

Cannabis shipment

ASX-LISTED life science company Medlab has received its first medicinal cannabis shipment from Canadian supplier Aphria.

The product has arrived at Medlab's schedule 8 Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved facility in Melbourne, representing the conclusion of the necessary health regulatory steps both in Australia and Canada

for export and import of this important ingredient for a NSW Royal North Shore Hospital trial with advanced cancer patients suffering intractable pain.

This is the first commercial export from Aphria and the trial will be the first of its kind in the pain and oncology area.

Medlab anticipates that the trial drug NanaBis, which incorporates the company's patented nano-particle medicine delivery system, should be manufactured and delivered to Royal North Shore Hospital within six weeks.

NanaBis combines the two most active ingredients in cannabis, cannabidiol (CBD) and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

The trial, classified as a Phase 1 cross-over IIa trial, combining SAD (single ascending dose) and MAD (multiple ascending dose) studies, will be supervised by University of Sydney medical oncologist, palliative medicine specialist and Professor Stephen Clarke.

Separately, Medlab has also received approvals for commencement of a trial for a second cannabis-based medicine, NanaBidal which is a CBD only product intended to treat chemotherapy-induced nausea, vomiting and seizures.

Medlab says it expects to manufacture 3,500 units of NanaBis to sufficiently cover the trial cohort.

The company, which recently announced a strategic alliance with Heritage Brands (**PD** 14 Jul) is also applying its distinctive delivery system to other medicines, nutritional products and off-patent drugs like statins.

Blackmores cans formula pact

BLACKMORES has announced the wind-up of its infant formula partnership with Bega Cheese (**PD** 30 Oct 2015), saying the companies had mutually agreed to suspend the pact after considering the performance of the business.

The announcement was detailed in a trading update from Blackmores yesterday, which also revealed a 28% uplift in profit for the three months to 30 Sep.

Newly appointed ceo Richard Henfrey said it was a "promising start to the new financial year," with the previous corresponding period seeing significant volatility and a challenging performance.

Henfrey said Blackmores had implemented a global approach to

pricing, supporting an improvement in underlying margins.

"Promotional rebates were high in the last financial year as we supported customers carrying high levels of stock...in this quarter we have returned to a more normalised trading environment".

The Blackmores ceo said Australian retail remained challenging, with continued subdued consumer sentiment, although sales in Australia continued to be boosted by strong demand from Chinese consumers.

Pharmacist reprimand

THREE pharmacists in Indiana, USA have been formally reprimanded by regulators after they tried to access the medical records of music superstar Prince shortly after he died last year.

Prince died on 21 Apr 2016 of an accidental fentanyl overdose, with the three pharmacists found to have misused Indiana's INSPECT online real-time drug monitoring system to access Prince's records.

As well as being fined, the pharmacists were ordered to complete 12 hours of "ethics education".

Drug-drug interactions

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has released two draft guidance documents that aim to help drug developers evaluate investigational new drugs for potential drug-drug interactions.

The FDA says the guidances, which will replace 2012 draft guidance entitled "Drug Interaction Studies – Study Design, Data Analysis, Implications for Dosing, and Labeling Recommendations," reflect the agency's efforts to help drug developers design drug-drug interaction studies that provide meaningful clinical information on how to manage risks when a patient is taking more than one medication.

Sali goes stratospheric

FORMER Swisse Vitamins chief executive Radek Sali (**pictured**) is launching a new media and creative agency, with Chemist Warehouse signed up as its cornerstone client and minority shareholder.

The new venture, called Stratosphere,

is being funded via Sali's investment fund Light Warrior Group, which he founded with former Goldman Sachs banker Adam Gregory, who helped sell Swisse to Hong Kong-listed Biostime for \$1.67b (**PD** 18 Sep 15), and from which, as a major shareholder, Sali took home \$250m.

The agency is being founded in partnership with Andrew Shostak, who will be Stratosphere's chief executive, and the Chemist Warehouse account is thought to be worth in excess of \$100m.



International meds standards revised

THE International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is revising a series of standards known as Identification of Medicinal Products (IDMP) standards as part of an effort to simplify the exchange of medicinal product information.

