

## ASMI appointments

THE Australian Self Medication Industry has elected a new leadership team, with Lindsay Forrest, Regional Director, Reckitt Benckiser Australia & New Zealand named as ASMI President.

Jayne Senior, Managing Director, Mentholatum Australasia Pty Ltd has also been elected as the new Vice President (Secretary); whilst Trevor Norman, Director of Finance, Operations and Administration, Combe Asia-Pacific has been re-elected as its Vice President (Treasurer).

In making the announcements ASMI Executive Director, Dr Deon Schoombie, also thanked outgoing president Ralf Dahmen for all his hard work during his time with the organisation.

"Ralf has been president of ASMI since 2003, and during that time he has presided over a greatly strengthened and authoritative national body," he said.

"Under his leadership, ASMI's voice and credibility across the industry, and its relationships with stakeholders and government have been greatly enhanced.

"I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for his service to the association," he added.

## WA mandates Project STOP

THE Pharmacy Guild this morning announced that the Western Australian government had decided to make the use of its Project Stop pseudoephedrine tracking system compulsory for pharmacists in the state.

The move means that WA joins Queensland in requiring the use of electronic real-time recording of pseudoephedrine products, and

## Corum Westpac fight

LISTED pharmacy software supplier Corum Health has launched legal action against the Westpac Bank, over additional charges in excess of \$2 million which are being claimed from the company in relation to the breach of a loan agreement last year.

The loan has since been repaid, but Westpac is claiming further monies from the company amounting to its minimum return over the original loan agreement.

Corum md Geoffrey Broomhead today told investors at the firm's agm that even though the matter is before the court, Directors will continue to actively negotiate with Westpac to achieve a more favourable settlement.

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## PBS consultation

THE Health Department will conduct briefings in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra next month to update the pharmacy industry on the latest round of PBS Reforms.

Due to come into effect next Wed 01 Dec, the changes will see all drugs on the F2 Formulary of the PBS Schedule subjected to Expanded and Accelerated Price Disclosure (EAPD).

Information packs on the changes are currently being distributed, and a in Canberra next week there will be a special questions and answers session hosted by the Department.

Further EAPD information sessions will be held in February, with the aim of fully informing the industry in the lead-up to the end of the first reporting period under the new regime on 31 Mar 2011.

Although the proposed reforms require EAPD data collection to commence from 01 Dec, the information will not be due for submission until mid May next year.

Full details and briefing dates are expected to be posted at [pbs.gov.au](http://pbs.gov.au).

## UTAS scores its own Chemmart dispensary



PHARMACY students at the University of Tasmania now have access to the latest dispensary designs and technology following the opening of the School of Pharmacy's new model dispensary.

Donated by Chemmart, with technology input from Willach, the new dispensary was officially opened yesterday by Professor Greg Peterson, Head of the UTAS School of Pharmacy and Chemmart Pharmacy Executive Director Jonathan Layto.

"The provision of this real-life pharmacy dispensary, made possible through the generous support of Chemmart® Pharmacy and Willach, will help ensure that UTAS pharmacy students develop real life skills, within a simulated educational environment, and are practice-ready upon graduation," Professor Peterson said.

Pictured above making use of the new facility is UTAS pharmacy student Ayden Brown and the School of Pharmacy's Holly Greeves.

## WIN AN EYE CANDY PALETTE



Every day this week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers the chance to win a Eye Candy Palette courtesy of **Total Beauty Network**.

Designer Brands Eye Candy Palettes have a brilliant lustre and finish. Created for staying power and will not cake! The mineral formulation contains skin nurturing

ingredients like Aloe Vera and Vitamin E, and the long-lasting formulas provide a fabulous finish every time.

For your chance to win, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

**What colour is the  
Eye Candy packaging?**

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

The first correct entry received will win!

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

**Congratulations** to yesterday's lucky winner, **Kat Heywood** from **Spencers Amcal Pharmacy**.



## Medicines wastage

**WASTED** medicines in the UK cost the NHS health system around £300m (around AU\$482m) per annum, or around 0.3% of the total NHS budget, according to a new report from York Health Economics and The School of Pharmacy, University of London.

Not as damning a figure as it first looks, the report found that 30-50% of all the waste was unavoidable, and due to either patient death or PRN over-estimates.

"There is also no evidence that it is worse in this country than the equivalent challenges found in other developed nations, and wastage does not, with regard to residual medicines found in people's homes, appear to have increased since the early 1990s," the reports authors surmised.

The report says that around £150m (AU\$241m) worth of wasted medicines are returned to pharmacies every year, whilst around £90m (AU\$144m) of unused medicines remain in individuals homes.

