

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a full page from **Pharmacy 4 Less**.

Zika virus in Bali

INDONESIA is experiencing sporadic transmission of the mosquito-borne Zika virus, according to a Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) warning on smartraveller.gov.au.

The DFAT alert advises all travellers to protect themselves from mosquito bites although the overall level of advice has not changed with the need to exercise a high degree of caution in Indonesia, including Bali.

The aedes aegypti mosquito, the Zika vector, is not uncommon in Indonesia and is also well established in North Queensland, being well known for its transmission of dengue, Ross River, yellow and other fevers.

GSK & Novartis unite

SPORTING some of the best known leading household brands in Panadol, Voltaren, Zovirax, Otrivin, and Sensodyne, GSK has now completed the establishment of a joint venture with Novartis, first muted in Mar 2015, creating a new FMCH entity.

An ageing population and the rise of self-care driven by a growing interest in health and increased access to online health information, all make consumer healthcare an appealing sector, growing worldwide at around 4% and 4.6% in Australia, the company said.

Pharmacists' bone-focus

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia and Sanofi Consumer Healthcare have collaborated to develop a new online course that enables pharmacists to bone up on vitamin K2 and skeletal health.

A Guild release says that 4.74 million Australians over 50 years of age have osteopenia or poor bone health, with 140,822 fractures in 2012 (or more than one fracture every 4 minutes) resulting from osteoporosis or osteopenia.

This data highlights the meaningful role for community pharmacy to play in assisting patients achieve good bone health, the Guild has said.

Anthony Tassone, Victorian branch Guild president said, "Osteoporosis and bone health are front of mind for many pharmacy patients, particularly older patients who are concerned about fractures and breaks."

"This online course will assist pharmacists in discussing osteoporosis and osteopenia with their patients and providing them with the advice they need to attain and maintain good bone health."

Tassone added that although

AMA lauds ACCC

LONG critical of the actions of insurers making changes to their health cover without informing policy holders, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) has welcomed the action of the ACCC against Medibank Private over alleged misleading and deceptive conduct (**PD** 17 Jun).

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ACCC pings e-cigs

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has commenced proceedings against two e-cigarette online retailers alleging they made false or misleading representations and engaged in misleading conduct by making statements on their websites that their e-cigarette products did not contain toxic chemicals.

The two companies involved are Social-Lites Pty Ltd and Elusion New Zealand Ltd, both claiming their products did not contain carcinogens or toxic chemicals, and did not contain any of the chemicals found in conventional cigarettes.

Independent testing commissioned by the ACCC has demonstrated the presence of formaldehyde, acetaldehyde and acrolein, classified respectively as carcinogens Group 1A, Group 2B and a toxic chemical by WHO.

Vic phcy vaccinations

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia and Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) have welcomed the news that community pharmacists in Victoria have now been approved to administer adult influenza and whooping cough vaccinations.

PSA Victorian Branch president Ben Marchant administered the first pharmacy pertussis vaccine in Spiro Koutsis Pharmacy in Melbourne, supported by the Victorian Health Minister Jill Hennessy and health officials.

The Guild described the Victorian Government's decision to enable pharmacist vaccination is a commendable addition to our health prevention programs, and will help protect residents of the State from the debilitating impact of influenza and whooping cough.

"The availability of vaccinations by trained pharmacists will make a big difference to consumers seeking to be immunised, and the accessibility and convenience of community pharmacies has been shown to lift the immunisation rate among consumers," said the Guild Victorian branch president Anthony Tassone.

AACP MIMS Award

JENNY Gowan has been named as winner of the 2016 AACP MIMS Consultant Pharmacist of the Year Award.

Gowan (pictured), "an experienced accredited pharmacist who has proven her dedication



to advancing the practice of consultant pharmacy", received the award in a ceremony at last weekend's ConPharm'16.

MIMS sponsors a conference travel grant of \$5,000 for Gowan.



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Guild Update

Political parties support community pharmacy

WITH less than two weeks until the Federal election, the Guild is pleased to have received letters of support from the Liberals, Nationals, the Australian Labor Party, the Australian Greens and the Nick Xenophon team. The election letters can be accessed on our advocacy page at <http://www.guild.org.au/the-guild/advocacy>.

The Guild is keen to ensure that its members, their staff and patients are made fully aware of the policies that could affect their businesses, jobs and health. It is clear there is strong cross-party support for community pharmacy and enhancing its role in the broader primary health care system. The task after the Federal election will be to turn this into tangible outcomes for community pharmacies, pharmacists and patients.

