

## Schedule amendments

**LOCERYL** (amorolfine) has been downscheduled to S2, according to recommendations revealed in the most recent minutes of the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee.

Under the changes, Loceryl will be Schedule 2 in preparations for topical use, except in preparations for the treatment of tinea pedis.

The S2 entry for Iodine has also been amended, applying in preparations for human internal therapeutic use containing 300 micrograms or more of iodine per recommended daily dose, or containing more than 2.5% of available iodine.

New recommended entries in Schedule 4 include clofarabine, saxagliptin and vorinostat.

A number of new substances have been added to the S6 poisons schedule, including laureth carboxylic acids, manuka oil and sodium lauryl sulfate, with the changes effective 01 Jan 2011.

Sodium Lauryl Sulfate will be S6 except in wash-off preparations containing 30% or less, or in leave-in preparations containing 1.5% or less, or in toothpaste and oral hygiene preparations with 5% or less.

## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature.

Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

**Holidays to Europe** is offering 10% off its remaining gourmet walking tours of Tuscany for 2010, including the Walks & Tastes of Tuscany Tour (departing 05 Sep and 10 Oct) and the Discover Southern Tuscany tour (departing 24 Oct).

Tour prices start at €1839pp twin share including fully guided transport, accommodation, most meals incl wine, farmhouse cooking lesson, art lesson and more.

See [www.holidaystoeurope.com.au](http://www.holidaystoeurope.com.au)

**Aurora Expeditions** is hosting a special voyage to Antarctica for budding photographers.

Carrying just 27 passengers, the 25 day roundtrip begins in Ushuaia on the southern tip of South America, through the Drake

## Project urges CMI revamp

**ONLY** half of pharmacy patients want printed Consumer Medicines Information (CMI) for their medicines, according to the results of a two year study led by the University of Sydney.

The study found that 44% of those surveyed indicated that they preferred verbal counselling rather than written information.

69% of study participants had received a CMI in the six months prior to the survey, with 38% having taken a CMI in the month before participation, and about half of those given CMIs were provided the leaflet directly by a pharmacist.

According to the researchers, despite the fact that more consumers are aware of CMIs than they were five years ago, there are a number of improvements that can be made to leaflets to increase readability and useability.

Designed to look into CMI effectiveness as well as to develop alternative CMI formats, the study found that 'Limited time and CMI awareness, consumers' understanding of the information, and overall poor perceptions of CMI, were "key barriers to provision

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and use".

Conducted under the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement, the study also found that "increased consumer awareness and demand for CMI as well as, increased consultation time and the availability of more comprehensible CMI and summary CMI were key facilitators to increased CMI use".

As a result of the study, the researchers developed several new CMI formats utilising information design, medicine info and functional linguistics.

Performance tests of the new designs in select community pharmacies found that they were better received than the current CMI formats, with pharmacists reporting they found the new CMIs informative and were more likely to counsel patients to read them.

## Sigma speculation

**SIGMA** Pharmaceuticals today issued a statement contradicting media speculation that its South African suitor Aspen Pharmacare had made an unconditional takeover bid of 65c per share.

Sigma's shares leapt 12% to 50.5c this morning, after a story on the *Sydney Morning Herald's* website mentioned that Aspen "may have tired of the lengthy due diligence and negotiation process with the Sigma board and [is] keen to force out a decision from directors and put the offer to long suffering shareholders."

Sigma said the rumours were incorrect, saying it's continuing its discussions with Aspen as per previous announcements (**PD** 07 Jul).

"As was previously advised, Sigma continues to consider other business and financial structures to take the Group forward, including a number of potential asset sales," Sigma said.

## Workforce summit



**ABOVE:** Guild President Kos Sclavos is pictured with some of the other movers and shakers at the Pharmacy Workforce Symposium convened in Canberra earlier this week (**PD** Tue). With Sclavos are, from left: Prof Gabrielle Cooper, University of Canberra; Guild exec director Wendy Phillips; and Rhonda White of Terry White Chemists.

**BELOW:** Also at the Symposium, from left: Roger Nation of Monash University; Yvonne Allinson of SHPA; Lyn LeBlanc from the Australian Pharmacy Council; and Kim Bessell of the Health Department.





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## Breathe deep!

**THE** Australian Lung Foundation is offering Australians the chance to test their lungs this October, with its 'Global Test Your Lungs Day'.

Designed to raise awareness of the importance of lung disease and early diagnosis in Australia, free quick, simple and non-invasive lung function tests will be available on 14 Oct between 8am and 4pm at locations across the country, with results available immediately.

According to the figures around 19,200 Aussies die each year due to lung disease, which also causes around 350,000 hospitalisations per annum.

The Lung Foundation estimates that more than 7m Aussies may be at risk of lung disease, with around half this number suffering emphysema or chronic bronchitis.

