

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a full page from **Omega-3 Centre**.

Coroner slams Tassie hospital pharmacy

TASMANIAN state coroner Rod Chandler has recommended a review of procedures at Mersey Community Hospital, after a woman died of an overdose of "enough morphine to kill a whole paddock of horses".

The incident occurred in 2014 after the cancer patient was admitted for palliative pain relief.

The doctor miscalculated the dose, with the coroner saying the case highlighted serious shortcomings in hospital safeguards required to prevent the dispensing of medications for prescriptions which are 'clearly questionable'.

Did you know that goat's milk contains prebiotic oligos which are structurally closer to breast milk*



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FIND OUT MORE

* When compared to standard cow's milk;
Source: Urashima and Taufik, 2010.

\$70m in new Sep listings

HEALTH minister Sussan Ley says the government is continuing to add expensive new medicines to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme "without fear or favour," including the \$60 million listing of Avastin (bevacizumab) for the treatment of cervical cancer.

Yesterday Ley announced a range of Sep listings which also include "revolutionary new diabetes treatment" Bydureon (exenatide) which is a once weekly injection to treat type 2 diabetes.

As well as seeing patients only having to inject themselves once a week rather than twice daily, the exenatide listing will also save sufferers over \$1600 annually.

Other diabetes listings next month include Trajenta (linagliptin) and Trajentamet (lingliptin with metformin) as well as Galvus (vildagliptin) and Galvumet (vildagliptin with metformin).

The diabetes additions to the PBS are on a cost-neutral basis as an alternative to existing treatments.

The big ticket items on the Sep

CVS mobile payments

US PHARMACY giant CVS has begun rolling out its own in-house smartphone-based payment solution, which simplifies the purchase of prescriptions and the associated health fund reimbursements.

CVS Pay allows payment using a single barcode scan rather than having to undertake multiple transactions to source funds from insurer accounts separately.

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Retail

PBS include the Avastin listing

which Ley said would help save the lives of more than 200 women who aren't responding to other cervical cancer treatments.

Previously Avastin was out of reach for most at a cost of \$55,000 per course of treatment.

The government is also funding Signifor (pasireotide) to the tune of \$10 million, for patients suffering from the rare growth hormone condition Acromelagly.

Ley said it was vital to continue improving the health system so new medications can be listed.

"Every dollar spent on inefficiency in the health system is a dollar we cannot invest in cures like these."

UK pharmacy U-turn?

PHARMACY groups in Britain are hopeful that new UK prime minister Theresa May could reverse the proposed funding cuts which are claimed could see 25% of community pharmacies there close.

The £170m cuts, which were the subject of a keynote address by UK National Pharmacy Association chair Ian Strachan at APP this year (**PD** 22 Mar) were unveiled in late 2015, with a consultation period which was supposed to culminate in a final outcome last month.

The cuts were the brainchild of pharmacy minister Alistair Burt, who announced his resignation after the Brexit vote (**PD** 08 Jul).

Strachan said with a new PM and a new pharmacy minister "there's now an opportunity for fresh thinking based on patient needs".

Science of Omega-3

PHARMACY Daily readers are being invited to attend the upcoming 'Science of Omega 3' seminar taking place in Sydney on Wed 14 Sep.

Described as a 'balanced clinical overview on how fresh seafood and dietary supplementation combine to play a critical role in human health,' the one-day event features an array of high profile expert speakers - for details see **page 3**.

Folic acid 90% fail

WHILE 90% of pregnant women are aware of the need to supplement their diet with folic acid and iodine to support the growth of their offspring, less than 27% actually comply, according to a study from the University of Adelaide.

CLICK HERE to access the work.

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to PD's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Dr Cornelia Landersdorfer**, Monash Centre for Medicine Use and Safety.



Tailoring antibiotic dosage to fight superbugs

IF CURRENT trends continue, by 2050 superbugs will kill 10 million people every year. Critically ill patients are particularly vulnerable, because they often have augmented kidney function. This means they eliminate antibiotics faster from the body, which can result in antibiotic concentrations that are too low to combat the bacterial infection. Research that a group of us at the Monash Centre for Medicine Use and Safety conducted in collaboration with the University of Queensland's Burns, Trauma and Critical Care Research Centre has revealed that tailoring antibiotic treatment regimens to individual patients' needs and utilising higher-than-standard doses of safe antibiotics where necessary can be an effective response.

Where this cannot be achieved with giving a single antibiotic, optimised antibiotic combination regimens may need to be employed.

Our research utilised a laboratory model to expose bacteria to the rising and falling blood concentrations of antibiotics over time that occur in critically ill patients with a wide range of kidney functions. In some cases, the traditional dose resulted in increased resistance that would worsen the problem in a patient, while only the highest approved dose was effective.