All the election letters acknowledge the importance of the commitments to the \$50 million Pharmacy Trial Program and the \$600 million in new and enhanced funding for pharmacy programs that were secured by the Guild in the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

There also continues to be strong, cross-party support for the community pharmacy model. The Guild encourages pharmacy owners, their staff and patients to weigh up the pros and cons of all the various policy alternatives before they cast their votes.

Prepare for NDSS changes

PHARMACISTS need to stay alert to communications from the Department of Health, Diabetes Australia and the Pharmacy Guild to ensure their staff are prepared for patient enquiries and to inform them of some of the NDSS changes, according to Anthony Tassone, president of the Vic Branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

The transition period should be relatively seamless, he said, providing pharmacists are prepared and aware of the changes.

"From 01 Jul 2016, pharmacies will be eligible to receive a payment of \$1 for each NDSS product supplied," Tassone explained.

"Previously there has been no remuneration, and the new payment is a step in the right direction in acknowledging the time and effort spent by pharmacies in supporting people with diabetes.

"Pharmacies will also be able to charge a fee for clinical services they provide which could include supporting patients on topics like correct injection technique that will result in better management of their diabetes."

Hilary Crilly, md of diabetes support products company BD Australia and New Zealand said,

"The upcoming changes to the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) are an opportunity for community pharmacies to become more involved with diabetes care and they should access the support provided by diabetes organisations and suppliers during this transition period."

Key changes are that NDSS products will no longer be supplied to NDSS Registrants from Diabetes Australia or its agents, insulin pump consumable (IPC) patients will have to get their products from community pharmacies and that patients with type 2 diabetes who don't use insulin will now be restricted to an initial six-month supply of subsidised test strips.

Labor \$16m for stroke

THE Stroke Foundation has lauded the promise from the Labor Party in the run up to the 02 Jul election, that it will fund stroke awareness and stroke survivor support to the tune of \$16m.

The pledge involves support for the FAST campaign (Face, Arms, Speech, Time) which highlights the early signs of a stroke - visit www.strokefoundation.com.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

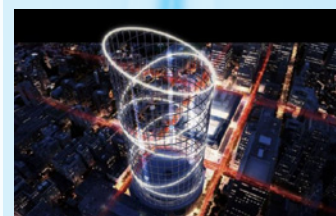
A 360-METRE high amusement ride on New York's Penn Station?

With excessive crowding making catching a train at Penn Station a nightmare, developers have created a novel plan to fund the station's urgently needed redesign and refurbishment, according to *Yahoo! News*.

The plan is to build a transparent tower (artists's rendition pictured) called the Halo with 11 gondolas offering free-fall rides of varying speeds above the station and charging \$35 per ride to pay for the whole shebang.

"It's something you will not be able to do anywhere else in the world," said Alexandros Washburn, president of Brooklyn Capital Partners, the partnership behind the plan.

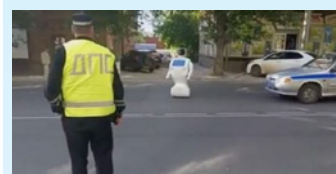
The option is just one of many being considered for the station.



RUNAWAY robot stops traffic.

Scientists at the Promobot laboratories in Perm, Russia, had been teaching their humanoid robot (pictured) how to move around independently, but it took liberties when an engineer forgot to shut a gate, says the local edition of the *Argumenty i Fakty* newspaper.

The escapee wandered out for around 40 minutes onto a busy road where it ran out of battery and was guarded by a policeman.



WIN WITH NUTRI-SYNERGY

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Plunketts are giving away each day a pack including NS Protective Hand Cream, NS Cuticle and Nail Repair and two NS Lip Balms.

Nutri-Synergy (NS) is natural dermatology, formulated for dry, sensitive and problem skin. NS contains natural active ingredients that work together with your skin and doesn't contain potential irritants like petrochemicals, parabens, colours or fragrance. This pack has everything you need to give your hands the treatment they deserve, and make your lips soft and smooth during the cold winter months.



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

Name one of the natural moisturisers in NS Cuticle & Nail Repair.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Iain Rosekilly from Ascendis Health.

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Part of the Business Publishing Group.

Publisher: Bruce Piper info@pharmacydaily.com.au

Reporter: Mal Smith

Contributors: Nathalie Craig, Jasmine O'Donoghue, Bonnie Tai

Advertising and Marketing: Magda Herdzik, Sean Harrigan, Melanie Tchakmadjian
advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

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