

## Asthma co-morbidity

**WITH** some two million or 11% of Australians living with asthma, Roy Morgan Research has revealed that almost three-quarters (74%) of people with asthma also suffer from at least one other respiratory condition.

Between Oct 2014 and Sep 2015, more than half (51%) of adults with asthma reported experiencing hay fever at some point in the previous 12 months, well above the population average, the researchers reported.

Almost one-third (30%) of asthma patients reported that they also snored, while 13% came down with bronchitis in that time.

Respiration-related conditions described as sleep apnoea (9%), respiratory problems (8%) and emphysema (3%) are also above average among people with asthma.

## Asthma meds trends

**RESEARCH** on the use of long-acting  $\beta_2$ -agonists (LABA), commonly used to treat asthma, has revealed an association between regulatory actions by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the incidence of their prescription.

When the FDA issued safety alerts for LABA in 2005, a significant decrease by 13.55% and 7.42% was observed in children and adults, respectively.

Published in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* in Dec, the work came from reputable sources including Harvard and the FDA.

**CLICK HERE** for a summary.

## Pharmacist leadership call

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is calling for applicants for the prestigious *ignite* Pharmacist Leadership Program for 2016.

The leadership training program aims to nurture and develop high-performing early career pharmacists into future leaders who will drive strategy, change and innovation said the peak body.

*ignite* includes interactive workshops, experiential and distance learning together with a range of inspirational speakers, personal mentoring and networking opportunities, PSA national president Joe Demarte said.

"*ignite* includes interactive workshops, experiential and distance learning together with a range of inspirational speakers, personal mentoring and networking opportunities, PSA national president Joe Demarte said. "As part of the innovative program, participants enhance personal development and skills through the use of horses; an innovative strategy unique to *ignite* that aims to increase participants' self-awareness as leaders," he said.

"*ignite* workshops are highly interactive and practical, enabling participants to go beyond theory to apply what they learn.

"*ignite* not only prepares

## FDA labelling changes

**MEDWATCH**, the US Food and Drug Administration's Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting System has listed 31 products for labelling changes around boxed warnings, contraindications, warnings, precautions, adverse reactions or patient package inserts/guides.

**CLICK HERE** for details.

pharmacists to be a pharmacy leader, it also provides an experience to become a leader in daily life."

Participants also obtain units of credits towards the PSA Graduate Diploma of Applied Pharmacy Practice and the PSA Diploma of Leadership and Management as part of the program, he added.

Places for the program are limited to 12 Early Career Pharmacists in 2016 with applications now open

Go to the PSA's website for details by **CLICKING HERE**.

## Interim MA ceo appt

**FOLLOWING** the resignation of Medicines Australia (MA) Tim James just before Christmas (**PD** 21 Dec 15), the pharmaceutical industry peak body has announced the appointment of Mr Lee Hill to the role of Interim ceo.

Hill brings 10 years of experience as a senior business leader, having held ceo and md roles in a number of leading companies and consultancies across Australia, the announcement said.

MA chairman Wes Cook said, "Over his career Mr Hill has built a strong reputation for exceptional strategy development and delivery in difficult environments."

Hill will hold the role of Interim ceo until June 2016 when a full time successor will be appointed.

## Unapproved drugs

**CRIMINAL** charges were recorded in relation to three unapproved drugs cases during 2015.

On 03 Dec the Ringwood Magistrates Court, Victoria heard a Melbourne man on six charges relating to importing unapproved drugs and two counts of supplying.

On 22 May the Adelaide Magistrates Court sentenced a 69 year old Adelaide man for the importation of counterfeit erectile dysfunction medicines.

And Southport Magistrates Court sentenced a man in relation to 24 criminal charges for manufacture, export and supply of unapproved therapeutic goods.

## New NOAC challenge

**TECHNOLOGY-BASED** pharmaceutical company Verseon has announced that it has developed a new class of oral, highly selective, direct thrombin inhibitors which have demonstrated reduced risk of major bleeding in comparison with current novel oral anticoagulants (NOACs).

The announcement was presented at the Biotech Showcase Conference in San Francisco this week.

The early pre-clinical studies have indicated that the new compounds have equivalent or better therapeutic potential, the company said, adding that they are still a few years from marketing approvals.

## Win with Qsilica

This week Pharmacy Daily and Qsilica are giving away a prize pack each day including Remove Cleansing Gel and Rescue Paw Paw Ointment.

