

## ASMI sodium advice

ASMI says the results of a recently published UK study ([CLICK HERE](#)) which indicated that a number of effervescent or soluble medicines containing sodium may cause health problems if taken on a long-term basis "should be interpreted with caution."

ASMI Executive Director Dr Deon Schoombie emphasised that OTC analgesics are not indicated for long term use and have not been associated with increased risk of cardiovascular events in short term.

"I would go as far as to say the ProLog is the most important optional part of my Rowa. If you don't purchase one with the system you are doing yourself a major disservice. I see it as equally or more important than the time efficiencies in dispensing because it is saving just as much time putting it away and the errors that human nature potentially makes."

Matt Boulter  
Owner of two Rowas in South Australian Pharmacies

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## New TGA OTC consultation

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration is inviting comments from interested parties on draft OTC medicine monographs, covering topical imidazole antifungals, topical nasal decongestants and pholcodine.

The documents are part of the new N2 application route for registration of OTC medicines which aims to enable faster, more efficient approval to market for well-established lower risk OTC medicines which are compliant with an applicable monograph.

A 12 month trial of the N2

application route was launched on 01 Oct 2013, with the process involving shorter evaluation times because of less requirements for data assessment by the TGA.

The new monographs add to the three previously published, covering aspirin, paracetamol and ibuprofen, with the documents all developed in collaboration with NZ regulator Medsafe.

Consultation responses are sought by Fri 10 Jan 2014, with the items now online at [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## CAM use common in kids at emergency

**PAEDIATRIC** emergency department patients commonly present having used complementary and alternative medicines (CAMs), according to a presentation at the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine conference in Adelaide this week.

Professor David Taylor, Director of Emergency and General Medicine Research at Austin Health studied patients attending three emergency departments over a six month period Jan-Jun 2013.

The parents of over 400 patients participated in the study, and of those patients almost half had taken a CAM in the previous year.

CAM use was significantly more common among older patients, and tended to be more common among those with chronic disease.

The most commonly used CAMs were fish oil, garlic, chamomile, acidophilus and cranberry.

Taylor told the conference there is the potential for interactions between CAMs taken on the day of presentation and medicines administered in emergency.

## Bill Arnold honoured



**CANBERRA** pharmacist Bill Arnold has been made a Life Member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia in recognition of his service to the profession and the Society.

Announcing the honour at a PSA function in Canberra last night, PSA Branch President, Associate Professor Greg Kyle said Mr Arnold had been a stalwart of the PSA Branch for many years.

"Bill has been a very active member and his ongoing commitment to the profession and the community is an example that many other pharmacists look up to," Associate Professor Kyle said.

Arnold is **pictured** above accepting his certificate from Kyle.

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## C.Difficile vaccine

**SANOFI** Pasteur has announced a new Phase III clinical trial program called *CDiffense* which is now recruiting volunteers in Australia.

*CDiffense* is a global trial of a clostridium difficile vaccine involving 15,000 adults in 17 countries.

The vaccine may be an effective way to prevent the transmission of the potentially life-threatening bacterium in healthcare settings.

Pharmacists are encouraged to identify suitable candidates, who are those aged over 50 who have had at least two hospital stays and systemic antibiotics in the last year.

See [www.cdifense.org](http://www.cdifense.org).



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## 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).

**8 Dec:** Apply First Aid; St Leonards; more info at: [www.guild.org.au/nsw](http://www.guild.org.au/nsw)

**4 Feb 2014:** Cardiovascular Disease & Type 2 Diabetes Risk Assessment; Brisbane; call: (07) 3831 9246

**21-23 Feb 2014:** CPD by the SEA - NSW Convention; Novotel Sydney Manly Pacific - [www.cpdbythesea.com.au](http://www.cpdbythesea.com.au)

**21-13 Feb 2014:** Foundation Clinical Pharmacy Practice Seminar; InterContinental Adelaide - see more at: [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au)

**1-2 Mar 2014:** Cardiology Seminar; Sofitel Gold Coast Broadbeach - visit: [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au)

**7-9 March 2014:** PSA Annual Therapeutic Update; Crown Plaza Terrigal; see [www.psa.org.au/conferences](http://www.psa.org.au/conferences)

**13-16 Mar 2014:** Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual National Conference APP 2014, Gold Coast - see [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com)

**12-14 Apr 2014:** FIP Fifth Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress, Melbourne - for details **CLICK HERE**.

## TWC Tony Ferguson buy

**TERRY** White Chemists will purchase a number of assets of the Tony Ferguson Weight Loss Program, after the group was placed in voluntary administration earlier in the year.

The deal will include trade marks, business names and internet domain names, with administrator Farnsworth Shepherd earlier this month advising creditors that the business was continuing to trade while he fielded four indicative offers for its purchase.

TWC, in a joint venture with Symbion, has emerged as the preferred party to buy the business. Terry White Chemists has strongly

embraced the Tony Ferguson weight loss system, after a 2005 deal saw it roll out across the TWC network with reported peak annual sales of over \$80 million.

A TWC spokesperson said the purchase indicated the group's long term commitment, adding "we look forward to playing an active role in the program's future direction and growth".

## Compounding law

**THE** US congress has passed new legislation defining who has oversight for regulation of compounding pharmacies, and this week President Barack Obama signed it into law.

The new *Drug Quality and Security Act* creates an optional FDA certification for large-scale compounders described as "outsourcing facilities," as well as establishing a national track and trace system for compounded items.

This follows a fungal meningitis outbreak caused by impure drugs.

## Lung cancer cough

**AUSTRALIANS** now have access to a new resource 'What's your cough telling you?' which aims to increase awareness of lung cancer symptoms and reduce delays in diagnosis.

Cancer Australia CEO Helen Zorbas said the resource provides Australians with clear and easily accessible information while also addressing some of the common misconceptions about the disease.

"The symptoms of lung cancer can often be vague, making diagnosis more difficult.

"The information contained in this new resource will help people identify the symptoms and encourage early medical assessment." Professor Zorbas said.

The new resource will be available in GP waiting rooms and is also at [www.canceraustralia.gov.au](http://www.canceraustralia.gov.au).

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

**SPORT** injuries inspire music.

A US teenager who suffered a number of concussion episodes playing sport has recovered to find he can now play musical instruments.

Formerly tone deaf and unschooled in any musical instrument, Lachlan Connors from Denver, Colorado told the *BBC* that he could now "just kind of pick up" some 13 different instruments including guitar, mandolin, ukelele and bagpipes.

Dr Spyridon Papadopoulos Lachlan's physician, said the ability was latent, only manifesting after the "rewiring" following the concussions.

The newfound musical ability is some consolation for the boy who has been told he will never be able to play contact sports again after the repeated concussions led to hospitalisation, epileptic fits and hallucinations.

## WIN A DESIGNER BRANDS SHOWTIME COLLECTION



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This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a Designer Brands Showtime Collection kit, valued at \$39.99.

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## Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Capricornia Region, QLD (Job# 2010226)  
38hrs over 4 days if desired - long weekend alt weeks. Customer focus.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Launceston, TAS (Job# 2010282)  
Oversee general operations of this pharmacy facility - 38hrs Mon-Fri \$\$\$
- **Pharmacist/PIC** - Central Coast, NSW (Job# 2010143)  
Up to 30hrs/wk available - time to enjoy this idyllic location - \$40/hr + super.

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