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Obese reproduction

A NEW study published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine* has found that obese men have 80% higher odds of producing no sperm.

The meta-analysis study looked at almost 10,000 men from across the world, including Asia, Europe, and North America.

The results found that a man who is considered obese has about 42% higher chance of having very low sperm and more than an 80% chance of having no sperm as compared to a normal weight man.

In addition, the research also uncovered evidence which suggested that obese men have a decreased chance of having a child even after IVF, indicating that obesity not only affects the number of sperm, but the quality of sperm as well.

"Though it's long been known that overweight women have a harder time conceiving, this is the first well-designed study that links male obesity to low sperm numbers," said study co-author Dr Alex Polotsky of University of Colorado Advanced Reproductive Medicine.

"We need more studies to really prove that weight loss will result in a higher chance of pregnancy, but it makes sense that this would be the case," he added.

Pharmacy payment storm

PHARMACIST union APESMA has hit out at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, saying it is deliberately trying to legitimise the breaches of the employment laws uncovered in Qld by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The comments come in response to the Guild's submission to vary the Pharmacy Industry Award 2010, with APESMA accusing the Guild of trying to "change the law to cut pharmacists' pay".

The changes proposed by the Guild include redefining full-time employment as "38 hours or less per week" and varying part-time hours to "work less than the number of full time hours at the particular workplace".

In addition the Guild seeks to amend the requirement for part time employee rostering for a minimum of three consecutive hours to at least one and a half hours if the employee is a secondary student working between 3-6.30pm on a school day, if they agree to work a shorter shift, and if employment for a longer period is not possible because of the operational requirements or the unavailability of the employee.

Other proposed changes include amendments to casual working

hours (similar to part time variations), and changes to meal and uniform cleaning allowances.

The definition of overtime would, under the changes, also be altered to mean "authorised additional hours performed at the direction of the employer", whilst annual leave changes would see employers able to require employees to take annual leave by giving at least four weeks notice under certain circumstances including "as part of a shut-down of the whole or part of the pharmacies operations".

MEANWHILE the Guild has rejected APESMA's assertions, saying that variances are about "maximising flexibility and fairness, in good faith and in the interests of both employers and employees".

"The application also seeks to remove ambiguity and uncertainty in some sections of the award," the Guild said.

"APESMA's claim that the move to classify pharmacists working less than 38 hours as full time is designed to 'avoid having to pay entitlements such as overtime' is just plain wrong," the Guild said.

"This must be the first union in history to oppose a shorter working week," the Guild added.

Eye health concerns

ONLY 58% of people are protecting their eyes with sunglasses whilst outdoors, according to a new survey conducted by America's sports sunglasses retailer N3L Optical.

The US nationwide survey found that whilst 85% of people feel eye protection is a major component of their overall good health, less than two thirds wear sunglasses consistently whilst outdoors.

"Most people would never go out in the sun for an extended period of time without sunscreen," said N3L Optics' Bobby Dean.

"Your eyes need that same kind of UV protection to prevent serious damage," he added.

Amyvid in Alzheimer's

ELI Lilly has received US regulatory approval to market Amyvid, a radioactive diagnostic agent indicated for brain imaging of beta-amyloid plaques in patients with cognitive impairment who are being evaluated for Alzheimer's Disease and other causes of cognitive decline.

Amyvid binds to amyloid plaques, a hallmark characteristic of Alzheimer's Disease, and is detected using PET scan images of the brain.

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PD comp winners

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of yesterday's **PD** comp: Candice Sinclair, Raven's Recruitment; Kylie Trew, Lakewood Pharmacy and Katie Simpson, Tugun Chemmart Chemist.

Amgen to acquire Kai

AMGEN is set to acquire the Kai Pharmaceuticals.

Kai's lead product candidate, KAI-4169, is a novel agent being initially studied for the treatment of secondary hyperparathyroidism in patients with chronic kidney disease.

WIN A PRESS & GO NAILS PACK



Every day this week **PD** is giving 3 lucky readers the chance to win a Press & Go Nails prize pack, valued at \$30.00 each.

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Press & Go Nails are the first of their kind anywhere in the world, the patented adhesive technology doesn't ruin your natural nail, and they are flexible, light - not to mention they take only minutes to put on with no drying time.

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Is aged care failing Aussies?

AGED care is not meeting the needs of dementia sufferers and their families, according to the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler.

Butler's comments come in response to the release of a sobering Alzheimer's Australia report compiled from feedback received from older Australians, their families and carers.

The feedback was part of a series of conversations on aged care in Australia, which involved 16 consultations involving more than 1,000 participants.

According to the report, one of the strongest messages coming from the conversations was that older Australians want to stay at home in their local community for as long as possible, and preferably until their death.

"For many older Australians 'dementia specific care' is matched by the reality of locked wards," said Butler.

"Many families gave examples where the health of their loved ones suddenly declined after entering residential aged care," he added, saying that the current system does not provide adequate support and assistance to enable people to remain at home.

"Community care packages on offer are inadequate and inflexible," he said.

