

## New PCEHR name

**HEALTH** minister Sussan Ley has formally introduced legislation into parliament which will change the name of the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record to My Health Record.

The bill also introduces the concept of automatic opt-in.

## PSA urges biosimilar clarity

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is offering its expertise to the government to provide education, practice support and communication materials on biosimilars for the pharmacy profession, in "consideration of possible long-term impacts of biological medicines generally, but biosimilar medicines in particular".

In a new position statement on biosimilars issued yesterday, PSA national president Joe Demarte said pharmacists currently follow substitution principles which respect the choice of prescribers and patients, in accordance with PSA's Professional Practice Standards and *Guidelines for Pharmacists on PBS Brand Substitution*.

PSA believes a holistic, nationally-coordinated and outcomes-focused approach is essential for a strong pharmacovigilance program in relation to biosimilars,

with the Society urging that a consensus Australian document on terminology and definitions relating to biologicals be developed as a priority, "to provide accurate and common understanding".

The PSA is suggesting the establishment of a stakeholder group to determine appropriate parameters, which may include an extension of routine pharmacovigilance requirements. "Pharmacists have a fundamental role in pharmacovigilance activities...there is an imperative to capitalise on the pharmacists' medicines expertise and frontline health professional role," Demarte said, urging a national awareness campaign on biosimilars "based around clear and consistent communication messages to support prescribers, pharmacists and patients".

View the paper at [psa.org.au](http://psa.org.au).

## Truss backs pharmacy

**DEPUTY** prime minister Warren Truss has confirmed the strong support from the federal National Party for community pharmacy, with Truss highlighting the critical role of pharmacists in regional Australia at a Guild-sponsored business lunch in Canberra last week.

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## MA assures on trials

**MEDICINES** Australia yesterday issued a statement expressing concerns about a *Financial Review* report which it says brings into question the safety and ethics of clinical trials.

The *AFR* report describes the RIAT (Restoring Invisible and Abandoned Trials) initiative of the *British Medical Journal* which re-analyses clinical trial data.

MA said without the support of innovative medicine companies many trials would not go ahead meaning more effective medicines would be unavailable.

## Vitamins & audio loss

**HIGHER** intakes of  $\beta$ -carotene,  $\beta$ -cryptoxanthin and folate are associated with lower risk of hearing loss, whereas higher vitamin C intake is associated with higher risk, according to a US study published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

Data from 65,521 women in the Nurses' Health Study II from 1991 to 2009, representing 1,084,598 person-years of follow-up, revealed 12,789 hearing loss cases.

No significant risk trend with intake of vitamin E was observed. **CLICK HERE** for the abstract.

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References: (1) Data on file. Stratapharma AG

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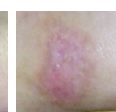
Domestic 2nd degree burn on a foot<sup>1</sup>



Before treatment



Day 2



Day 16 after monotherapy with Stratamed

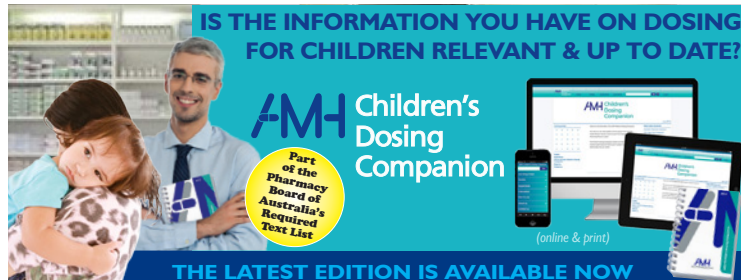
- Flexible silicone wound dressing for faster wound healing and abnormal scar prevention
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References: (1) Data on file. Stratapharma AG (2) Sandhofer M, Schauer P. SKINmed 2012;10:S1-S7.

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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).

