

## LOVE IT

“I LOVE eRx Express. I am having lots of fun with it!! Have just had my 83 year old customer send me her 7 scripts from her iPhone!”

Fiona Wailes, Kofoeds Pharmacy

## Generics fact sheet

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has posted a Fact Sheet titled *Generic prescription medicines* designed for consumers in click-to-expand format from a list of frequently asked questions.

To direct consumers, **CLICK HERE**.

### WIN A SPOTNER AGESpot CORRECTOR PEN

This week **PD** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a

**Spotner** Agespot Corrector Pen.

New Spotner Agespot Corrector Pen revolutionises the treatment of age spots. With its precision pen applicator, Spotner works to visibly reduce the appearance of age spots. With a simple twice daily treatment, results can be seen within just two weeks.

For more info visit:

<http://www.spotner.com.au/>

To win this great prize, be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to:

[comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**Age spots are also known as what?**

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Donna Delgado** from **Jardines Chemmart Pharmacy**.



## \$26m from med tourists

**MEDICAL** tourists to Australia spent more than \$26 million last year.

Tourism Research Australia's figures for the year ending Sep 2013 show 10,739 international tourists visited Australia for medical reasons with an average stay of 28 nights, spending \$26,093,000 in total, excluding any prepaid international airfares and packages.

This compared with the previous year, ending Sep 2012, when 13,016 visitors spent \$28,908,000, with an average stay of 17 nights each.

The information was collected through a survey of 40,000 departing short term international travellers over the age of 15, with the possibility of selecting 'medical reasons' for the purpose of the trip (meaning the trip might not necessarily be for medical procedures but for an appointment).

The nearly 11,000 medical tourists compared with 6.4 million arrivals for the year ending Sep 2013, according to Tourism Australia - about 0.2%.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported the numbers came as the Victorian government worked to increase health and medical exports including medical tourism.

The Australian Medical Association (AMA) president Dr Steve Hambleton said there were very good reasons international visitors would choose Australia for their medical procedures, including a highly respected

medical environment, rigorous and regulated training and a regulatory environment which included hospitals.

Dr Hambleton said it was important for Australia to "get its house in order first" before engaging in medical tourism as an industry; there was a shortage of doctors and the first priority needed to be building the health care system for Australia, and getting the doctors and nurses currently in the pipeline trained properly for the future.

## Vitamin validity debate

**MULTIVITAMINS** and other supplements may not be a panacea for all ailments but they do make sense for some people, *USA Today* has said.

The publication reported that some vitamins and minerals were commonly recommended by physicians for specific groups of people, such as pregnant women and vegans.

These included folic acid for women of childbearing age, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommending that all women capable of becoming pregnant have 400 micrograms a day and one way to get this was taking a supplement, the publication said.

Other vitamins included B-12 for vegans who could not get the mineral from their diet, since it is found almost exclusively in animal foods.

For more **CLICK HERE**.

## NHS data for sale

**FROM** this year, private companies in the UK will be able to buy patients' medical data from an online database.

The database, called *care.data*, will be controlled by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC), part of the National Health Service the *Guardian* reported.

Culled from GP and hospital records, the information provided to companies would have some personal identifiers removed, but not enough to make it completely anonymous, called 'pseudonymisation', the publication said.

If a company's application to the HSCIC were approved, it would need to pay for this information, it said.

Supporters say sharing the data would make medical advances easier and allow researchers to investigate drug side effects.

However, privacy experts warned there would be no way for public to work out who had their medical records or to what use they would be put, the *Guardian* said.

When asked if the Australian government would consider a similar project, a spokeswoman for the Federal Department of Health said the minister had recently received a report and recommendations from the review of the Personally Controlled eHealth Record (PCEHR) and this was being considered.

"It would be inappropriate to respond to the question posed until the Government has responded to the review."

For more **CLICK HERE**.

**APP2014**  
13-16 March



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

\*Rooms available after  
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## Obama on pot

**PRESIDENT** Barack Obama has said he doesn't think marijuana was more dangerous than alcohol, in terms of impact on the individual consumers.

He was speaking with *The New Yorker* and the comment follows some states' implementation of marijuana regulation.

For more **CLICK HERE**.

## Guild Update

### Looking ahead

There is no doubt that 2014 is a very important year for the Pharmacy Guild and our members.

It's a year in which pharmacies need to transform their businesses if they are to remain viable and be successful.

The role of the Guild is to work in partnership with our members and the wider pharmacy sector in helping enable this transition.

We will do this by providing practical assistance in areas like training, QCPP, industrial relations, IT-enablement and the provision of business support services.

We must ensure that the core role of pharmacies as safe and responsible suppliers of medicines and related advice is fully recognised and properly remunerated.

