

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from Amcal+.

Probiotics study

RESEARCHERS have found that an extra dose of 'good bacteria' could be unnecessary if you have a well-rounded diet.

Professor Margaret Morris, head of Pharmacology at the University of NSW, led a team looking at the effects of western-style diets on brain function and gut bacteria.

The lab studied the impact of probiotics on rats fed for 25 days on either a healthy diet, or 'cafeteria' food such as cookies, cakes and meat pies.

In the junk food-fed rats with "grossly dysregulated" gut health the probiotics had a positive effect on the bacteria in their digestive tract, with the rats having better memory and brain function.

Intriguingly, however, for the rats that were fed a more healthy diet, the probiotics were found to have a negative effect on memory and had little impact on gut microbial diversity.

The study was published yesterday in the *Molecular Psychiatry* journal - [CLICK HERE](#).

Pharmacy GP trial extended

CANBERRA'S Capital Health Network (CHN) has announced a year-long extension of a trial examining the benefits of using non-dispensing pharmacists in three local general practices.

CHN ceo Gaylene Coulton said the first 12 months of the pilot program had already shown a number of benefits, including improving

communication between GPs and the patients' community pharmacy.

One of the GPs involved, Dr Joe Oguns from the National Health Co-Op, said advantages have included optimised prescribing, patient adherence to medications and improved health outcomes.

He said having a pharmacist in the practice had also resulted in de-prescribing unnecessary drugs, as well as identifying and avoiding medication related adverse events.

The program is being evaluated by the University of Canberra.

Willach online shop

PHARMACY automation provider Willach Australia has launched a new online shop, allowing customers to purchase accessories and consumables for Willach systems as well as other products to assist with pharmacy operations.

The portal is a global first for the Willach Group, with md John Koot saying "we are extremely proud to be launching this offering in Australia," with the company's local team constantly innovating.

"The online platform means we can realise our ideas and bring them to market quickly and easily - providing a complete range of accessories to improve the pharmacy operation and ultimately benefit our customers," Koot said.

See shop.willach.com.au.

HSD education

THE Health Department has launched new education resources for Highly Specialised Drugs (HSD), detailing the requirements for prescribing, dispensing and claiming Section 100 items.

Pharmacists are advised to ensure if their type of pharmacy is allowed to dispense the various types of HSD prescriptions, based on the authority approval, and to act on any warning or rejection messages from dispensing software.

The update also details claiming and pricing procedures - see humanservices.gov.au.

NSW Guild director

THE NSW Branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced the appointment of Caroline Argent (**pictured**) as branch director.

Argent joins the Pharmacy Guild from Engineers Australia where most recently she held the position of general manager of Strategy, Governance and Implementation.

NSW Guild branch president, Rick Samimi, said Ms Argent brought to the NSW Branch 15 years' experience of managing senior stakeholders in membership-based organisations.

"Ms Argent has been responsible for the day-to-day leadership and management of Engineers

Australia's governance, legal and risk compliance, corporate business cycle, and strategic direction and planning," Samimi said.

"She prides herself on leading by example as a senior executive and through her ethical and transparent behaviours.

"Her skills and experience will help strengthen and grow the NSW Branch during what are challenging but exciting times for the pharmacy profession in NSW."



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Dispensary Corner

AUTHORITIES in South Korea have issued a formal warning to the population not to eat river rats, warning that the vermin are definitely not safe for consumption by humans.

The move has been sparked by increased interest in the rodents, also known as coypu or nutria, because of an academic article which noted their gall bladders contained high levels of ursodeoxycholic acid - the same compound found in bear bile, which is used in some Asian traditional medicines.

A representative of the Korean environment ministry told *The Korea Times* that "the rats' gall bladders and livers can be infected with zoonotic bacteria and parasites".

Coypu have been declared an invasive species, having only been introduced to the ecosystem from South America about 30 years ago by farmers cultivating them for their fur - only to find them extremely adaptable and able to destroy large amounts of wild plants and farm produce.

So hunting of the creatures is still encouraged, with the government offering a 20,000 won bounty (about \$20) to assist with eradication efforts.

Just don't eat them once you've caught them, is the key lesson.



Two-stage penalty rates plan

THE Australian Retailers Association (ARA) has proposed a two-stage transitional pay arrangement of the Sunday penalty rate reduction.

This phased approach will allow retailers to implement the benefits of the penalty rate reduction in terms of additional hours of work and employment opportunities in a reasonable manner, the ARA said.

The proposition is to reduce the Sunday penalty rates for permanent and casual employees to 175% from 01 Jul 2017, with a second stage seeing Sunday rates for permanent employees reduced to 150% from 01 Jul 2018.

ARA executive director Russell Zimmerman said phasing in these changes would assist retailers across the industry in creating more jobs, offering additional work hours and increasing levels of service to the community.

"Based on the evidence presented to the Commission during this industry-wide case, employees in the industry would experience no, or very marginal, negative impact, as a result of this



Australian Retailers Association

phased approach," he claimed.

"Modern Awards needs to be simple, steady and easy to implement," he said, adding that the process should not impact negatively on retailers' capacity to increase employment rates and sustain growth.

"With 725,000 people out of work, including 259,000 young people, the ARA believes the reduced penalty rates will make it easier for employers to hire staff."

The controversial Fair Work Commission ruling (*PD 23 Feb*) also reduced penalty rates for hospitality and pharmacy workers.

Don't Change Me

THE TGA has warned that Change Me Herbal Slimming capsules contain the undeclared and banned product sibutramine, which was withdrawn from sale in Australia in Oct 2010 after a study showed an increased risk of cardiac events.

Supply of the product is illegal and it poses a health risk to users.

Visit tga.gov.au for details.

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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WIN WITH PLUNKETTS

This week Pharmacy Daily and Plunketts are giving away a John Plunkett Dark Spot Eraser and Facial Cleanser everyday.

New John Plunkett Dark Spot Eraser is a concentrated serum with Eventone Complex™ - a blend of multiple actives to visibly lighten pigmentation and boost your skin's health and radiance, plus it's easy to incorporate into your daily skincare routine with guaranteed results. RRP \$39.95.

Visit: www.JohnPlunkett.com.au



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

Besides lightening pigmentation, what else does Eventone Complex do?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Lorraine Brouard from Symbion.

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