

## Today's issue of PD

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

## Pharmacists Day

**THE** Pharmacy Board of Australia has commended Australia's 29,600 pharmacists for "their important contribution to the health and wellbeing of the Australian community" in the lead-up to World Pharmacists Day.

Now in its sixth year, World Pharmacists Day is being marked worldwide this Sunday 25 Sep, with this year's theme being 'Pharmacists: Caring for you'.

"Every community has access to a pharmacist, through their local pharmacy or hospital, making pharmacists one of the most visible and accessible health professionals for the public," said Board Chair William Kelly.

"This year's theme reflects this," he added.

The theme highlights the role of pharmacists in providing care to the public, and how it has "evolved from being a provider of medicines to that of a provider of care."

## New CF Rx AusPAR

**A NEW** chemical entity fixed dose combination product has had an Australian Public Assessment Report (AusPAR) posted by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Orkambi 200/125 (lumacaftor/ivacaftor) is a cystic fibrosis (CF) treatment from Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

For details see [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

## TWG expects consolidation

**TERRY** White Group (TWG), parent company of Terry White Chemists and Chemplus, has flagged further expansion of its fast-growing network, with md Anthony White saying the next year would be "transformational" for the company.

Reporting the group's \$1.84 million net profit after tax for the year to 30 Jun yesterday, White said "we expect the current consolidation in the industry to continue in the short to medium term and this will present potential future opportunities for the group."

"We are well placed and have a strong balance sheet to support further planned mergers with like-minded pharmacies to increase our market share and competitiveness, to ultimately achieve enhanced financial performance and a strengthened market position".

White said the group had enjoyed a 47% increase in revenue to \$70.51 million with net operating cash inflow up by 116 % to \$7.15m.

It also declared a final dividend of five cents per share, resulting in eight cents per share for the year, fully franked.

White said the acquisition of the Chemplus pharmacy network last year (PD 28 May 15) had been earnings accretive and delivered significant benefits to the group during the period.

The recently announced merger with Chemmart (PD 04 Aug) was "unprecedented in the Australian pharmacy industry and will deliver significant scale benefits to our pharmacy owners and their

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customers," White added.

"Our strategy is well defined and is built upon offering a strong, sustainable business model for our pharmacy owners, while continuing to increase our national footprint to deliver scale benefits and margin growth across the group," he said.

"In recent years, we have invested significantly in developing a highly sophisticated retail model to provide our pharmacy owners with a solid, diversified revenue stream to help offset ongoing PBS reforms."

"This investment, combined with our Value Health Strategy has delivered an above-market increase in like-for-like retail sales, which comprise more than half of all network sales."

White confirmed the TWG vision was to become "Australia's strongest retail pharmacy network".

## Plasma is Zika-safe

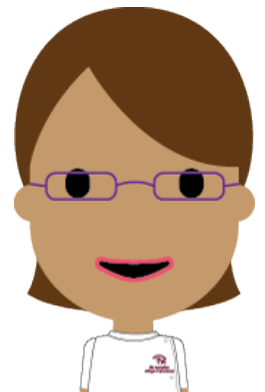
**THE** rapidly spreading Zika virus, implicated in microencephaly, has been found to not cause contamination problems in plasma or urine-derived products, the European Medicines Agency's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) has found.

The CHMP concluded at its meeting last week that the manufacturing processes for plasma-derived products, including for example the solvent/detergent method to inactivate viruses, pasteurisation (liquid heat inactivation) and virus filtration, inactivate or remove the Zika virus from the finished product.

## Armodafinil update

**NPS** MedicineWise has issued notes on Teva's newly approved Nuvigil (armodafinil), a psychostimulant that aims to improve wakefulness which is indicated for a range of sleep disorders - see [www.nps.org.au](http://www.nps.org.au).

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## Travel Specials

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## Guild blasts barriers to care

**PHARMACY** Guild executive director David Quilty has highlighted a range of "structural, policy and regulatory barriers that make it harder for sick and needy patients to access pharmacist-delivered medicine related care".

Writing in the Guild's regular Forefront update yesterday, Quilty said the barriers run counter to the government's preferred "team approach" to caring for patients with chronic conditions.

"They make no sense given how crucial medicines and medicines support are to the health and wellbeing of these patients".

Quilty cited examples such as the Private Health Insurance Rules which prevent health funds from including pharmacists in chronic disease plans for treatment.

"This is nonsensical given the vital medicine related role of community pharmacies in reducing hospital admissions and readmissions.

"Similarly, pharmacists are not currently part of the Health Care Home, although virtually all the patients in this trial will be very high users of medicines," he added.

Quilty noted that despite being the most accessible of all primary health care professionals, "the

community pharmacist is not acknowledged" in any of the key guidelines used by Primary Health Networks in implementing the Health Care Homes initiative.

He also urged the government's Medicare Benefits Scheme review to look at practical ways to improve patient access and cost-effectiveness through pharmacy.

"With community pharmacists now able to administer adult flu vaccinations in every State and Territory, it makes sense to level the playing field by providing pharmacies with access to the National Immunisation Program and relevant MBS items".

Quilty also suggested letting pharmacies order basic pathology tests, as well as including the supply of medicines plus pharmacy services in the MyHealth Record.

He said rather than seeking extra funding or expansion of pharmacists' scope of practice, the motivation for calling for the reforms is about "removing illogical roadblocks so that the accessibility of community pharmacy and the medicines expertise of pharmacists can be fully utilised to enhance patient outcomes and the cost-effectiveness of the health system".



## Dispensary Corner

**THE** petrol pump is one object you may not have realised is teeming with bacteria.

Britain's *Mirror* is reporting that filling up your car at a petrol station is more unhygienic than licking a toilet seat.

When the pump and button went under the microscope they were found to be crawling with gram-positive cocci and gram-positive rods that can cause skin infections and pneumonia.

The reason for the high level of bacteria is simple, the sheer number of hands using the pump each and every day.

Maybe it's time to pop out the antibacterial wash!



**JAPANESE** adults aren't having enough sex, according to the country's latest National Institute of Population and Social Security Research paper.

When looking at Japanese people aged between 18 and 34, the study found 42% of men and 44% of women were still virgins.

Both these figures have increased nearly 10% since the survey first began asking sex-related questions back in 1987.

The Japanese government is concerned about the increasingly celibate society and is trying to raise the nation's fertility rate.

Incentives include offering better child-care services and tax rebates for married couples.

Perhaps that changes our perceptions around "turning Japanese I really think so".

## 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 SA or NT to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

What are the two actions that CleanEars Kids performs?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Con Kouskouris from Sigma Pharmaceuticals.



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