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Today's issue of PD
Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus our weekly events calendar.

Montelukast under review

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is undertaking "additional risk mitigation activities" in relation to montelukast, after a new safety review of the widely used asthma medication.

Marketed in Australia under the brand name Singulair as well as multiple generic brands, montelukast is indicated for the prevention and treatment of asthma in adults and children aged two years and older, and can also be used for the symptomatic treatment of seasonal hayfever.

A TGA update yesterday said there was a known association between

montelukast and neuropsychiatric events such as agitation, sleep disturbance and depression, which is detailed in the medication's product information.

The latest safety review was requested following media reports of serious neuropsychiatric events occurring with montelukast in children and adolescents.

The TGA has written to state and territory health departments, NPS MedicineWise and other groups to formally request inclusion of advice regarding montelukast and neuropsychiatric events in relevant clinical guidelines and CPD activities.

Prescribers are advised to carefully evaluate the risks and benefits of continuing montelukast treatment if neuropsychiatric events occur, and to educate caregivers about the potential adverse effects.

ENT asthma pact

ENT Technologies has launched a new three year partnership with Asthma Australia, which will see the organisations work together to improve the respiratory health of Australians with asthma.

ENT manufactures the Flo range of nasal sprays and washes, with the company's founder and medical director, Sam Barbalatt, saying "we know that our products and philosophy greatly align with Asthma Australia's mission.

"Looking after nasal health is an important part of looking after the respiratory system," he said, noting that all Flo saline products are preservative free and suitable for people with asthma.

The new partnership will see ENT provide funding support to Asthma Australia, as well as training asthma educators on the benefits of maintaining nasal health for people with asthma and hay fever.

Danone assurance

DANONE has moved to quickly assuage the concerns of parents in Australia and New Zealand over UK complaints about Aptamil, yesterday issuing a statement confirming that the product sold locally is not the same formulation as the one causing a social media storm abroad (**PD** yesterday).

Danone head of corporate affairs Joanna McCarthy told *Pharmacy Daily* "we would like to reassure pharmacists and their customers of the safety and suitability of our Aptamil range for the feeding of babies...furthermore we can confirm that the products referenced in the UK media are not sold in Australia or NZ".

She also emphasised that quality is the company's top priority. "Our colleagues in the UK are therefore doing everything to investigate every single complaint and to help families during the transition to the new recipe".

McCarthy said the company's experience has shown that when changing what is fed to a baby they may need time to adapt "and have some temporary changes to their digestive pattern".

She added that the new formula recently introduced in six European countries had been well received overall, adding that any consumer enquiries could be directed to the local Careline on 1800 438 500.

CMA short-listed for Association award

COMPLEMENTARY Medicines Australia has been named a finalist in the 'Association of the Year Awards' which are decided each year by the Associations Forum.

Other finalists include Master Builders Queensland, the Swimming Pool & Spa Association, Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia NSW, and the Australian Airports Association.

CMA ceo Carl Gibson said it was a "real achievement just to be short-listed for this prestigious award.

"With over 1,000 associations in Australia, reaching the finals is a success and testament to the hard work we have been doing on behalf of all CMA members," he said.

The winner will be announced next Mon 16 Jul at the Associations Forum National Conference dinner.

LLLP2018 looks at the future



MORE than 240 delegates from across the world attended last week's 12th international Life Long Learning in Pharmacy (LLLP) conference in Brisbane, which had the theme *Shaping tomorrow's practitioners for today*.

The three day event saw attendees examine pharmacy trends overseas, as well as the expectations and standards that will be required for education in pharmacy into the future.

LLLP was hosted by the Australian Pharmacy Council, with ceo and Host Committee chair Brownyn Clark saying topics included opportunities for continuing

professional development, the styles of leadership that make a difference to pharmacy in other parts of the world, and the important elements needed to achieve interprofessional collaboration and practice.

"The next generation is the cohort we need to take notice of and work so closely with, as they are the generation that will take our profession forward in bold ways as new technologies, online systems and opportunities not seen before will become their pharmacy 'bread and butter'," she said.

