

## NSW HCCC bars "miracle healer"

A **NATUROPATH** who professed to be a "miracle healer" capable of curing cancer, schizophrenia, eczema and other conditions using herbal remedies, has been permanently prohibited from providing health care services, by the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission (HCCC).

The Commission found Aleksander Stande, 66, had "wilfully misrepresented and overstated" the level of his qualifications in clinical nutrition, herbal medicine and homeopathy.

It also revealed that former patients of Stande had reported that he had withdrawn unauthorised sums on their credit cards on top of fees that had been agreed upon.

In its ruling the HCCC said it had "grave concerns regarding Stande's outlandish treatment claims" published on his business website and communicated directly to patients.

"Even more concerning is that Stande portrays himself as superior to mainstream health care practitioners and encourages his clients to forgo prescribed



medications and adopt his treatment regime," the HCCC said.

"The Commission is concerned that vulnerable members of the public suffering from complex medical and mental health conditions may make detrimental health care decisions based on Stande's advice.

"The Commission has concerns that Stande is not willing to seriously reflect on his practice and has no insight into the limitations of his training and qualifications

and his competence to treat serious illnesses.

"Stande's lack of insight coupled with his dishonesty and misplaced confidence in his abilities as a health practitioner render him a significant risk to the health and safety of the public.

### Today's issue of PD

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

### TGA bus plan

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has updated its business plan for 2019-20 with a stronger emphasis on electronic prescribing processes and international work sharing, information sharing and regulatory convergence.

The latter has been a feature of the TGA business plan over the last few years and has seen significant international harmonisation efficiencies implemented - see [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## Corum lands Alchemy investment

**AUSTRALIAN** Securities Exchange listed pharmacy software business, Corum Group, has raised \$3.66 million through a full-subscribed placement of 146.4 million ordinary shares.

As part of the capital raising Alchemy Healthcare will become a "cornerstone" investor, putting \$1.5 million into Corum, through related entities of its directors.

Alchemy Director, Nick England, has been invited to become

a non-executive director on completion of the transaction.

The associated entities of Alchemy directors have agreed to a voluntary escrow period of 12 months from completion of the issue for their shareholdings, demonstrating their long-term commitment to value creation in Corum.

Lujeta Pty Ltd, Corum's majority shareholders, has said it will support the resolutions required to approved the transaction.

Topical corticosteroid options for eczema, dermatitis and other steroid responsive skin conditions.

**Potent strength topical corticosteroid<sup>1</sup>**  
PRESCRIPTION ONLY

**KLOXEMA**  
clobetasone butyrate 0.05% w/w

**Moderate strength topical corticosteroid<sup>1</sup>**  
Therapeutic Guidelines recommend moderate strength topical corticosteroids for first-line use in atopic eczema of the trunk and limbs<sup>2</sup>  
- Chlorocresol free

**DermAid**  
hydrocortisone 1.0% w/w, 0.5% w/w

**Mild strength topical corticosteroid<sup>1</sup>**  
Therapeutic Guidelines recommend hydrocortisone for first-line use in:<sup>2,3</sup>  
- Mild atopic eczema on the face, axillae or groin<sup>2</sup>  
- Facial, flexural or scrotal seborrheic eczema, in combination with an antifungal<sup>2</sup>  
- Contact dermatitis on the face<sup>2</sup>  
- Psoriasis of the face in children<sup>2</sup>

GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH MADE EASY

**DermAid:** Use for the temporary relief of minor skin irritations, itching and rashes due to eczema, dermatitis, cosmetics, jewellery, itching genital and anal areas and sunburn.

**Kloxema:** Short term (up to 7 days) treatment of milder forms of eczema, dermatitis and other steroid responsive skin conditions. **Dosage:** For 12 years and over. Apply a thin film and gently rub in, using only enough to cover the affected area twice daily for up to 7 days.