**17-19 Sep:** Pharmacy Business Network; Etihad Stadium, Melbourne; details at: [pharmacybusinessnetwork.com](http://pharmacybusinessnetwork.com)

**19 Sep:** PSA Immunisation Training; St Leonards; visit: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**22 Sep:** Excellence in Allergic Rhinitis CPD Seminar and Webcast; The Arena - NAB Docklands, Vic; more info at: [www.guild.org.au](http://www.guild.org.au)

**7 Oct:** Understanding the NES and Your Award; Brisbane; info and registration: [www.guild.org.au/qldcpd](http://www.guild.org.au/qldcpd)

**14 Oct:** Pharmacy Business Insight (PBI) Workshop: Building a more sustainable healthcare business for your community; Melbourne; info and rego: [pbivorkshop.com.au](http://pbivorkshop.com.au)

**15-17 Oct:** The Pharmacy Assistant National Conference; QT Gold Coast; details at: [www.pharmacyassistants.com](http://www.pharmacyassistants.com)

**23-24 Oct:** Blackmores Institute Symposium 2015; Pullman Melbourne Albert Park; visit: [www.ivvy.com/event/BIS15](http://www.ivvy.com/event/BIS15)

## Biostime acquires Swisse

**HONG** Kong-listed Biostime and vitamin maker Swisse Wellness announced last night they have reached a binding heads of agreement with Biostime taking an 83% interest in Swisse with an investment of A\$1.67 billion.

The founding Ring family and management team led by chief executive Radek Sali are expected to keep a 15 - 20% stake in the business, the *AFR* reports.

Biostime, founded in 1999, is one of the leading premium infant formula, baby food and baby care producers in Asia with more than 200 sales offices across China and revenues of RMB 4,732m (A\$934m) in FY14.

Headquartered in Guangzhou, China, Biostime employs more than 3,300 people.

Biostime will enhance China-wide distribution, increase e-commerce capability and will bring a well-established customer loyalty program to the partnership, Swisse said.

Swisse Wellness ceo Radek Sali will continue to lead Swisse Wellness, and alongside the Executive team and existing shareholders, will remain invested in the business; he will also join the Biostime Board.

Swisse's founding shareholder Stephen Ring said, "I am incredibly proud to have been part of Swisse's journey so far.

"The strength of the business is testament to the hard work, passion and energy of the entire Swisse team and I thank them for their ongoing commitment to the business."

Biostime ceo Lui Fei released a statement saying, "The Swisse brand is synonymous with Australia's clean, green and healthy lifestyle and the quality and premium positioning of the brand.

"Swisse has strong appeal to Chinese consumers and is considered a leading VHMS brand."

The escalating demand from China has also driven a five-fold jump in the share price of Swisse's listed peer Blackmores over the past 12 months.

With Australia considered a core market for Swisse Wellness, the company will remain headquartered in Melbourne, Sali said.

## FDA bans Camels

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has banned four RJ Reynolds cigarette brands including "Camel Crush Bold" because a science based review found they were not substantially equivalent to respective "predicate" products.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**NA-NA NA-NA**, na-na na-na, **BATBAND!**

Not sure that the theme music translates too well into text, but you probably get the idea, and yes there is in development such a thing.

It's actually a set of headphones that bypass your ears, leaving them to still hear surrounds in stereo, while listening to your favourite music, podcasts or audiobooks via "skull bone transduction" (pictured).



Called ear-free headphones, the Batband was fully funded on Kickstarter in just seven days, and will remain on the crowd-funding website until 28 Oct.

As of yesterday, there were 1,326 backers for the project who have pledged a total of \$228,429, a huge overshoot of the \$150K goal. **CLICK HERE** to join the party.

## Give your feet some love!

This week Pharmacy Daily and Plunketts are giving away a prize pack each day of NS-8 Heel Balm, NS-8 Foot & Leg Moisturiser and NS-8 Foot & Shoe Deodoriser.

Spring is here and it's time to make sure your feet are ready - soft, smooth and odour-free. NS-8 Natural Footcare formulations are based on carefully selected naturally active ingredients to deliver superior results. NS-8 Heel Balm is not greasy, so you don't need socks, and natural exfoliants gradually remove dry, thickened skin, so you don't need foot files. NS-8 Foot & Leg Moisturiser refreshes and moisturises hot, tired legs, softening and smoothing dry skin. NS-8 Foot & Shoe Deodoriser is a non-aerosol spray that kills odour causing bacteria on shoes and feet. Australian owned and made. Website: [www.NS8.com.au](http://www.NS8.com.au)



To win, be the first person from **TAS** or **VIC** to answer the following question and send it to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**Does NS-8 Foot & Shoe Deodoriser contain aluminium?**

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Rebecca Larcombe from Flinders Medical Centre.*



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### Jobs of the Week

- **Rotational Pharmacist** - North Coast, QLD (Job# 2011699)  
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- **Pharmacist Manager** - Great Ocean Road, VIC (Job# 2011694)  
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- **Pharmacist Manager** - North Shore of Sydney (Job# 2011620)  
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