At the same time, we must help pharmacies develop new revenue streams by broadening their role as providers of cost-effective primary health care services.

During 2014, we intend to become a stronger and more effective advocate for community pharmacy with government, stakeholders, the media and the public.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

## Jelly Bean an annual cruise

**THE** DANII Foundation has announced its inaugural Jelly Bean Cruise as an outstanding success, filling a "huge gap in the education of kids and parents who desperately need more education about managing their diabetes," said the Foundation's director Donna Meads-Barlow.

As a result, it will now be an annual event.

"It was truly amazing to see so many happy Type 1 diabetic kids interact with other Ty1 kids in the kids club making new friends whether Ty1 or not!

"A tremendous success and extremely fulfilling for our Danii Team," she added.



The *Celebrity Solstice* cruise liner (pictured) hosted the inaugural 3-night educational weekend with over 100 Type 1 diabetic children aged 4-21 together with parents, siblings grandparents and friends.

## Diet might help AMD

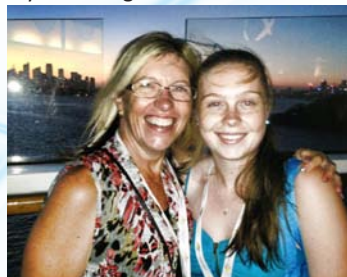
**A STUDY** looking at the effect of dietary antioxidant or fish consumption on age-related macular degeneration (AMD) risk found that there was "significant interaction" between AMD genetic risk status and lutein/zeaxanthin (LZ) intake.

The study, published in *Ophthalmology*, estimated antioxidants from diet including lutein/zeaxanthin (LZ), as well as long-chain omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids and zinc and found that among those with high genetic risk, the highest intake tertile of LZ was associated with a >20% reduced risk of early AMD, while weekly consumption of fish was associated with a 40% reduced risk of late AMD.

There were nonsignificant interactions between genetic risk status and weekly fish consumption for risk of AMD.

For more **CLICK HERE**.

Suzanne and Emily Joyner were two of the happy delegates pictured here with the Sydney skyline background.



Registrations are now open for the 3rd Annual Danii Meads-Barlow Foundation Jelly Bean Ball to be held at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth Hotel on Sat 14 June 2014 - for tickets, **CLICK HERE**.

The Foundation is calling for corporate sponsors and donation of valued auction items - contact Bill Goyen on 0411 061 794 to enquire.

## Osteoporosis therapy

**THE** RGH E-Bulletin this week highlights some of the shortcomings of current osteoporosis therapies and reports on Romosozumab, a new humanised monoclonal antibody that acts against sclerostin, which has anti-anabolic effects on bone.

Phase II studies have demonstrated positive primary endpoints, significantly increasing bone mineral density (BMD), and Phase III studies have commenced.

To read the e-bulletin **CLICK HERE**.

## Lactobacillus research

**IN** a recent study published in the *Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology* researchers investigated the role of the probiotic *Lactobacillus reuteri* DSM 17938 and *L. reuteri* ATCC PTA 6475 in *Helicobacter pylori* infection.

The paper concluded that the combination product was able to inhibit *H. pylori* growth and when administered with eradication therapy which includes antibiotic regimens, was able to significantly reduce antibiotic-associated side effects.

To read the abstract, **CLICK HERE**.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

### SERIOUS blue.

Hair dye is a serious matter - enough to start a shoving match, apparently.

When stylist Heidi H. tried to bleach Christen Pontius' hair in Houston, Texas, but turned it blue instead, Pontius offered to pay half of the treatment's bill, with the rest to follow when the mistake was fixed at a later date.

Pontius told *KPRC Local 2* that Heidi H. became annoyed and started pushing Pontius, demanding full payment, and was videoed by Pontius' husband.

No one was arrested and the parties would resolve the matter through civil matters, *KPRC* reported.

### BUYER beware.

Thinking of buying a pharmacy? You might want to check its history first - house owners Gregory and Sandi Leeson have advertised their 113 year old house as "slightly haunted" in Pennsylvania.

Mysteriously banging doors, what sounded like a cigarette lighter being repeatedly used in the basement and the feeling that someone was standing behind them prompted the advertisement which turned up ghost hunters, the curious, and one former resident who said he'd once found a human skull in the aforementioned basement, the *Associated Press* reported.

Gregory said he'd worded the ad with a sense of humour, which mentioned "the occasional ghastly visage" in the mirror but alas, had drawn no actual buyers.

### ALFRED the Late.

Archaeologists believe they've found some of the remains of King Alfred the Great.

A pelvic bone placed in a box in Winchester Museum after being discovered at a medieval abbey in the area 15 years ago, is likely to have been either the late King's or his son's, *Reuters* reported.