Treat your skin to two Award Winners from hair, skin and nail experts Qsilica! Qsilica Remove Makeup & Grime Cleansing Gel is a naturally derived foaming cleanser to gently remove impurities and leave your skin fresh and clean. Qsilica Rescue Paw Paw Ointment helps you say "good-bye dry" with a petrochemical free formula including Shea butter and soothing Calendula with fermented Paw Paw. Visit [www.qsilica.com](http://www.qsilica.com)

To win, be the first from SA or NT to send the right answer to the following question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

What ingredients will you NOT find in Qsilica Rescue ointment?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Michelle McLennan from LiveLife Pharmacy.



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## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

## CRUISE WEEKLY

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### Pacific Paradise Sale

**LOCATED** on a secluded island in the Mamanuca Islands of Fiji, experience pristine ocean views, superior amenities and facilities with **Sheraton Resort & Spa**, Tokoriki Island, Fiji.

Deals include breakfast for two, two 30 minute massages and 1,000 bonus SPG Starpoints.

Prices start at FJD470 + tax.

Meanwhile **Sheraton Denarau Villas** on Denarau Island offers luxurious accommodation with a welcome hamper including a bottle of champagne and 1,000 bonus SPG Starpoints for from FJD670 + 20% tax.

And **The Westin Denarau Island Resort & Spa**, Fiji and **Sheraton Fiji Resort** also both on Denarau Island, just 20 minutes from Nadi airport, offer beachfront luxury with full resort facilities starting from FJD360 per night, with full breakfast for two included, along with a bottle of wine on arrival and 1,000 bonus SPG Starpoints.

### Samoa Sheraton deal

**LOCATED** just five minutes from the airport, **Sheraton Samoa Aggie Grey's Resort** features ocean-view guest rooms, with a special offer of breakfast and two 60 minute massages and 1,000 bonus SPG Starpoints.

See your travel agent for info.

## Priceline aces tennis deal

**AUSSIE** tennis star Nick Kyrgios is donating \$50 for every ace he served at the 2016 Kooyong Classic tennis tournament this week to the Priceline Sisterhood Foundation, with Priceline Pharmacy matching the total donation to the Foundation.

As the latest recruit to support the Priceline Sisterhood Foundation, Kyrgios (pictured right with API ceo Stephen Roche) joined Priceline Sisters Ita Buttrose, Ada Nicodemou and Sam Harris at festivities associated with Priceline Pharmacy's naming rights for the Ace Challenge.



Roche said it was "great to have a high profile athlete like Nick support the Foundation because it helps us raise much-needed funds and awareness for the charities we support, which assist women and their families."

For the second year running,

### Serotonin syndrome

**NZ MEDICINES** regulator Medsafe has released a new information sheet about Serotonin Syndrome.

Serotonin Syndrome develops when there is too much serotonin in the brain with symptoms ranging from mild to life threatening.

It is associated with the use of some over the counter and prescription medicines.

**CLICK HERE** for the summary.

the company is hosting the Priceline Pharmacy Health and Beauty Lounge at the Kooyong Classic, including health checks, makeovers, smoothies and massages.

Not only did Nick Kyrgios have a health check in the lounge but he was even pampered by the Beauty Advisors (pictured above left).

### Chemical vs suicide

**A NEW** type of antidepressant may bring instant relief to people suffering serious suicidal thoughts.

US researchers say the chemical known as "CGP3466B" works in a similar way to ketamine but with much fewer negative side effects.

It will take several years to trial CGP3466B as a human antidepressant, but the compound, developed late last century by pharmaceutical giant Novartis has been found to be non-addictive and non-toxic.

New research on the chemical is being led by neuroscientists from Johns Hopkins Medicine.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**YOU** might have thought you'd heard it all when it comes to weight loss strategies but we've got a new one for you! Freeze dried human poo pills!

US scientists are investigating whether this faecal formula could be a treatment for obesity, with possible links between gut bacteria and weight loss.

In the trial at Massachusetts General Hospital 20 obese - and we think quite game - patients will digest the freeze dried poop from healthy, lean donors.

Participants will be required to take the poo-packed pills every week for six weeks to determine if this could become a real weight loss treatment.

Slim, in need of some extra cash? We hear there's demand for healthy body waste if you're interested!

**A BREATHALYSING** sensor connected to your smart phone may just revolutionise cancer diagnosis.

The technology, which is being developed by The National Institute for Materials Sciences in Japan, uses a small sensor capable of detecting substances in a person's breath.

Sound impressive? The sensor may even make it possible to judge what kind of cancer the person has.

It's expected to take about six years to fully develop.