Vancomycin approval

THE US FDA has approved Watson Laboratories' Vancomycin Hydrochloride Capsules, USP, 125mg and 250mg.

The drug is a generic version of ViroPharma Inc's Vancocin HCl capsules for the treatment of diarrhoea and enterocolitis.

Interestingly, Butler also highlighted the fact that older Aussies and their families want staff appropriately trained in all aspects of dementia, and paid accordingly.

Whilst participants at the conversations called for more focus on mental wellbeing, with some drawing links between keeping mentally stimulated and connected and mental health issues later in life.

"As Australians, we enjoy one of the longest life expectancies in the world but we need to make sure that those extra years are years of quality," said Butler.

Stem cell research

NEW early-stage research has shown that stem cells may be safely used for the treatment of the fatal degenerative disease of the spine, Lou Gehrig's disease (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis).

Published in *Stem Cells*, the research involved 12 Lou Gehrig's disease sufferers who had stem cells implanted in their spines.

The results showed that no participants had any long-term complications related to either the surgical procedure or the implantation of stem cells or showed signs of rejecting the cells.

In addition, no sufferers experienced any disease progression in the months following the procedure.



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Australian Government
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The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

This Project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.



Wake up with the right foundation

Rimmel's new **Wake Me Up Foundation** is designed to "wake skin up" by giving it a healthy glow. Marketed towards women who may not get their complete allotment of beauty sleep, and whose skin is looking a little tired and worse for wear, the foundation works by gliding on skin and giving it 100% "pore-less" coverage. The foundation also contains radiance pearls which help illuminate skin with a healthy-looking glow, as well as peptides which are tailored to help increase skin elasticity so it can recover and bounce back more quickly. The product also protects skin with an SPF 15 rating, and comes in five shades ranging from light to dark.

RRP: \$19.95

Stockist: 1800 812 663

Website: www.rimmellondon.com.au

Blackmores protein fix

Blackmores' recently launched **Sports Range** features three whey protein powders designed for men and women who need an extra protein hit in their diet. First up in the range is the **ProDefinition** supplement, which features 30g of protein per serve, as well as CoQ10, Vitamin E and C to boost antioxidant levels in users, and a blend of nutrients to aid metabolism. The second star in the range is **ProPowder** which is ideal for regular exercisers, and which features 36g of protein per serve, as well as added magnesium to aid recovery. The range also features **ProPowder Plus** which provides users with 34g of fat release protein blend for rapid amino acid release, plus added creatine for performance, and glutamine and magnesium for recovery. All products in the range contain only naturally derived colours, sweeteners and flavours.

RRP: \$29.95 (10 sachet carton or 450g tub)

Stockist: 1800 803 760

Website: www.blackmores.com.au/sports



Blush like you really mean it

Clarins' brand new **Instant Light Blush** gives users an instant, natural-looking rosy cheeked glow. The liquid blush is made using a cocktail of plant and mineral ingredients which work to sculpt and smooth the cheek area to create a warm radiant natural-looking 'blush'. The instant liquid blush is easily applied, and melts into skin for a natural look. The blush comes in three limited edition shades: Vitamin Pink, Tonic Brown and Healthy Coral.

RRP: \$47.00

Stockist: 02 9663 4277

Website: www.adorebeauty.com.au

Check out Swarovski's Aura

Swarovski's newest scent-ual offering, **Aura** is described as: a prism of energy featuring three fruity, floral and spicy "rays". The fruity ray is comprised of juicy lychee, whilst the floral ray contains white tuberose and the spicy ray has notes of pink pepper. The scent also contains notes of amber, white musk and powdery rose, and is said to be a decidedly floral and wholly feminine perfume.

RRP: \$68 (30ml), \$88 (50ml) and \$108 (75ml)

Stockist: 02 9663 4277

Website: www.swarovskibeauty.com



DISPENSARY CORNER

BREASTMILK is better?

Well that is of course if the breastmilk is not coming from a home intruder.

In a case which has more than a few people baffled, a 24-year old woman broke into a home, but stopped to breastfeed the householder's two-month old baby.

The woman was discovered by the infant's mother, sitting in the infant's room and feeding the babe at around 5am in the morning.

The mother was able to retrieve her well-fed baby off the woman without drama, and calmly called the police whilst the accidental wet-nurse had a nap on a bed.

The police subsequently arrested the intruder, and have said that they believe alcohol was a factor in the incident.

IT'S so good aliens will want it.

The Scottish Ardbeg Distillery has sent a batch of whisky into space in order to determine just how well it distills in a zero gravity environment.

The experiment began in late October last year, when the whisky's ingredients were sent up to the international space station.

Once they had reached the station, the ingredients were mixed together, and will stay in space until the end of 2013.

"This experiment will throw new light on the effect of gravity on maturation," said Ardbeg's head of distilling, Dr Bill Lumsden.

"We are all tremendously excited - who knows where it will lead?" he added.

According to US-based space research company, NanoRacks LLC, who is a partner in the research, studying the interactions of chemicals in zero gravity will lead researchers and alcohol connoisseurs to better understand the science behind flavour and the perfect malt whisky.