

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus the latest MIMS Update.

## Monash shines



**MONASH** University has for the second consecutive year achieved 2nd place ranking in the QS annual Top Universities ranking for Pharmacy & Pharmacology.

Second only to Harvard University in the US, Monash came in ahead of the Cambridge and Oxford Universities, UK.

These top four were followed by California, Nottingham, UCL (London), Singapore, King's College London and Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, all in the top 10.

## CBA urges pay increases

**THE** Commonwealth Bank's national head of healthcare, Cameron Ziebell, says he believes remuneration for employed pharmacists will need to be reviewed "to ensure overall business performance is aligned with the owner".

Ziebell was commenting in the latest CommBank Pharmacy Insights update, produced in partnership with UTS and based on data produced through its annual UTS Pharmacy Barometer.

The report says optimism in Australian pharmacy has reached record highs, with less pharmacy owners (about a third of the total) expecting the values of their pharmacies to fall over the next three years, while 25% anticipate average value growth of 17.5%.

However Ziebell noted the contrast of sentiment between owners, managers and employed pharmacists, with owners significantly more bullish.

"This may in part be due to

relatively stagnant remuneration growth weighing on sentiment among employed pharmacists, with most owners leaving this unchanged," the CBA exec said.

The report says the "increasingly negative view on the viability of community pharmacy among employed pharmacists may need to be addressed to maximise workplace satisfaction and ensure that capable pharmacists continue to remain in the industry".

Ziebell noted that pharmacy managers are key stakeholders "and should be incentivised accordingly".

## My Chemist tops Jan satisfaction ratings

**NEW** figures from Roy Morgan Research indicate the My Chemist brand produced the highest satisfaction rating among customers in Jan 2018.

The monthly figures are based on a rolling sample of 9,269 consumers between Feb 2017 and Jan 2018.

Discount Drug Stores was in second place, followed by Guardian Pharmacy, Priceline Pharmacy and then Terry White Chemmart in fifth position for the month.

## Rural pharmacy video competition opens

**AS PART** of the I Love Rural Pharmacy (#loveruralpharmacy) theme of the Rural Pharmacy Forum at APP2018, rural and remote pharmacists and their staff are invited to submit a 30-45 second video about their work and experiences in their unique pharmacies.

The extended theme this year is "Come Work With Me" (#comeworkwithme), which gives scope for contestants to highlight to the audience why they should consider working in rural and remote pharmacy.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia national president George Tambassis said this year's competition would again give rural and remote pharmacies and their staff the chance to share their enthusiasm and passion.

"The videos will give pharmacies the chance to show just why working in these areas is so attractive and rewarding."

If using a mobile phone video function, contestants may benefit from video tips at [guild.org.au](http://guild.org.au).

Entrants must be an employee or an owner of a PhARIA 4-6 pharmacy - entries close 01 Apr.

## EBOS buys Gran's

**EBOS** Group's Endeavour Consumer Health has announced the purchase of well-known NZ footcare brand Gran's Remedy.

The acquisition follows its purchase last year of Nature's Synergy and the company says it further strengthens Endeavour's trans-Tasman business.

Endeavour Consumer Health executive gm Andrew Vidler said, "Gran's Remedy is an iconic NZ brand, which has performed strongly over many years."

"Today, the brand also has significant sales in many international markets."

Gran's Remedy was established in Dunedin more than 30 years ago and is now widely available in retail outlets across the country.

"Gran's Remedy bolsters Endeavour's business portfolio, which already includes recognised brands such as Red Seal and Nature's Kiss Antiflamme, and extends our vision to become a leading consumer health business across Australia & NZ," Vidler said.



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**Flo Sinus Care helps relieve nasal and sinus congestion from colds, hay fever, allergies or sinusitis.**

\*Source: IMS Health Data, Dec 2017. Always read the label. Use only as directed. Consult your healthcare practitioner if symptoms persist.

# OVER THE COUNTER CODEINE CHANGES TO SUPPLY

## Information and resources for Pharmacists



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## Letter to the editor

**THE** controversy over the new list of permitted indications for complementary medicines (PD 09 Feb) is continuing, with the Friends of Science in Medicine's Ken Harvey providing the following response to Carl Gibson, ceo of Complementary Medicines Australia.