For info on testing locations see [www.lungfoundation.com.au](http://www.lungfoundation.com.au).

## CanTeen support

**YOUTH** cancer support organisation, CanTeen, has launched a new comprehensive support program for youth aged between 12 to 24 years who are either living with cancer, or have suffered the loss of a parent through the disease.

The Offspring Support program was made possible through a \$1.5m funding windfall from the enib foundation.

"In Australia today there are 15-times more young-people who have a parent diagnosed with cancer, than young cancer patients," said CanTeen ceo, Andrew Young.

"This combined with lack of appropriate counselling and support services, shows just how important this program is to our community," he added.

The new program is set to provide support to around 8,000 youth through a variety of services including specialised counselling (face-to-face, phone and online) as well as information resource/books and practical skills development, respite, recreation and peer support.

The program will be trialled over the next three years across the Hunter, Northern NSW, Vic and Qld starting in October, with the possibility of expansion at the end of the three years; for more information see [www.canteen.org.au](http://www.canteen.org.au).

## NAPSA meets challenges

**AN** oversupply of pharmacists, a shortage of intern positions and lacking infrastructure for the provision of cognitive services, are key challenges facing young pharmacists according to the National Australian Pharmacy Students Association.

But despite these dramas and in light of the new national health professional registration scheme and the signing of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, NAPSA national president Ashleigh Coome says its still "a great time to be a pharmacy student."

"Young pharmacists face a lot of challenges in today's professional environment but with the backing of NAPSA they leave their colleges well prepared," she added.

Since its formation in 2001 NAPSA's goal has been to support pharmacy students through a range of education, leadership, professional and personal development services.

Looking forward however Coome has said that the Association is aiming to expand its rural

pharmacy offering, through a revamp of its role on the Rural and Indigenous Health Committee.

Coomo also revealed that NAPSA is gunning to increase its own global profile by hosting more pharmacy students as a part of the International Students' Federation Student Exchange Program.

"NAPSA not only acts as a voice for pharmacy students to the wider profession, but also relays this information back to our members so they can become informed and engaged in the current pharmacy climate," Coome added.

## Pharmacist app

**THE** American Pharmacists Association has released its own practicing pharmacist iPhone application titled PharmacyLibrary Calculator.

The free app gives pharmacists the ability to analyse bmi, body surface area, ideal weight, disease risk, creatinine clearance, as well as granting access to the Framingham 10-year risk analysis tool for coronary heart disease.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**NO** snakes on a plane, but certainly one snake on cocaine.

Authorities were shocked when they were confronted by an aggressive albino python who was resting on a heat pad containing 200g of cocaine, whilst raiding a drug house in Italy.

According to reports the snake had been kept as a pseudo pet, to scare addicts into paying up.

The python was also kept in a state of constant hunger, to encourage more aggressive behaviour, and had a free run of the drug den.

Calling in the big guns, authorities managed to wrangle the snake into an enclosure with the temptation of a whole chicken.

The python has now found a more suitable occupation as a well fed occupant of a local zoo.

**THE** mould may affect asthmatics.

A possible candidate for the title of Britain's oldest home has been unearthed around the Scarborough region in northeastern England.

The 11,000 year old home predates Stonehenge by a meagre 6000 years, and is thought to be the home of nomadic hunters.

The team of archeologists from the Universities of York and Manchester, who discovered the home, have estimated it was built in 8500 BC, around the period before Britain had broken off from continental Europe.

Constructed from timber posts with a thatched reed roof, researchers also estimated the 3.5 metre wide hut would have been continually inhabited for between 200-500 years.

**A NEW** Zealand man has been arrested after he stole an ambulance whilst paramedics treated his friend.

According to reports the injured man had fallen four metres over a concrete wall and fractured both his skull and vertebra in his spine.

Whilst ambos worked, his mate jumped in their vehicle and drove it 50m before a chasing paramedic flagged him down.

It is though alcohol was a driving force in the thief's decision process.

## WIN A REFRESHING BODY MIST



Every day this week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers the chance to win a Refreshing Body Mist from the Body America, Organics with Attitude range, courtesy of **Total Beauty Network**.

Body America redefines organics with its retro chic look and commitment to protecting the body and the environment with its certified organic body pampering treats.

The 1950s inspired retro packaging pays homage to America's past, present and future, with each flavour honouring a much loved region of the United States. Body America's pin up girls are playful and innocent...an endearing attribute to be celebrated! The range has been designed for all skin types and is enriched with certified organic Aloe Vera Leaf juice to help naturally soothe and protect skin.

For a chance to win your very own Body America's Body Mist, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

**What fruits are used in each scent of the Body America range?**

Email your answer to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

The first correct entry received will win!

Hint: Visit: [www.bodyamerica.com.au](http://www.bodyamerica.com.au)