

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from Flo.

## AusCann reaps more



**LISTED** medical cannabis company AusCann Group has announced via the ASX that its second harvest in Chile has now been gathered with a 50% increase in yield over the first, generating 620kg of dried cannabis product.

AusCann works with DayaCann joint venture partner Fundación Daya in Chile.

The product will be used for Chilean residents and export.

**Pictured** above are workers at DayaCann's processing facility. See more at [asx.com.au](http://asx.com.au).

## Guild gender report

**THE** Victorian branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has lodged its annual report with the government's Workplace Gender Equality Agency.

Comments on the report can be made directly to the Agency or to [workplacerelements@vic.guild.org.au](mailto:workplacerelements@vic.guild.org.au).

The report covers 29 employees, and can be downloaded at [www.guild.org.au](http://www.guild.org.au).

## S4, S8 entries for cannabis

**THE** TGA has released details of revised Poisons Standard entries for medicinal cannabis, with a proposed implementation date of 01 Oct this year.

The interim ruling is in line with recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling, and amends the Schedule 4 entry for cannabidiol, and the Schedule 8 and Appendix K entries for tetrahydrocannabinols and cannabis to make them clearer.

The proposed Schedule 4 entry covers cannabidiol in preparations for therapeutic use where:

- cannabidiol comprises 98% or more of the total cannabinoid content of the preparation; and
- any cannabinoids, other than cannabidiol, must be only those

## Orphan transition

**THE** transition period for Australia's Orphan Drug Scheme will end on 30 Jun 2018, meaning orphan designations under the previous program (prior to 01 Jul 2017) will no longer be in force after that date.

The new criteria introduced 12 months ago refocused the program to the "consideration of greatest unmet need" with a more generous orphan disease prevalence threshold, a requirement for the condition to be life-threatening or seriously debilitating, and the introduction of a new pathway with separate eligibility criteria to seek orphan designation for new dosage form medicines.

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**GEORGINA TWOMEY**  
- Alive Pharmacy Warehouse Innisfail

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naturally found in cannabis and total 2% or less of the cannabinoid content of the preparation.

Cannabis, including seeds, extracts, resins and the plant, is also included in Schedule 8 when cultivated or produced in accordance with the Narcotic Drugs Act 1967.

There is also a proposed S8 entry for tetrahydrocannabinols when extracted from cannabis for human therapeutic use.

The update confirms that the "consideration is about clarification only and does not seek to change the original scheduling decisions".

In particular, "clarification of these entries is necessary to prevent their inadvertent or deliberate misinterpretation resulting in harm through Schedule 8 products being treated as Schedule 4 medicines, including not obtaining State authority to prescribe and increased potential for diversion/misuse because of less restrictive storage and recording requirements," the update notes. See [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## Botanix success

**DERMATOLOGY** company Botanix Pharmaceuticals, ASX-listed, has announced positive results for its BTX 1204 atopic dermatitis study.

The four-week research demonstrated BTX 1204 was twice as effective as the vehicle for dermatitis signs with efficacy still increasing at the four week timepoint.

## Paroxetine withdrawal

**MORE** than half of antidepressant users experience withdrawal when they stop and a third report problems with addiction, but claim they are not prepared for these symptoms, according to a survey written up in the *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*.

Researchers from the University of Auckland and the University of London surveyed more than 1,800 antidepressant users in New Zealand and found while only 1% were informed of the potential for withdrawal effects when prescribed the drugs, 55% said they experienced the effects after stopping medication.

This rose to 70% among those who had taken antidepressants for more than three years.

One in four (25.1%) categorised the effects as 'severe', with paroxetine frequently implicated.

## CSIRO ageing study

**SINGAPORE'S** Nanyang Technological University has partnered with national health science agency CSIRO in providing \$500,000 for joint research in precision health.

The first project under the agreement will focus on the importance of gut health and exercise in healthy ageing, looking at the gut microbiome which plays a key role in countering the onset and progression of chronic diseases in the elderly.

It's the first joint Australia-Singapore funded project under the CSIRO's Precision Health Future Science Platform.

## Join our "Beat the flu" campaign

A campaign to improve vaccination rates for Flu, run on behalf of our network Pharmacies.