*In Pharmacy Daily (22/02/18) Carl Gibson (CEO) CMA said: 'Friends of Science wants our industry dead, they don't respect traditional evidence claims, they are culturally insensitive and now they want to restrict weight loss products as we face a public health crisis with obesity.'*

*As an executive member of FSM, I dispute Carl's assertion.*

*FSM acknowledges that Australia is a multicultural and pluralistic society and we support access to traditional and complementary medical products.*

*However, many civil society organisations including Choice, CHF, RACGP and FSM are concerned that the TGA's final list of permitted indication contains 876 (86%) of 1019 indications / claims that can be supported by 'traditional' evidence.*

*This is likely to result in a flood of products for alternative medical traditions such as Traditional Chinese Medicine, Ayurveda, Western Herbalism and Homeopathy.*

*This also allows manufacturers to evade the need to have scientific evidence to support any claims made, endorses pseudoscience and will confuse and mislead consumers with products that claim to 'soften hardness', 'tonify kidney essence' and 'open body orifices'.*

*Finally, FSM would be grateful if Mr Gibson could provide the evidence that complementary medicines promoted for weight loss, such as 'Fatblaster', 'Fat Magnet' and 'Reducta' have a role in reducing the obesity epidemic.*

*Dr Ken Harvey AM  
School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine  
Monash University, Melbourne.*

We welcome your letters - send to [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

## PSA blasts ACA methadone report

### FOLLOWING

a story on Channel 9's *A Current Affair* this week beating up the issue of patients taking methadone putting drivers at risk from car accidents, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) national president Shane Jackson has supported Australian pharmacists with some clarity on the subject.

"Patients receiving methadone are receiving treatment, not a fix, and can drive – and perform other tasks safely – when they are stabilised on treatment.

"A number of studies show people appropriately treated on methadone – who are not taking unprescribed drugs or alcohol – don't have a greater risk of having a car accident," Jackson explained

"Pharmacists are frustrated by the negative external perception towards people who are seeking help and treatment for drug dependency."

Jackson emphasised that



pharmacists operate under Standard 16 of PSA's Professional Practice Standards (PPS), delivering harm minimisation services to

reduce drug-related harm to the patient and the community.

Included in this standard are opioid substitution treatment and needle and syringe programs.

"Irresponsible and incorrect reporting on drug dependency further deters people seeking life-saving help for drug addiction," the PSA president concluded

## Bubs rides dragon

**ASX-LISTED** goat-dairy infant nutrition company Bubs Australia has announced its results for the six months to 31 Dec, reporting both strong domestic numbers as well as a "greatly expanded" e-Commerce distribution capacity for its emergent China business.

Gross sales almost doubled to \$3.72m, however the acquisition of NuLac Foods, capital raising and administration to support the growth led to a statutory loss before tax of \$3.85m.

In Jul, the company announced a partnership with HealthOne, leading to growth in pharmacy sales by 459%, with Chemist Warehouse also taking up the range.

A significant boost to domestic retail distribution has been achieved, the company added, with stock already in Costco, Aldi, and Coles supermarkets and soon to appear on Woolworths shelves.

## E.coli resistance

**THE** bacterium *Escherichia coli* (E. coli), often thought of as a stomach bug, is in fact the most common bacterial cause of potentially dangerous bloodstream infections – and new data shows it is becoming more resistant to antibiotics.

A report published this week by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care shows E. coli heads the list of bacteria found to cause bloodstream infections, accounting for 4,106 of the 11,163 cases (36.8%) reported to a national surveillance system.

Nearly one in eight E. coli samples (12.7%) showed reduced susceptibility to the antibiotics ceftriaxone and ciprofloxacin, the report said.

## 145 year-old pharmacy to close

**IT'S** the end of an era for an Australian pharmacy icon, with Sydney's Soul Pattinson Chemist on Pitt Street Mall set to close its doors after 145 years of trading.

The building which houses the pioneering pharmacy has been sold to private retail investment group Kingvest, according to a *Fairfax Media* report.

The property, long held by Washington H Soul Pattinson and Company, is reportedly changing hands for around \$100 million.

Retail landlord Victor Comino owns Kingvest and also has the Apple, Telstra and Louis Vuitton stores in his highly prized portfolio.

With infrastructure improvements in the precinct and high retailer



demand, the mall now commands some of the highest rents in the world at rates between \$12,000 and \$15,000 per square metre, according to JLL's Simon Rooney.



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### Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist** - Riverlands, SA (Job# 200015340)  
\$40/h + relocation + rental assistance. Great opportunity for new reg!!!
- **Pharmacist** - Strathbogie Ranges, VIC (Job# 200014565)  
Modern Pharmacy offering a flexible roster. Make your own hours!!!
- **Pharmacist** - South Coast, WA (Job# 200015048)  
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## Dispensary Corner

**APPARENTLY** our reactions to specific body odours can dictate our political preferences.

That's the conclusion drawn by researchers in the Smell Laboratory at Stockholm University, finding that people who are easily disgusted by smelly human fluids like urine and sweat are more likely to vote for authoritarian political leaders.

"Disgust is a basic emotion that helps us survive," said one of the lead researchers on the project Jonas Olofsson.

The research concludes that people with a strong instinct to distance themselves from unpleasant smells also prefer a society where groups of people are kept separate.

