



## Winter spotlight

**SUPPLIERS** can cost-effectively showcase their wares in **Pharmacy Daily's** upcoming Winter Spotlight feature, which kicks off next week.

The promotion features four items on a page, with insertions including an image, a brief description and a call to action for phone, email or website ordering.

To have your products included call 1300 799 220 or email Mel on [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au).

## New dermatitis course

**GUILD** Learning and Development has announced that, in partnership with skincare specialist company Ego Pharmaceuticals, it has developed a new online training module, "Quality use of topical corticosteroids in atopic dermatitis".

Pharmacy Guild of Australia national president George Tambassis said the course would provide community pharmacists with best-practice guidelines for the use of topical corticosteroids.

"The term, 'use sparingly' is no longer widely used by GPs and dermatologists," Tambassis said.

The course was designed for pharmacists within the DERMIS program - visit [myCPD.org.au](http://myCPD.org.au).

## SA cannabis script approval

**DOCTORS** in South Australia can now prescribe medicinal cannabis for some patients without requiring a section 18A authority, under new guidelines clarifying access pathways to the items.

Under this pathway patients can be supplied medicinal cannabis products prescribed by their medical specialist and dispensed by a pharmacist, with existing SA Controlled Substances legislation regulating the prescribing and

supply of Schedule 8 medicines also applying to S8 medicinal cannabis products.

Notably, under the guidelines released this week an authority is not required for patients aged 70 years or older; who are Notified Palliative Care Patients; or who are not drug dependent, for regular use for less than two months.

SA Health noted that currently medical practitioners must apply to the Commonwealth Department of Health for approval to supply and where necessary import, an unregistered medicinal cannabis product.

## Novartis HRT short

**NOVARTIS** has confirmed that supplies of hormone replacement therapy patches continue to be unreliable due to manufacturing issues, with the company anticipating a return to stable supply of items such as Estradot and Estalis by the middle of 2017.

## Antizol approval

**ANTIZOL** (fomepizol) has received regulatory approval in Australia and is now available for the treatment of methanol and ethylene glycol toxicities.

The product is distributed locally by AFT Pharmaceuticals.

## JPPR edition out

**THE** newest edition of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research* (JPPR) is now available online, with the publication including details of the first Australian case report into the side effects of nivolumab, used to treat inoperable or metastatic melanoma.

Other articles cover electronic medication management, telehealth, advanced pharmacy practice and much more - for details [CLICK HERE](#).

## Labelling standards

**A NEW** study published by the *BMJ* last week has found using standardised medicine packaging could improve efficiencies while still maintaining safety.

The Norwegian pharmacy research featured standardised medicine packaging with "prominent placement of the drug name and strength, written in black on a white background, and placed in the upper right corner of the package".

Using the redesigned labels, nurses and pharmacy technicians prepared medicines in a simulated environment, with participants working significantly faster with the standardised packaging.

The researchers said the new labels also saw error rates drop from 9.1% to 6.5% - [bmj.com](http://bmj.com).

## PBAC agenda out

**THE** Health Department has released the agenda for the Jul 2017 Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee meeting, which will consider a whopping 60-plus submissions and reports.

Comments on agenda items are solicited from stakeholders with a closing date of 07 Jun 2017 - see [www.pbs.gov.au](http://www.pbs.gov.au).



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## Dispensary Corner

### WHAT a womb!

Foetuses as young as 23 weeks could have a chance at life thanks to an 'artificial womb' or a biobag system that can keep pre-term babies alive outside of the womb.

Scientists at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia US have road tested the device with six pre-term lambs.

Unlike conventional incubators, the bag attempts to replicate the conditions in the womb, with a liquid similar to amniotic fluid that surrounds the baby.

Currently there is a one-in-three chance of survival for babies born at 23 weeks.

For babies that do survive there can be a 90% chance of developing chronic lung disease or other consequences of being born with immature organs.

There is still research to be done as, unlike human babies, lambs take five months to reach full term and are three times bigger than humans, on average.

Have a look at the amazing technology **HERE**.



**IN OTHER** reproductive news, Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya has created a Tinder profile for its northern white rhino named Sudan, among the last of his kind.

As well as perhaps a casual hook-up for the beast, the team hope to raise \$9m for research into breeding methods including IVF in an effort to save the species from extinction.

## Statins support good habits

**MIRRORING** a Swedish study which found that statin users had better dietary habits compared to non-users, new work out of Monash University has revealed smoking status, alcohol consumption and exercise level did not differ significantly between users and non-users of statins.

In addition, the study showed that statin users were 29% less likely to consume high amounts of saturated fat compared to non-users.

"It's sometimes assumed that many people take statin cholesterol

medications to substitute for a healthy diet and lifestyle, but we found no evidence of this," Dr Jenni Iilomaki of the Monash Centre for Medicine Use and Safety said.

"In fact, statin users were less likely to consume high levels of saturated fat than non-users, even after controlling for a person's cardiovascular risk factors."

The study highlights the continued importance of healthcare professionals emphasising diet and lifestyle modification when prescribing or dispensing statins.

**MEANWHILE** also out of Monash, researchers have begun to unravel the mystery of very small receptors' structure to enable the development of drugs that can target them.

The Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS) said the important element of this discovery relates to the cryo-electron microscopy methodology which has broader implications for the development of drugs to tackle a wide variety of diseases such as hypercalcemia, Paget's disease, diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis and migraine - visit [monash.edu.au](http://monash.edu.au).

## TGA under pressure

**WITH** the number of GMP Clearance Applications more than doubling from approximately 2,500 in 2010-2011 to more than 5,600 in 2015-2016, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has struggled to manage its target timeframe of 15 days per application.

Consequently the TGA has said it is increasing target timeframes for MRA GMP applications to 30 days but non-MRA GMP applications face longer delays.

Visit [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au) for details.

## Win with australis

This week Pharmacy Daily and Australis are giving away each day a set of two Bae Watch Mascaras.

Australis Bae Watch Mascara will enhance your lashes to new volumising, curling and lifting lengths. Australis Bae Watch Mascara builds and lengthens lashes without clumping, lashes are left soft yet boast intense volume. Easy to apply, the formula glides on effortlessly leaving lashes that are dark and defined thanks to the pigmented formula. Available in one shade All in One Black and RRP \$14.95. For more information head to [www.australiscosmetics.com.au](http://www.australiscosmetics.com.au).

To win, be the first person from **WA, SA** or **NT** to send the correct answer to the question below to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**What are the benefits of Bae Watch Mascara?**

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Caronwen Horne from MPS Australia.



## 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*.

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### Tauk Ships & Trips

**TAUCK** has launched its 2018 European river cruise offering, revealing it will complete its two year reconfiguration project of half its river fleet by 2018.

*Ms Treasures* and *ms Esprit* have been refurbished and capacity reduced from 118 to 98 persons each, creating a more spacious experience for all.

New itineraries on the Danube and Rhine have been released with the 14-day "Royal Danube, Berlin & Krakow" cruise starting at \$5,990 pp - call 1300 732 300.

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