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## Priceline's Store of the Year



**PRICELINE** Pharmacy in Wetherill Park, NSW was named Store of the Year at the network's annual Franchise Conference this week, making it the top pharmacy among the 485-strong outlet group.

The Store of the Year award recognises the pharmacy's outstanding commercial results and exceptional customer service, including its support for the Priceline Sisterhood Foundation.

The pharmacy opened in 2009 and is owned by the Bronger family including former Pharmacy Guild of Australia president John Bronger, wife Lyn and daughter Catherine.

"Together they demonstrate a strong commitment to the development of their team members by facilitating a range of courses and learning opportunities," according to API managing director Richard Vincent.

"Every year we are pleased to recognise one of our stores that has demonstrated the highest standards in combining outstanding

commercial results, great customer service and a high level of commitment to the programs and charities that we support.

"Wetherill Park has been a consistently high performing store and embodies the spirit of our brand," Vincent said.

The team from Wetherill Park were also recognised with NSW Retail Manager of the Year going to Lisa Bontempo and NSW Pharmacist of the Year taken out by Nancy El-Miski.

The national Pharmacist of the Year was Rob Podolak from Priceline Pharmacy Ringwood in Vic, while the national Retail Manager of the Year category was taken out by Kimberley Hunt from Priceline Pharmacy Gawler Place in South Australia.

**Pictured** above from left are API chairman Mark Smith with Priceline Pharmacy Wetherill Park's Linda Bontempo, Nancy El-Miski, Catherine Bronger, John Bronger, Lyn Bronger and Lina Hannawe.

## New skin cancer tool

**A GROUP** of well-heeled venture capitalists including Australian billionaire Scott Farquhar are backing DermEngine, an "intelligent secure online platform that empowers specialists and primary care physicians for early detection and management of skin cancer".

Launching in Australia today, the system is claimed to mark a "seismic shift in the way skin cancer is screened, tracked and detected in Australia" by providing a care coordination platform that uses artificial intelligence to support doctor decision-making.

## Ketamine conviction

**THE** NSW Health Care Complaints Commission has prosecuted medical practitioner Dr Lei Min Chen over "inappropriate 'off-label' prescribing of Ketamine".

The complaint considered his treatment of 21 patients who presented to the Aura Medical Corporation in Sydney between Nov 2014 and May 2015.

A decision last month found all the particulars proven, with the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal ruling that the conduct amounted to unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct.

He was found to have prescribed Ketamine without authority and inappropriately prescribed the drug as a 'takeaway' dose.

A further hearing on 24 and 25 Jul will consider protective orders.

## CSIRO on vax myths

**CSIRO** blogger Ellen Singleton has posted a summary article comparing five widely held myths surrounding vaccination with evidence-based science in an effort to stimulate discussion and awareness.

Singleton deals first with the autism link myth, clarifying that studies involving almost 1.5 million children from all round the world have disproven any connection.

The concept that the flu vaccine gives the recipient the flu is "simply not true" - the vaccines do not have any live virus so it cannot cause an infection.

For those who draw on



the herd immunity concept as a reason not to get the vaccine, Singleton is very clear - there are those in society who cannot have the vaccine, babies, pregnant women and people with immune deficiencies or recovering from cancer, who need everyone else in society to get vaccinated to help protect them.

Anyone who thinks vaccines weaken the immune system simply doesn't understand the immune system - in fact, Singleton clarifies that the very opposite is the case.

Lastly, the CSIRO writer points out that the flu vaccine has indeed been proven to protect against up to 60% of confirmed influenza infections and the protection rate can be even higher in children.

See more blogs at [blog.csiro.au](http://blog.csiro.au).



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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Wollongong, NSW (Job# 200015807)  
Join a sought after team delivering quality Pharmacy services.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Upper Murray region, VIC (Job# 200015339)  
\$110k + Accom + Relocation in an adventure lover's paradise!
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Mackay, QLD (Job# 200015785)  
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### Dispensary Corner

**SCIENTISTS** in New Zealand are working hard to address the country's greenhouse gas emissions by breeding "climate-friendly sheep".

Apparently flatulent, burping ovines are a major contributor to methane emissions, with the new breeds created to produce about 10% less gas than normal.

The project is being led by agricultural science firm AgResearch, which is now in its third generation of breeding after selecting particular genetic lines believed to fart and burp less.