The harmonisation of terminology around medicinal product descriptions, including the product name, ingredient substances, route of administration, strength, marketing authorisation, clinical particulars, packaging and manufacture is expected to make for safer patient care and support standardised reporting of events.

Strong Q4 for Willach

PHARMACY automation specialist Willach will report a record 13 CONSIG robotic dispensers in Australia between Sep and Dec this year, with the company experiencing strong demand for its solutions.

Willach Pharmacy Solutions designed and equipped dispensaries are "shaping the workflow in more than 1,000 pharmacies across Australia as businesses search for greater efficiencies and points of difference in a crowded marketplace," the company said.

As well as the pharmacy robots, Willach is installing non-automated FAMA shelving installations at a rate of more than 150 annually, with the company currently expanding its technical and support team so it can continue to deliver high levels of service.

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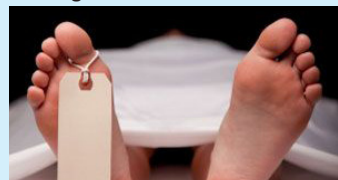
Dispensary Corner

WHAT would you pay for a human head and spine? Your answer, we hope, is nothing because you aren't a serial killer.

But believe it or not, the buying and selling of human parts is big business in the United States, with "body broking" responsible for shipping more than 182,000 parts across the country between 2011-15.

And who are the buyers of these carefully sliced and diced cadavers I hear you enquire meekly? Well, universities and medical institutions top the list, citing a need for the body parts to conduct research and training.

It would seem the practice is not likely to stop anytime soon either, with demand continuing to grow and medical training organisations claiming it ranks 'head and shoulders' above alternative training methods.



EXERCISING at the gym is designed to work up a good sweat, but perhaps that's not always such a great idea – especially for one woman in Italy who sweats blood!

The condition is referred to as haematohidrosis, an extremely rare disorder which sees patients spontaneously sweat blood through unbroken skin.

The cure may be hard to come by, with doctors admitting a lot of blood, sweat and tears will be needed to solve the peculiar medical condition.

PA pain meds training

WITH pharmacy assistants (PAs) so often at the frontline of customer facing interactions around pain medication queries, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia have collaborated to create a course of training for PAs in preparation for the 01 Feb 2018 S4 rescheduling of codeine containing medicines.

Community pharmacies need to plan for and manage this change, the Guild and PSA said, and pharmacy assistants are an important part of implementing the protocols and practices developed to assist customers with their pain management needs.

The resultant program comprises five modules to help pharmacy assistants understand this change and help the estimated more than one million affected patients.

The first of these modules 'Scheduling changes: Managing the transition to Prescription Only Medicines' has been approved for 30 minutes of QCPP Refresher Training - go to myCPD.org.au.

CMA welcomes Chinese delegates

COMPLEMENTARY Medicines Australia (CMA) has hosted a Chinese delegation in Australia for several industry events this week, which have provided the opportunity to showcase the capabilities of the Australian complementary medicine sector.



that is regarded as one of the strongest in the world, and that our products hold a global reputation for exceptional quality and safety standards."



"Trade with international markets is crucial

The group took part in CMA's Innovation Seminar & Supplier Expo, Annual Conference and Industry Awards, with CMA ceo Carl Gibson saying the delegation "provides the ability to promote greater engagement between Chinese stakeholders and members of the Australian complementary medicines industry.

"The demand for complementary medicines is growing rapidly in China as an increasingly health-conscious population take a strong interest in their health and wellbeing," he said.

"We are fortunate that Australia's complementary medicines industry is backed by a regulatory regime

for the long term prosperity of the Australian complementary medicines industry, and China, in particular, is a very significant trading partner," Gibson concluded.

The engagement with China was supported by the Australian government through the Australia-China Council of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



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.

16-19 Nov: Medicines Management Conference 2017; ICC Sydney; register here: www.shpa.org.au

19 Nov: Victorian Pharmacist Immunisation Training Program; PSA Boardroom, Level 1; register here: www.psa.org.au

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

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

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