

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news including our regular Health & Beauty feature.

New PSA module

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has partnered with the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League to launch a new online training course for pharmacists to help them support people who use drugs.

The platform is designed to enhance communication and understanding between pharmacists and people who use illicit drugs.

Learning modules feature a number of podcasts which follow the experiences of patients who use drugs.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info.

Zika vax fast track

TAKEDA Pharmaceutical Company has announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted Fast Track designation to TAK-426.

TAK-426 is Takeda's purified, inactivated, alum-adjuvanted, whole Zika virus vaccine candidate.

The FDA's Fast Track designation is a process designed to facilitate the development and expedite the review of drugs and vaccines for serious conditions and that fill an unmet medical need.

Takeda's Zika vaccine candidate is currently being studied in a Phase 1 trial (ZIK-101) and if initial data is supportive, a phase 2 development will commence ASAP.

\$1.58 billion Sirtex takeover

ASX listed liver cancer biotechnology specialist Sirtex Medical is set to be acquired by Varian Medical Systems with an all-cash offer priced at \$28 per share.

Sirtex develops oncology treatments using "microspheres", with the firm saying Varian's offer was one of several unsolicited bids in the last year.

The offer is a 49% premium on the Sirtex share price, with ceo Andrew McLean saying under new ownership the business is set to further expand.

Varian has about 6,500 staff and specialises in radiotherapy and proton therapy cancer treatments.

The deal is the culmination of a

roller-coaster ride for Sirtex which last year wrote down the value of its intangible clinical assets by \$90 million and saw its chief medical officer depart the company.

Varian ceo Dow Wilson said buying the Australian business was the latest step in Varian's long-term strategy to become "a global leader in multi-disciplinary integrated cancer care solutions".

'Armies' on codeine

AUSTRALIAN Medical Association president Michael Gannon has warned that there are "armies of people out there, even if they don't realise it, who are dependent on codeine".

Gannon was interviewed about the 01 Feb upscheduling of OTC codeine products on a Sydney radio station yesterday, and noted that it was "going to be very difficult" for these codeine addicts in the next few days.

Last week the AMA president slammed the new Pain MedsCheck program, in a Trump-style tweet accusing Health Minister Greg Hunt of "another slap in the face for GPs".

Free postgrad UK pharmacy courses

HEALTH Education England has announced the availability of up to 2,000 post-registration training places for community pharmacists, in an initiative to be paid for the government's Pharmacy Integration Fund which aims to help transform the role of pharmacy in the UK.

Courses will be offered at Bath, Manchester, Keele, Exeter and De Montfort universities, with options including 'introduction to pharmacy public health services,' 'applied therapeutics' and 'mental health' worth up to 60 credits - equivalent to a postgraduate certificate in pharmacy.

The funding does not cover supervision or remuneration for study time and participating pharmacists must be sponsored by a pharmacy to access the modules.

Pharmacy Connect

EARLYBIRD registration is now available for this year's Pharmacy Connect conference, which is scheduled to take place at Sydney's Hilton Hotel from 07-09 Sep.

The three day educational event will also include post-conference workshops, 50-plus trade exhibition stands and networking opportunities for all - for details see pharmacyconnect.com.au.

ASMI executive move

AFTER nearly seven years with the Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI), Director of Marketing & Business Development Filomena Maiese is departing to take up her new role as Executive Director of Portfolio Strategy and Innovation across all regions for major pharmaceutical company iNova.

Her last day with ASMI will be tomorrow 01 Feb.

Are you ready for the upscheduling of codeine? Make sure you've got PAINmate on your shelf...

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Pharmacy Daily



Dispensary Corner

A **FUNERAL** parlour in the United States has found a novel way of attracting new business - offer prospective cadavers a free pizza with the lot!

The Krause Funeral Home sent out thousands of postcards to people with the offer of a free pie if they come in and chat about planning their own death.

Offering potential clients the chance to chow down on a meal packed with salty, saturated fatty goodness while discussing their own mortality - well that's just incentive marketing at its best.



THE HARMLESS pursuit of some novelty sauna hats has gone horribly wrong for one woman shopping on Amazon who instead received a Cuban cancer drug made from scorpion venom.

After Meagan Day purchased the item from a user in the Ukraine going by the highly dubious handle "RussianBear", the package finally arrived a month later packed full of vials filled with a strange blue liquid.

As strange as injecting scorpion venom may sound as a treatment for cancer, it still makes more sense than intentionally donning weird headwear in the sauna.

Day recently vented her frustration about the erroneous item on Twitter.

"I just wanted to schvitz in style, now I'm an illegal venom owner," she complained.

Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy. Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Clarifying Shampoo - Moroccanoil

Moroccanoil **Clarifying Shampoo** is designed to remove build-up from styling products, hard water and mineral deposits such as chlorine. Cleansing the hair and scalp thoroughly, it is perfect for use prior to a colour, perm or chemical treatment. The formula nourishes and replenishes the hair by restoring elasticity, health and softness for easier manageability when styling. This product specifically targets unwanted deposits leaving the hair fresh and free-flowing, ready for any further treatment or ready-to-go as-is.

Stockist: 1300 437 436
RRP: \$37.95
Website: www.moroccanoil.com



Bridal & Baby Nail Polish



Say It With Polish **Bridal & Baby** is a nail polish collection presented in five pastel shades. The high quality formula is 'five-free', meaning it doesn't contain any nasty ingredients like toluene, DBP, formaldehyde, formaldehyde resin or camphor. Each bottle is Australian made and certified vegan and cruelty-free by Cruelty Free Australia. Shades include: Be My Maid of Honour? – Kiss & Tell (nude pink), Be My Bridesmaid? – Kiss & Tell (nude pink), Be Our Flower Girl? – Kiss & Tell (nude pink), It's a Girl! – Lady Like (light pink) and It's a

Boy! – Savvy Blue (light blue).

Stockist: Major Wholesalers
RRP: \$20.00
Website: www.sayitwithpolish.com.au

New York Playboy

Just in time for Valentine's Day, this woody, masculine fragrance, **New York** by Playboy, opens with an initial burst of aldehydes and zesty limes blended with vinyl accords. The fragrance heart is built around crisp green apple, in honour of the Big Apple, and layered with spicy notes of elemi and black pepper. Finally it settles on a woody base of vetiver, mellow tonka bean and rich vanilla. The New York Playboy bottle is tinted purple and is round in shape, resembling a flask.

Stockist: 1800 812 663
RRP: \$12.95 - 50mL
Website: www.coty.com



Lavish Lip Oil by DB Cosmetics



Designer Brands (DB) Cosmetics brings its **Lavish Lip Oil**, a nourishing and hydrating formula which melts into the lips for a stunning glossy finish. The highly pigmented oils are presented in five juicy shades to suit a variety of skin tones and the full range of possible social occasions. The product includes an easy-to-use cushion applicator, is non-drying and non-sticky. Lavish Lip Oil by DB Cosmetics provides the ultimate handbag hero, perfect for on-the-go touch ups. As with all DB products, Lavish Lip Oil has not been tested on animals and is

guaranteed vegan.

Stockist: 03 8544 8000
RRP: \$11.99
Website: www.dbcosmetics.com.au