The emissions are measured by placing the animals in a purpose-built sealed aluminium "fart chamber" (pictured) and then processing the gassy contents.



**RESEARCHERS** from Sydney University's Charles Perkins Centre say they're mystified at data from a recent Qantas flight between Perth and London where a passenger being monitored didn't move for 17 hours.

Professor Stephen Simpson and his team are working with the airline on a project looking at the effects of the ultra-long haul flight, with some travellers being equipped with activity trackers.

In this particular case they had to double check that the equipment was working after finding the man took "zero steps" during his business class flight - surely a sign of a strong bladder.

## Monash, Eagle Health project

**ASX-LISTED** natural medicines company Eagle Health has entered into a research and development collaboration with the Monash University Food Innovation Centre in Melbourne.

The collaboration will conduct a literature review of the Dendrobium plant and its medicinal benefits, with results expected to "guide the Company's future product development and explore new product health claims," the company said in its ASX announcement yesterday.

Dendrobium is a genus of orchid, and the joint work with Monash follows "exponential growth in sales" last year, including Eagle's popular powdered sachet product.

Eagle Health ceo Zhang Mingwang said, "The Chinese Government has continued to support the development of TCM [Traditional Chinese Medicine] and the release of new variants of our successful Dendrobium product to ensure it is in line with the national strategy.

"While TCM is well understood throughout China, it is often supplied at small retail outlets and hence we believe our consumer-friendly packaging and ease of access, like other modern pharmaceutical products, has the potential to revolutionise this category," he said.

The Eagle ceo added that Dendrobium was "well understood by Chinese consumers to benefit gastrointestinal health," with the convenient formats and acceptance of the product key growth drivers.

Eagle Health's current Dendrobium range is sold in pharmacies, on-line and at the company's growing number of flagship stores across China.

New product formats include sun dried and ground powder forms, slices, cosmetics and oils.

They can be taken directly or included in food, and are also available in topical formats "as directed by a pharmacist," the company said.

## FDA generics save \$9b

**THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** has released a first-of-its-kind report claiming to have saved the US taxpayer \$8.8 billion during the 2017 calendar year as a result of its generic drug approvals and a further \$11.8 billion through Feb 2108.

In 2017 the FDA approved 1,027 abbreviated new drug applications.



### 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](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**15 - 17 Jun:** ConPharm 2018; Sofitel Brisbane Central Hotel; for details and to register see: [www.aacp.com.au](http://www.aacp.com.au)

**6 - 9 Jul:** Life Long Learning in Pharmacy 2018 (LLLP2018); Rydges Southbank, Brisbane; registrations now open: [www.lllpharm2018.com](http://www.lllpharm2018.com)

**27 - 29 Jul:** PSA18; The Hyatt Regency Sydney; register now: go to [www.psa18.com](http://www.psa18.com)

**12 - 15 Aug:** Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2018; Mt Buller, Victoria; register your interest here: [www.medici.com.au](http://www.medici.com.au)

**7 - 8 Sep:** Pharmacy Connect; Hilton Hotel Sydney; register at: [www.pharmacy-connect.com.au](http://www.pharmacy-connect.com.au)

**25 - 27 Oct:** Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; Sea World Resort, Gold Coast; for details see: [www.pharmacyassistants.com](http://www.pharmacyassistants.com)

## Win with Nutri-Synergy

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away an NS prize pack valued at over \$30.

Nutri-Synergy (NS) combines natural active ingredients to treat dry, sensitive and problem skin. NS works with the skin, not just on the skin's surface. Use NS Sensitive Skin Cleanser to clean and hydrate your skin before applying NS-21 Skin Repair Treatment to restore problem or damaged skin to a healthy state. Visit: [www.NutriSynergy.com.au](http://www.NutriSynergy.com.au).

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



**NS-21 Skin Repair Treatment is a supporter of the Eczema Association. Which 3 conditions are depicted on its packaging?**

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Muthi Ahmmed Mohammed from Northside Pharmacy, NT*



# Achoo! Bless you!



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<sup>1</sup>IMS Health Data, Dec 2016 <sup>2</sup>The nasal decongestant effect of xylometazoline in the common cold. Eccles R et al. American Journal of Rhinology (2008) Vol 22 pp 491-496

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