## Cabinet PBS threshold up?

**THE** Senate's Community Affairs Committee has recommended an increase in the threshold for Federal Cabinet approval for new medicines to be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme - along with an indexing of the level to keep it up to date with inflation.

A Committee report released last night proposed that the threshold should be increased from its current \$10 million worth of annual cost to a level which reflects this value in its original 2002 dollars.

The Committee also suggested that the change should be put in place immediately, with the move welcomed by Medicines Australia.

"This is a major step forward and will make a big difference to Australian patients if the Government sees the wisdom in implementing it," said MA ceo Dr Brendan Shaw.

"It's time for the Government to implement this sensible reform to the PBS," he added.

The call from the Committee

regarding the threshold increase and index, echoes a similar Productivity Commission recommendation earlier this year.

"There are some medicines that simply should not have to grind through the Cabinet process and the Senate Committee has recognised this," said Shaw.

"Increasing the threshold and indexing it will get subsidised new medicines to Australians quicker.

"Given the Cabinet has not rejected new medicines for listing, it is also hard to see how increasing the threshold will cost the Government any money."

Earlier in the year Medicines Australia, in its submission to the Committee enquiry, recommended the threshold be increased from \$10m to \$20m.

Shaw said the time for Cabinet approval had blown out from 6.7 to 10 months, meaning patients were unnecessarily kept waiting for possibly life-saving treatments.

As part of its Report the Committee also recommended that the PBAC develop agreed principles of what constitutes "interchangeable" on an individual patient basis; plus develop criteria by which the "interchangeability" of a medicine will be determined; and publish both the agreed principles and criteria.

## E-Health funding

**THE** Federal Government has opened the second round of funding for e-health projects, with total funds of \$55m up for grabs.

Applications are now being accepted from a variety of patient settings including from divisions of general practice, professional organisations, non government organisations, the private sector and others involved in the care of Australian patients, for the development of sites to help introduce personally controlled e-health records.

"Currently 190,000 hospital admissions a year are caused by medication errors, and eight per cent of these are caused by inadequate patient information," said the Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon.

See [www.health.gov.au/tenders](http://www.health.gov.au/tenders).



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**THE** eyes have it.

A US pharmacist has foiled the hopes of a would-be robber by poking him in the eye.

Community pharmacist, Michael Allgeier, had shut up shop for the evening and was chatting on the phone when two masked attackers tried to pry their way into the store with crowbars.

The quick thinking pharmacist put down the phone, walked over to the gap in the door which the thieves had made, slid his hand through, and gave one of the men a good jab in the eye with his index finger.

The shock of the eye poke sent both men running, and left Allgeier to alert the authorities.

**THESE** contestants will definitely make the cut.

A beauty pageant has launched this week in Hungary, but participants in the Miss Plastic 2010 quest must have undergone some sort of cosmetic surgery.

Entrants must be accompanied by the medical notes from their operations, and during the competition extra points will be added by a specialist medical panel judging the quality of their artificial enhancements.

The winner of the Budapest competition will move on to face off against contestants from other countries for the coveted title of Miss Plastic Universe.

**MOLES** on the skin may actually keep you younger on the inside, according to researchers at King's College London.

The scientists carried out a series of studies correlating the number of moles that people had with a range of other conditions.

They found that people with large numbers of moles seemed to be less vulnerable to wrinkles as their skin aged.

Even more interestingly, they found that moley people were less affected by age-related reductions in bone density.

Those with over 100 moles were less than 50% as likely to develop osteoporosis than those with 25.

## 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.

**Haggis Adventures**, the tour operator for trips to Scotland, England and Wales, is offering up to \$76pp off select tours.

Tours include the five day Highland Fling priced from \$314pp; seven day Island Explorer from \$485pp; ten day Compass Buster starting at \$683pp; five day Cornwall Crusader priced at \$341pp; and five day Welsh Explorer from \$341pp.

More at [haggisadventures.com](http://haggisadventures.com).

**Cox and Kings'** 15 day 'Silk Road Explorer' is an exotic journey beginning in Beijing and then travelling onto Xian before continuing to the oasis town of Gobi Desert and finally Kashgar.

The small group escorted journey is priced from \$3769ppts

includes 14 nights accommodation, entrance fees, tour escort, local guide and transport.

Valid for travel until 07 Sep 2011 - see [coxandkings.com.au](http://coxandkings.com.au).

**Breakfree Alexandra Beach** at Alexandra Headland in QLD has a Christmas Holidays deal priced from \$218 per night in a Studio room.

Valid for travel from 25 Dec to 09 Jan the deal is only valid on a minimum of three nights stay.

Also on special is the BreakFree Heritage on Little Bourke in Melbourne's CBD.

Stays in a one bedroom apartment are priced from \$159 per night including breakfast.

More info on participating properties at [breakfree.com.au](http://breakfree.com.au).

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