

Drug name changes

THE Health Department has announced a further update to internationally harmonised ingredient names of some 200 drugs, about 90 of which are on the PBS, and most of those will be incorporated within the PBS in 2018.

Earlier this year (**PD** 05 May 17) the Department, in collaboration with professional groups, released a counselling tool on the ingredient name changes to support pharmacists and other health professionals.

Affected products can be found at tga.gov.au.

CHF signs digital deal

THE Consumers Health Forum of Australia (CHF) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Australian Digital Health Agency, with the pact aiming to ensure health consumers remain central to the design and delivery of a "digital transformed health sector" and the ongoing development of the Government's My Health Record initiative.

WattleHealth inks API deal

AUSTRALIAN-LISTED consumer food products company WattleHealth Australia (WHA) has secured a distribution agreement with Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API) to deliver the manufacturer's infant formula throughout the country.

This is the first time the WHA product will be made available to some 3,000 pharmacies serviced by API including affiliated Priceline Pharmacies, Pharmacist Advice and Soul Pattinson Chemists.

WHA said via an ASX announcement the distribution arrangement with API "provides the local market with a premium Australian made product through the pharmacy channel" increasing WattleHealth brand awareness within the domestic market and providing "significant opportunity

for international expansion".

WHA executive chairman Lazarus Karasavvidis referred to the "highly

respected pharmacy market" saying, "This will not only increase brand awareness and sales, but also the credibility of the brand which is

important as we continue to grow our distribution footprint both domestically and internationally."

MEANWHILE, ASX-listed nutritional products business Eagle Health which signed a licensing agreement with Omni Innovation in Sep (**PD** 17 Sep) has announced it has commenced shipping its Australian developed and clinically proven diabetes pre-meal shake and opened four diabetes education and experience stores in Xiamen, the company's home city.



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Winner of Product of the Year 2018
Foot Care category "Survey of 13,500 people by Nielsen."



Mavenclad approval

MERCK has welcomed the TGA approval for updated indication, dosing and safety information for Mavenclad (cladribine) tablets for the treatment of relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis.

The changes include a new name for the product, which is a short course oral therapy to reduce the frequency of MS relapses.

New CSL facility

CSL Limited has opened a new \$230 million advanced manufacturing facility at its CSL Behring site in Broadmeadows, Vic.

Created with "significant support from the Victorian Government," the project will help meet growing global demand for albumin, a protein derived from human plasma, used for burns and shock.

When fully operational, with the opening of two modules, the facility will expand CSL's albumin capabilities to 200 tonnes annually and will export product to the US and Europe as well as serving the Australian and Asia Pacific market.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Wodonga, VIC (Job# 200014120)
Good \$\$\$ on offer; Great roster; Established and professional team.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Tamworth / Moree, NSW (Job# 200015066)
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- **Pharmacist Manager** - Fraser Coast, 2.5hr to Brisbane (Job# 200015106)
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Dispensary Corner

NEW health and safety rules in Japan mean tourists doing Mario Kart tours of Tokyo must now wear seat belts.

The *Japan Times* reports the closure of a previous loophole which allowed visitors to go on the tours dressed as characters from the popular Nintendo video game without helmets, seatbelts or other safety equipment.

The new regulations are being enforced after a spate of unfortunate accidents.



SCIENCE has some disappointing news for fans of the yeti - genetic testing has found hair, teeth, skin and bones allegedly from the legendary Himalayan creature actually came from bears & dogs.

Researchers led by Charlotte Lindqvist of New York's University of Buffalo and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, analysed the DNA of the specimens selected from museums and private collections.

Lindqvist said it was the most rigorous analysis to date of yeti samples, with the genes indicating eight came from Asian black bears, Himalayan brown bears or Tibetan brown bears, while one was from a dog.

Bigfoot aficionados are looking forward to similar studies being undertaken to prove the exact opposite in the case of the gigantic, often blurrily-photographed North American bipedal mammal.

Pharmacist pay below par

WHILE some specialist medical practitioners such as psychiatrists and anaesthetists are earning \$180k to \$190k per annum, community pharmacists are on average reimbursed only \$66,955 pa for their services, behind nurses (\$71,900), dentists (\$84,411) and GPs (\$156,431) according to the latest ABS data quoted by Professional Pharmacists Australia in its latest industry remuneration report.

The report said survey respondents recorded a median annual wage growth of only 0.5%, representing a significant underperformance against the consumer price index.

Across all classifications, pharmacists in banner group pharmacies reported a mean base hourly rate of \$36.32, while pharmacists in discount pharmacies reported a mean base hourly rate of \$31.03, 14.6% lower than banner group pharmacies.

National Pharmacies pharmacists reported the highest mean base hourly rate of \$41.50 across all

classifications, while Chemist Warehouse pharmacists reported the lowest at \$30.52 across all classifications.

In relation to professional services above and beyond the preparation and dispensing of medicines, only 8.4% reported they were additionally remunerated for these services.

Just over half of the pharmacists surveyed (53.6%) were required to work through their lunch breaks, the report said, and for those pharmacists required to supervise staff during their meal

breaks, the majority did not receive compensation for doing so (59.9%).

A large majority of community pharmacists said they were not motivated to remain in the role and 84.6% said they would not recommend the profession as a career.

The greatest contributors to unhappiness across all respondents were pressure/stress of work, poor pay and inadequate staffing.

CLICK HERE to access the report.



WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away 3 x shades of the Absolute Brow Pencil – valued at \$36.

Designer Brands Absolute Brow Pencil is the do-it-all brow hero. This versatile product includes a precision, triangular tip to define and feather-in brows and an integrated spoolie to groom and shape, before and after applying. With a soft, yet smudge-proof formula this brow pencil can transform brows, adding natural-looking thickness for all day wear. Available in 3 shades; Taupe, Hickory and Chocolate.

CLICK HERE to see more.

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

Is the Absolute Brow Pencil dual ended?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Jayshree Parmar from Symbion.



TGA codeine slidesets

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) ran a series of workshops through Nov on the up-scheduling of codeine planned for 01 Feb 18 and has now posted its presentations from the Melbourne session on its website.

The presenters were Royal Melbourne Hospital's Dr Malcolm Hogg, Opioid Management Team lead Pene Wood, the Department of Health's Avi Rebera and TGA chief John Skerrett.

Visit tga.gov.au for more info.



Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

5-8 Dec: APSA-ASCEPT 2017 Joint Scientific Meeting; Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre; to register visit: www.asceptasm.com

3-10 Jan: Dental & Medical Ski Conference; Aspen, USA; for more info and to register see: www.cpdconferencing.com.au

4-5 Feb: Pharmacy Ownership Ready Conference; Gold Coast, QLD; register your interest here: www.medicri.com.au

16-18 Mar: Annual Therapeutic Update 2018; Fairmont Resort, Blue Mountains; for details and registrations visit: www.psa.org.au

3-6 May: APP 2018; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; find out more and register at: www.appconference.com