

Halton stepping down

THE pharmaceutical sector has paid tribute to Jane Halton who resigned from the Commonwealth Public Service on Fri.

In her roles as Secretary of the Departments of Finance and Health she played a key part in developing the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Community Pharmacy agreements.

Australia key for GSK OTC

GLAXOSMITHKLINE Consumer Healthcare is set to heavily target the Australian market, with the company saying the business here has "huge potential".

GSK Consumer Healthcare head for Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Africa, Zubair Ahmed,

has confirmed GSK will invest strongly in its local operations, boosting its staff and "advertising disproportionately" to maximise its growth potential here, according to a report in *The Australian* today.

He said the OTC category in Australia had doubled in the last decade to almost \$9 billion.

"You have a large ageing population...consumers' knowledge and self-education is pretty high and per capita spend on health care in Australia is pretty high," he said.

Mr Zubair said GSK would look at tailoring products for Australia, similar to the creation of Panadol Osteo, which is now its biggest single item in the local market.

"The brands will be global but the formulation and packaging will be different," he said.

Sweet'n'sour taste

STUDIES about artificial sweeteners funded by artificial sweetener companies were nearly 17 times more likely to have favourable results, according to a comprehensive review published in *PLOS ONE* - [CLICK HERE](#) for access.

J&J HaTCHathon winners

JOHNSON and Johnson has announced the winners of its inaugural Health and Technology Challenge (the HaTCHathon event), held from 9-11 Sep in Sydney.

The weekend-long 'hackathon' challenged participants to create innovative solutions for healthcare problems including obesity, medication compliance, patient empowerment, the burden on the hospital system, and rural and regional access to healthcare.

The 'KneeHab' team (pictured - courtesy Joshua Concepcion) was awarded the top prize of \$8,000 and the opportunity to work with the Johnson & Johnson Australia Family of Companies to consider commercialising their idea, which



uses a wearable connectable device, namely a smartphone, to improve patient compliance and treatment outcomes for knee rehabilitation after a reconstruction.

The runner-up team named 'JAX' developed an electronic monitoring device, called "Forget me not", to help carers of the elderly to monitor medication compliance.

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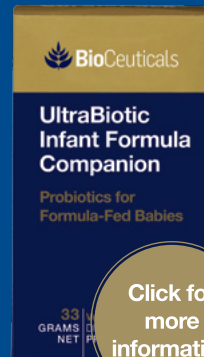
* When compared to cow's milk. Source: Urashima and Taufik, 2010.

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FIP embraces PSNZ

THE Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand (PSNZ) has announced that it has now been accepted into membership of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

PSNZ was unanimously voted into the international organisation.

Pictured below with FIP president Carmen Pena are PSNZ president Graeme Smith and PSNZ chief executive Richard Townley.



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New orphan drug

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised of the addition of Orfadin (nitisinone) to the list of designated orphan drugs. Orfadin is sponsored by Orphan Australia Pty Ltd and is indicated for the treatment of hereditary tyrosinaemia type 1. For further info see tga.gov.au.

Cochrane ticks vit D

A NEW Cochrane Review has been able to demonstrate that asthmatics given vitamin D had fewer severe asthma attacks that needed treatment with anti-inflammatory tablets, namely oral corticosteroids. The review also showed vitamin D reduced the likelihood of attending hospital for an acute asthma attack from 6% of patients to around 3%, but had little or no effect on day-to-day asthma symptoms or breathing tests. No serious side-effects of vitamin D occurred at the doses tested and the evidence reviewed was graded as of high quality - [CLICK HERE](#).

Illegal druggist jailed

PEPPINO Fiori, 66, from Oxted, Surrey, South of London, has been jailed for 12 months for importing and selling potentially dangerous steroids and unlicensed medicines for the treatment of erectile dysfunction and depression, the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has announced. MHRA investigation enforcement officers found more than 69,000 doses of illegal drugs in Fiori's home with an estimated street value of nearly £210,000. MHRA's head of enforcement, Alastair Jeffery said "Unlicensed medicines can be dangerous as they may contain impurities, incorrect ingredients, and there is no way of knowing if they are manufactured to acceptable standards of quality and safety."

Gabby Squires Vic PATY rep

PHARMACY assistant Gabby Squires (**pictured**) from Jenny Milner-Marsha Watson Pharmacy in Victoria has been chosen to represent her state at the National Finals of the 2016 Pharmacy Guild of Australia and GuildSuper Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY). Judges picked Squires from 18 other state finalists at a recent state workshop where each participant had the opportunity to demonstrate their pharmacy knowledge and showcase their skills in customer service and leadership. GuildSuper gm Teresa Mills said the organisation was pleased to be the major sponsor of the award and to support the successful futures of pharmacy assistants.



Squires will compete for the national title and \$10,000 of cash, prizes and rewards at the National Finals at the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference 28 Oct on the Gold Coast.

Aged care consult

THE Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Ken Wyatt has announced the consultation period on the draft National Aged Care Advocacy Framework is now open. Submissions on the draft Framework close on 07 Oct 2016. [CLICK HERE](#) for full details and to submit.

AIHW Access no. 40

THE Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has published its latest issue of Access. This issue welcomes a new AIHW director, describes some functional add-ons for the organisation as well as recent medical and public health topics tackled by the group, including *Australia's Health 2016* (PD 14 Sep) - [CLICK HERE](#) to access.

Dispensary Corner

SO HOW do colourful coastal cephalopods (cuttlefish, squid and octopus) do it, or know to do it? Change their skin colour, that is, to match their environment as an effective camouflage - because scientists from the Queensland Brain Institute have now found out that they are pretty much colour-blind, in spite of their quick-change tricks. It doesn't sound like an intuitive jump, but Professor Justin Marshall and Dr Wensung Chung that these "remarkably intelligent" animals (**pictured** below) can however adjust their visual focus, from green in coastal waters, to blue to match deep sea conditions when necessary. The study was published in *Proceedings B*, was funded by the Australian Research Council. [CLICK HERE](#) for the abstract.



"MOOBS" (enlarged breasts on a man), "gender-fluid" (one who doesn't identify with a single fixed gender), YOLO (acronym for "you only live once") and FOMO ("fear of missing out") are among 1,200 new entries listed in the latest edition of the iconic Oxford English Dictionary. Other obscure entries include Chefdom (the business of becoming a chef), fuhgeddaboudit (an Eastern US colloquialism meaning "forget about it"), Yogalates (when Pilates exercises are combined with the postures and breathing techniques of yoga) and spanakopita (a Greek spinach and cheese stuffed filo pastry pie).

Win with CleanEars

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and CleanEars are giving away a prize pack of two bottles of CleanEars Kids each day. NEW CleanEars Kids is a clinically proven ear wax removal spray that is suitable for babies, infants and children from 2 months and up. CleanEars kids is fast and fun, you do not have to tilt your head or lie down for application, simply spray and go! To find out more visit the website [HERE](#).



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

CleanEars Kids is suitable for children from what age?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.