The next LLLP is scheduled for Jul 2020 in Dublin, Ireland.

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Jobs of the Week

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Part-time hours - High \$ rates - supportive team.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Cairns region, QLD (Job# 200015849)
Forward dispense - approachable head office support.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Northern Rivers, NSW (Job# 200015884)
Yoga, tranquility + job of a lifetime (Mon - Thurs only).

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Pharmacy Daily



Dispensary Corner

GOOD news, hipsters - the so-called "Avozilla" has arrived.

Perfect for smashing onto a very large piece of toast, the South African-based fruit (pictured below with its little cousin) looks like an avocado, tastes like an avocado, but is about five times the size of a regular avocado.

Weighing about 1.2kg, the variety is now newly available in Australia, with the first Queensland harvest en route to greengrocers in Perth, Adelaide, Sydney and Brisbane.

Now that's what we call a really super super-food!



TATTOO removers in Britain may be doing brisk business this week after the UK soccer team lost their semi-final World Cup game against Croatia.

Some die-hard fans had expressed their support by having the faces of top players immortalised on their skin.

The BBC reports the case of Teddy Allen from Staffordshire who had a large picture of team captain Harry Kane tattooed on his thigh along with 'World Cup Winners 2018' after England beat Sweden in the race to the cup.

Unfortunately the latest loss to Croatia means he is now planning to have the word 'VOID' added in red across the player's face.

\$160,000 back pay claim

PROFESSIONAL Pharmacists Australia (PPA) has lodged a whopping \$160,000 underpayment claim on behalf of a Pharmacist-In-Charge member of the union, which described the case as "the worst example of wage theft we have seen".

The underpayments claim dates back five years, with the pharmacist working at least ten hours per day except for periods of leave.

PPA has claimed the outstanding amount based on the non-payment of overtime, meal allowance and the sole pharmacist allowance.

"This employer has consistently shown disregard to the Pharmacy Industry Award 2010," PPA said, noting that all pharmacists are entitled to overtime and on-premise meal allowances.

"Pursuant to our member's claim, we will lodge this claim with the courts is this underpayment is not paid to our member," the union said.

MEANWHILE PPA has also published a snapshot of the challenges facing community

pharmacy, including an imbalance between professionalism and commercialism, dissatisfaction over the direction of the profession, the death of the independent local pharmacy, and discouragement of professional innovation.

The organisation is proposing a new model where pharmacists are integrated into the health system and not treated as a separate entity.

Under the PPA plan there would be "audited minimum medication supply service standards," a single standard patient contribution fee for each molecule, and the introduction of a single fee based on the cost of the service.

PPA envisages that pharmacists would work directly with patients, including follow-up, and liaise amongst one another for the benefit of patients.

"This will ensure that pharmacists are considered healthcare providers and are paid commensurate to their skill and the value they provide to the community" - for more details see professionalpharmacists.com.au.

Cooperation urged

FORMER Royal Australian College of General Practitioners vice president Edwin Kruijs has urged a "better way forward" for Australian healthcare, saying doctors and pharmacists should "explore models that are not competitive but complement each other".

See doctorsbag.net.



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.

27 - 29 Jul: PSA18; The Hyatt Regency Sydney; register now: go to www.psa18.com

9 - 10 Aug: Pharmacy WA Forum 2018 Conference and Trade Exhibition at Crown Perth. Register at eventandconferco.eventsair.com.

12 - 15 Aug: Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2018; Mt Buller, Victoria; register your interest here: www.medici.com.au

7 - 8 Sep: Pharmacy Connect; Hilton Hotel Sydney; register at: www.pharmacy-connect.com.au

16 - 19 Oct: Pharmacy Alliance Members' Forum; Hamilton Island; early bird registrations now open: www.pamembersforum.com.au

25 - 27 Oct: Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; Sea World Resort, Gold Coast; for details see: www.pharmacyassistants.com

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.

Visit: www.JohnPlunkett.com.au for more.

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

Name one of peptides contained in Collagen Eye Lift.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner Kimberley Eckert from Iron Pharmacy Group.