The study was funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council and published in the Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy.

ANZAAS honours Harvey

HEALTH
consumer advocate and educator Ken Harvey has been awarded the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) Medal for 2016, in recognition of his longstanding advocacy for evidence-based medicine and treatment.

Harvey (pictured), who is an executive member of Friends of Science of Medicine as well as an Adjunct Associate Professor at Monash University's School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, will be presented with the award by ANZAAS chair Malcolm Jenkins later this week.

Harvey said his interest in unethical promotion started in the 1970s when he was trying to contain hospital-acquired antibiotic-resistant microorganisms.

"I advocated the use of older, narrow-spectrum, more



cost-effective antibiotics...the response of many pharmaceutical companies was 'you can't afford to be wrong, use our latest, broadest-spectrum and most expensive antibiotics (blundermycin)!' "A number of purveyors of

complementary, alternative and integrative medicine also make unethical claims - so what to do?

"Marshal the evidence, flood the regulators with complaints, engage the media and agitate for policy change," Harvey said.

Friends of Science in Medicine president Professor John Dwyer said Harvey was a champion for better public health in Australia.

"His efforts over many years have been focused on reducing the harm to consumers associated with misleading and even fraudulent promotion and use of treatments and medicines for which there is no scientific support".

Win with A'kin

This week Pharmacy Daily and A'kin are giving away each day a pack including A'kin Pure Radiance Rosehip Oil and A'kin Brightening Rosehip Oil with Vitamin C.

Discover skin that feels soft, smooth and deeply hydrated. This award winning Rosehip oil helps to restore moisture and reduce the visible signs of ageing. The result is vibrant, glowing and radiant looking skin. Or try A'kin Brightening Rosehip Oil with a collagen boosting formula and the addition of powerful antioxidant Vitamin C to neutralise free radicals, this oil helps to brighten overall skin tone and texture, while reducing the appearance of sun damage and pigmentation.

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

Which country is A'kin made in?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



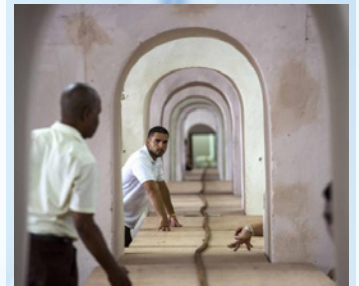
Dispensary Corner

CUBA is paying homage to its long-time dictator Fidel Castro, with celebrations for his 90th birthday this year including the creation of a 90 metre long cigar.

The gigantic smoke (pictured below) was hand-rolled under the instructions of veteran cigar-maker Jose Castelar, who hopes to gain another Guinness World Record for the giant creation.

Castelar and his team worked 12 hours a day for ten days to roll the cigar which was dedicated to the "beloved Comandante".

Ironically although Castro was well known for appearing in public smoking a fat Havana, he actually quit the habit more than 30 years ago, at the age of 59 when he said it was "a sacrifice I must make for Cuban public health".



A GROUP of Canadian thieves are set for a major sugar rush after making off with 20,000 litres of maple syrup.

The heist saw them break into a warehouse near Montreal's Trudeau Airport, stealing an entire shipping container filled with 20 pallets of Kirkland syrup which were destined for Japan.

A \$10,000 reward is on offer to anyone who provides information leading to the arrest of the sticky-fingered gang.

Officials say it may be difficult for the offenders to offload the contraband since Kirkland is well known as the Costco house brand.



O3c in conjunction with CMA present:

SCIENCE OF OMEGA-3 BALANCING THE SCALES

A balanced clinical overview of how fresh seafood and dietary supplementation combine to play a critical role in human health.

DOLTONE HOUSE

JONES BAY WHARF
SYDNEY

WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2016

FEATURING:



Professor Andrew Sinclair

Divergent shifts in lipid mediator profile following supplementation with n-3 docosapentaenoic acid and eicosapentaenoic acid



Prof William Harris

The Omega-3 Index – The Standard for Omega-3 Status Testing



Dr Barbara Meyers

DHA and Infant Health



Dr Ross Walker

The place of Omega 3 in Cardiovascular prevention and management



Prof Alexandra McManus

Seafood consumption, fish oil supplements and health benefits: What does the evidence tell us



Dr Jerome Sarris

Omega-3 fatty acids:
Potential use in the treatment of unipolar and bipolar depression



Dr Norman Salem

Essentiality of arachidonic acid for infant development



Dr Peter Nichols

Australia and NZ Fish oils - an update on sources and quality



Ellen Schutt, GOED

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