**References:** 1. Dermatology Expert Group. Therapeutic Guidelines: Dermatology, version 4. Topical corticosteroid preparations (Appendix 4.1). Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd [Internet]. 2019 [cited 2019 June 28]. Available from: <https://tdg.doh.gov.au/ViewTopic?topicid=topical-corticosteroid-preparations> 2. Dermatology Expert Group. Therapeutic Guidelines: Dermatology, version 4. Dermatitis. Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd [Internet]. 2018 [cited 2019 June 27]. Available from: <https://tdg.doh.gov.au/ViewTopic?topicid=dermatitis> 3. Dermatology Expert Group. Therapeutic Guidelines: Dermatology, version 4. Psoriasis. Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd [Internet]. 2018 [cited 2019 June 27]. Available from: <https://tdg.doh.gov.au/ViewTopic?topicid=psoriasis>

Before recommending please refer to the full Product Information. Full Product Information is available on request from Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd.

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## Ethnicity still drives UK pay disparity

**PHARMACISTS** in the UK are experiencing significant variations in income based on the colour of their skin, according to figures from *The Pharmaceutical Journal's* 2019 salary and job satisfaction survey.

The data revealed that "pay between white and non-white pharmacists has widened by 0.3% over the past year.

The survey, conducted between 06 May 2019 and 10 Jun 2019, found "a statistically significant 15.8% median pay gap between non-locum pharmacists who identify as white and those who identify as non-white, which equates to a difference of £8,320 per year — an increase from 2018's reported ethnicity pay gap of 15.5%."

A total of 1,814 Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) members were polled to find these data, which the report said, applied across all areas of practice.



Mohammed Hussain, senior clinical lead at NHS Digital, said, "Although the data is not perfect, it does reveal a greater truth that the pharmacy workforce continues to have structural inequality."

Hussain called upon the RPS and

the NHS to commit to ongoing ethnic pay gap reporting for their organisations as well as for all employers, in line with gender pay gap reporting requirements, which require companies and organisations with more than 250 employees to report their gender pay gap each year.

When broken down by sector, the pay gap between white and non-white is least in primary care (1.2%) and greatest in industry (41% disparity).

## Vit D for anxiety

**RESEARCHERS** from the US and Saudi Arabia have demonstrated in a three-month follow-up study, that vitamin D supplementation improved symptoms of generalised anxiety - [CLICK HERE](#).

## Widespread aspirin use unfounded

**DESPITE** the multiple studies highlighting the negative risk-benefit ratio of taking daily aspirin, and an otherwise dearth of evidence, millions of healthy adults are still taking the potentially harmful drug, according to a summary article in the UK's *The Pharmaceutical Journal*.

New guidelines from the American Heart Association (AHA) and American College of Cardiology (ACC) clearly discourage the practice.

Nevertheless, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), despite an announcement last year about a clinical trial of more than 19,000 people ages 65 and older in the US and Australia, a lot of people are still using it.

That study found aspirin offered few benefits for healthy older adults and might even raise their risk of bleeding and early death.



The ASPREE Study (ASPirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly) found that a daily low-dose aspirin in healthy older adults didn't prolong life or help prevent heart disease, physical disability, dementia, or stroke, and that aspirin doesn't have the same benefits for healthy older adults as it does for those who have had a heart attack or stroke.

So while the data is against the use of daily low dose aspirin for primary CVD prevention, it still holds up for secondary prevention.

## GSK launches Spectrum

**THE** global GSK employee resource group named Spectrum, which is for LGBTQI employees and straights, was launched in Australia at an event at GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals headquarters in Melbourne last Fri.

Spectrum was recognised this year as 'The Best LGBT+ Network Group in the UK' by advocacy organisation, Stonewall.



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Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is Simon



Chamberlain, General Manager - Strategy, MedAdvisor.

### Behind the screens at MedAdvisor (Part 5)

**THOUGH** 7+ years old now, MedAdvisor guards its start-up DNA and mentality jealously. It's what has enabled us to evolve to meet the changing needs of our patient and pharmacy user bases, and it will stand us in good stead for the changes that are yet to come.

