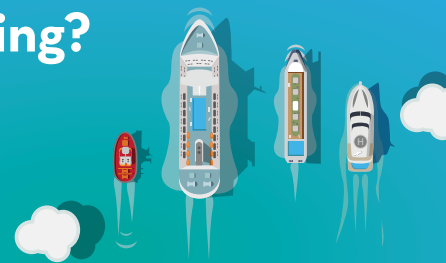
"One of the key barriers we've seen for all health care professionals...is a lack of ongoing wound care education.

"With continual development of [pharmacists'] skills, patients will receive the best care and they will reduce the impact that chronic wounds are having on the population," she said - see woundsaustralia.com.au.

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Brexit gaps identified

THE European Medicines Agency has urged product sponsors to step up efforts to ensure medicine supply in the European Union in the lead up to the UK's exit from the EU.

The agency has expressed "serious concerns" that regulatory actions to transfer authorisations to European-based entities by UK firms will not be carried out in time.

New NovaTears

AFT Pharmaceuticals has released a new product for "dry eye" based on patented EyeSol technology.

NovaTears aims to treat the symptoms of Evaporative Dry Eye (increased tear evaporation) as well as aqueous deficiency, and has the same refractive index as water which means it does not cause blurred vision.

"This is truly innovative technology and we encourage pharmacists to get in touch with their AFT representative in order to make this technology available in their pharmacy," said AFT founder Hartley Atkinson.



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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Norwegian cruise deal

NORWEGIAN Cruise Line is offering 'Buy one, get one half price' cruise fares on upcoming Australian, NZ and Europe voyages.

The special means a 12-day trans-Tasman sailing from Sydney costs \$2,979 for the first passenger and \$1,810 for the second with both sharing an oceanview stateroom.

Similar offers are available on a 9-day Scandinavia, Russia & Baltic cruise from Copenhagen, and a 10-day Greek Isles & Italy from Rome.

Contact your travel agent or call Norwegian on 1300 255 200.

Double points with A&K

UPMARKET tour operator Abercrombie & Kent is offering double Qantas Frequent Flyer Points for new bookings of trips departing during 2018.

That means two Qantas points for every \$1 spent, with exotic itineraries including Egypt, Western China, Georgia & Armenia, Iran, Mongolia, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Iceland, Mexico and Japan - see your travel agent or call 1300 851 800.

Win with John Plunkett

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and John Plunkett are giving away a John Plunkett Collagen Eye Lift 15g prize valued at over \$40 each.

The New John Plunkett Collagen Eye Lift is a day and night eye cream packed with peptides including Matrixyl 3000 and Eyeseryl to boost collagen by 100%, and hyaluronic acid to provide cushioning hydration, while rosehip oil softens and smoothes delicate skin around the eyes. It effectively targets three causes of ageing - fine lines and wrinkles, eye bags and puffiness and dark circles.

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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 are John Plunkett Cosmeceuticals made?

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