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Pharmacy CM firstline

PHARMACISTS are at the frontline of the dynamic world of complementary medicines (CMs), according to Pharmacy Professor and international expert, Associate Professor Forrest Batz.

Speaking in preliminary discussions around the theme of the 2016 Blackmores Institute Symposium, he said pharmacists are especially critical to translating the complexities of prescription and complementary medicines interactions.

The conference will be held at Sheraton on the Park, Sydney on Sat 13 Aug and has been accredited for 0.75 hours of Group 1 CPD and 5.25 hours of Group 2 CPD (or 11.25 CPD credits) suitable for inclusion in an individual pharmacist's CPD plan.

For registration details go to www.blackmoresinstitute.org.

Australia funds drug action

TWO United Nations initiatives targeting the human toll caused by the global trade in illicit drugs have attracted \$200,000 in funding from the Australian government.

Assistant health minister Ken Wyatt announced two separate pledges of \$100,000 in New York where he is leading the Australian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS).

The first \$100,000 will go towards the UN's Global SMART (Synthetic Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trade) program which aims to help countries lift their capacity to gather, analyse and report information on synthetic drugs.

SMART currently operates in 11 countries in Asia and Latin America and since 2011 it has highlighted the emergence of new psychoactive substances including crystal

methamphetamine (aka 'ice').

The second pledge of \$100,000 will go to the UN Office on Drugs & Crime to continue its work on increasing access to opiate-based medicines for patients in severe pain and cases of extreme need.

"While illicit use of drugs is of great concern to UN member states, it is also a matter of great concern to Australia that so many people around the world still have limited or no access to the pain relief provided by narcotic based medicines," Wyatt said.

He cited funding by Australia to Ghana and Timor-Leste for pilot narcotic medicine regulatory regimes, saying they have "shown that it is possible to overcome the complex set of barriers to accessing controlled drugs".

Hand sanitiser probe

NEW Zealand Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority (MEDSAFE) is considering tighter controls around the distribution and use of alcohol-based hand sanitisers, according to a report in stuff.co.nz.

With some 673 calls to the Poisons Centre concerning people swallowing alcohol-based hand sanitiser in the past five years, and the majority being children, MEDSAFE has been asked to make it mandatory for hand sanitisers containing more than 20% alcohol to be mounted on walls to reduce the risk to children.

The call came from Auckland man Lance Gravatt, who owns a small pharmaceutical company.

MEDSAFE will consider Gravatt's submission and a second submission of unknown origin at its meeting on 03 May.

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Volpara lists today

DIGITAL health company Volpara Health Technologies has announced the successful close of its initial public offer, raising \$10m from the issue of 20 million shares at 50 cents each, giving Volpara a market capitalisation of \$61 million at the issue price.

Trading under the symbol "ASX: VHT," Volpara lists to the Australian Securities Exchange today.

TGA presentations

FOR those wanting to update on how the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) impacts on a range of issues, the agency has announced future conferences at which it will have representatives presenting TGA functions.

Events nominated include every state and the ACT with topics at conferences on immunisation, pharmacokinetics, microbiology, advertising, acupuncture and more.

CLICK HERE for details.

Win with Bosisto's

This week Pharmacy Daily and Bosisto's are giving away each day a Bosisto's EucoSteam Inhaler combo and EucoSteam Inhalant 200mL.

Bosisto's EucoSteam Inhaler is a portable and easy way to use warm steam inhalation for colds & flu. Just fill the lightweight inhaler with hot water (adding Bosisto's Inhalant for soothing eucalyptus vapours) and inhale the steam to help clear nose and chest congestion. Naturally soothing relief, anytime, anywhere.

More info at www.bosistos.com.au

To win, be the first from QLD to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Describe how to use the Bosisto's EucoSteam Inhaler.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Malie Ung from Barone Pharmacy Chullora.



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Health, Beauty and New Products

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

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



DISPENSARY CORNER

ITCHY in bed? Maybe you need to change the colour of your sheets.

That's a suggestion resulting from a report in the *Journal of Medical Entomology* detailing a study into the colour preference of bed bugs.

The blood-sucking beasts apparently love red and black but are repulsed by yellow and green.

US researchers studied the insects by placing them in dishes along with cardboard "colour shelters" under which they could take cover.

Rather than selecting hiding places at random the beasts strongly preferred hiding under black and red cardboard, with the scientists postulating brighter colours perhaps remind them of brightly lit areas which are less safe to hide in, the *BBC* reports.

"I always joke with people 'Make sure you get yellow sheets!'" said one of the researchers.

AMBULANCES in Beijing are set to get "taxi-style" meters, amid allegations they have been overcharging patients.

Effective next month they will charge a fixed rate of 50 yuan for patient transport of up to 3km, and then seven yuan for each additional kilometre, according to the *Beijing Morning Post*.

A callout fee of 50 yuan will be levied in the event an ambulance is called but not needed.

The move is a significant change from the previous arrangement under which paramedics worked out the charges themselves, leading to a number of complaints about high costs.

Some people are not convinced, taking to social media to comment that the move may not be ideal because it may give the drivers an incentive to take the long way to the hospital.

Bisolvon Chesty Natural Liquid - Kids 2+

Bisolvon Chesty Natural Liquid - Kids 2+ is the newest addition to the Bisolvon brand and is available in Australian pharmacies from mid-April. Bisolvon Chesty Natural Liquid contains the active ingredient hederera helix with lactoferrin helping clear mucus from the chest, calm coughs and may help boost the immune system against winter colds, the company states. It is indicated for use in kids 2+ and comes in a honey and lemon flavour.

Stockist: 1800 226 315 - ask for your Boehringer Ingelheim representative

RRP: \$13.00

Website: www.bisolvon.com.au



The Beauty Chef's new Beauty Fix Balm



The Beauty Chef's Certified Organic **Beauty Fix Balm** is designed to help condition, nourish and protect the skin throughout the change of seasons. This versatile product can be used as a hydrating lip balm, smoothing and de-puffing eye balm, dry skin moisturiser or as a soothing and gentle skin salve for dry hands, nails, feet, heels, knees or elbows, a real one-stop-shop for all of your winter beauty fixes. Having such broad application makes it the perfect all-in-one travel companion.

Stockist: 0410 819 086

RRP: \$24.95

Website: www.thebeautychef.com

Fructis Grow Strong Anti-Dandruff Shampoo

Garnier Fructis Grow Strong Anti-Dandruff Shampoo is a shampoo that works to strengthen the hair, while reducing dandruff. The formula features ceramide and active fruit concentrate for hair that the company states is 10 times stronger from the very first use. While surprisingly delicate, the shampoo also contains zinc pyrithione to help clear dandruff. This product is on pharmacy shelves from 01 April.

Stockist: 1300 659 259

RRP: \$5.95

Website: www.garnier.com.au



Basil Grape Bliss by MOR

MOR Basil Grape Bliss is a limited-edition bodycare gift pack prepared to make a very special Mother's Day gift for that important person in everyone's life.

This beautifully and subtly presented package contains Essentials Hand & Body Wash (350mL) and Hand & Body Lotion (350mL) in Basil Grape. The delicately pastel-shaded pack is normally valued at \$39.90, but for Mother's Day is available at selected pharmacies for 25% off.

Stockist: 03 9600 4599

RRP: \$29.95

Website: www.morboutique.com



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