My responsibility at MedAdvisor is to articulate and drive our strategy. In a high paced, high change environment, it can be challenging to set solid, immutable truths to guide our decision making whilst ensuring we can be agile enough to respond to the inevitable twists and turns we confront.

Fortunately, in MedAdvisor's case, the light on the hill is clear. Our team is dedicated to improving medication adherence and health literacy by making medication manageable. Contributing to better health outcomes for patients is the guide post for everything that we do.

As with all things, the devil is in the detail. How does the team choose between competing priorities and customer requests? We focus on our users. For pharmacists, we focus on trying to save time through automation and workflow optimization. For patients, we focus on measures that make them feel more in control of their medications, save them time and drive convenience.

As we look to navigate the changes to come – increased digitization of patient health data, interoperability of different technologies and more specifically, the opportunities for e-prescribing ([read more](#)), it's critical that we remain anchored to our purpose.

## Migraine drug nod

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved the marketing of Ajovy (fremanezumab) for preventive treatment of migraine in adults. More details at [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## Dispensary Corner

**LAST** week pharmacists around the globe celebrated their profession on World Pharmacists' Day.

Pharmacists around the world marked the day in their own way, some enjoyed cupcakes sharing the message of "safe and effective medicines for all", while others took the opportunity to highlight their medicines safety skills on social media.

Two Kiwi pharmacists attending the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Congress in Abu Dhabi took a slightly different approach, rewriting the lyrics to the theme tune of hit sitcom, *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, and rapping on Twitter.

*"Now this is a story all about how pharmacists came and turned the world upside-down. So we'd like to take a minute just sit right there, we'll rap about pharmacists just stay right here.*

*"Safe and effective medicines for all - without it your health will be poor.*

*"We need teamwork, collaboration, IPE, because together this leads to quality.*

*"Better see your pharmacist to keep healthy.*

*"We dispense good advice, meds and what you need.*

*"Advocacy, equity and R&D are a few things you get from FIP.*

*"It the 25th of Sep don't you see? It's World Pharmacist Day from two Kiwis in the UAE".*

Follow @amyhchan on Twitter to watch the video for the full experience - AWESOME.

## Pharmacy homicide?

**AUTHORITIES** in Cologne, Germany, have closed three pharmacies and are conducting a homicide investigation after a pregnant woman died having consumed a commonly used solution that was prepared in-store.

The 28-year-old died of multiple organ failure within hours of consuming the mixture, while doctors conducted an unsuccessful emergency caesarean section in an effort to save the baby.

Public prosecutor, Ulrich Bremer, revealed "a toxic substance which is available in pharmacies, but which has absolutely no place in the mixture", was found in the products container.

*TheLocal.de*, an English language news website, reported that the North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry for Health had closed the Heilig-Geist-Apotheke, where the product was sold, the Contezzen-Apotheke and the Apotheke am Bilderstockchen, as a preventative health measure, while the investigation continues.

Patients who have purchased glucose-containing products from the pharmacy have been asked to hand it over to their nearest police



station.

Heilig-Geist-Apotheke owner, Till Fuxius, said he was "stunned" by the event, adding, "I'm a witness, not the accused".

Investigators have been working alongside the homicide department to establish how the contamination happened, and to determine whether it was "a negligent killing", or a deliberate act.

"We must clarify who worked where and when? Who was allowed to work with the substances," Bremer said.

At least one other woman who was prescribed the same solution was reported to have also experienced complications, but stopped taking it before consuming the entire preparation.

## GBMA's Golden board appointment

**THE** Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) has announce the appointment of Arrotex Pharmaceuticals Chief Commercial Officer, Lisa Golden, as the newest member of its board today.

Golden will bring more than 15 years' experience in the pharmaceutical industry across originator and generic brands to the organisation.

She will represent Apotex

on the board, while Arrotex CEO, Dennis Bastas will continue to represent Arrow Pharmaceuticals, with the two companies remaining separate entities after the merger earlier this year.

The GBMA board also comprises of representatives of Mylan Australia, Juno Pharmaceuticals, Sandoz Australia and Southern Cross Pharmaceuticals.

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