The study begs the question though: what sort of person actually enjoys the smell of sweat and urine?

I might prefer a Trump supporter over that weirdo.



**ONLY** one out of every 400 deliveries result in identical twins, so you might need to get the calculator out to figure out the odds of this next story.

A set of identical twin sisters are set to wed their respective fiancés in the US state of Virginia, oh, and their husbands are also identical twin brothers so they are holding a joint wedding this summer.

This nuptial might be a tough one to keep track of, better not make this one a joint honeymoon.

## ACT joins free kids vax club

**THE** Australian Capital Territory has followed Queensland, NSW and Victoria with the introduction of free influenza vaccinations for Canberra children aged between six months and five years this winter.

ACT Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Meegan Fitzharris, said the free immunisations would be available from GPs as well as any of the ten ACT Maternal and Child Health Immunisation Clinics, effective from Apr 2018.

"Offering this free vaccine for children between six months and five years will ensure more people, particularly those at greatest risk, are protected from the flu this winter," Fitzharris said.

She joined her interstate counterparts in urging the Federal Government to "step up to the plate and put this on the National Immunisation Program".

Fitzharris said the ACT was focusing on younger children due to their higher risk of flu-related complications such as middle ear

infections, pneumonia and seizures.

About 25,000 ACT children will be eligible for the free vaccination under the new program.

Fitzharris noted that children receiving the vaccine for the first time would require two doses at least four weeks apart.

"Given the flu season usually occurs during winter and spring, parents are urged to get their child vaccinated when the vaccine becomes available from April prior to the flu season," she added.

## Not so much help

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised that a product labelled "Help 100% & Pure Natural & Body Slim Capsules" poses a serious risk to health.

Testing found the capsules contained the undeclared substance sibutramine which was withdrawn in 2010 after a study showed an increased risk of major cardiac events.

## Win with Dermal Therapy

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Dermal Therapy are giving away a selection of the pictured products to the value of \$30.



Dermal Therapy Lip Balm is clinically tested to be fast acting providing visible results in 1 day to dry and chapped lips. The concentrated formula contains a synergistic blend of ingredients designed to soften and alleviate severe dryness and discomfort, keeping them smooth and healthy all year round. Dermal Therapy Lip Balm is also ultra- moisturising providing intensive hydration to severely dry and chapped lips. Visit [www.dermaltherapy.com.au](http://www.dermaltherapy.com.au) to find out more.

To win, be the first from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**True or False? Dermal Therapy Lip Balm is suitable for severely dry and chapped lips.**

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Lusi Sheehan from Pharmacy 777 Applecross Village.*

## AHPRA Perth closure

**THE** Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has advised that its Perth office in Hay St Subiaco will be closed next Mon 05 Mar 2018, due to the WA Labour Day public holiday.

The office will reopen at 9am on Tue 06 Mar, the agency added.



## 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](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**16-18 Mar:** Annual Therapeutic Update 2018; Fairmont Resort, Blue Mountains; for details and registrations visit: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**16-18 Mar:** Foundation Seminar in Clinical Medication Management; Rydges Sydney; register here: [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au)

**21-22 Mar:** eMedication Management Conference; Raddison Blu Plaza Sydney; book your spot at: [www.informa.com.au](http://www.informa.com.au)

**3-6 May:** APP 2018; Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre; find out more and register at: [www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com)

**27 May-8 Jun:** 43rd PSA Offshore Refresher Conference; San Francisco; travel information and registrations at: [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

**30 May - 1 Jun:** National Medicines Symposium (NMS) 2018; National Convention Centre, Canberra; registrations now open: [www.nps.org.au](http://www.nps.org.au)

## New Products

- **Cabometyx (cabozantinib)** inhibits multiple receptor tyrosine kinases implicated in tumour growth and angiogenesis, and metastatic progression of cancer. Cabozantinib is an inhibitor of MET (hepatocyte growth factor receptor protein) and VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor) receptors. In addition, cabozantinib inhibits other tyrosine kinases including AXL, RET, ROS1, TYRO3, MER, KIT, TRKB, FLT3 and TIE-2. Cabometyx is indicated for the treatment of advanced renal cell carcinoma in adults following prior treatment with VEGF targeted therapy. Cabometyx 20 mg, 40 mg and 60 mg tablets are available in packs of 30.
- **Fluzone High-Dose (inactivated trivalent influenza vaccine (split virion))** contains 180 microgram haemagglutinin (HA) per 0.5 mL dose in the recommended ratio of 60 microgram HA of each of the three strains recommended for the 2018 influenza season: A/Michigan/45/2015 X-275, A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019/2016 NIB-104, and B/Phuket/3073/2013 (Yamagata lineage). Fluzone High-Dose is indicated for active immunisation against influenza disease caused by influenza virus types A and B contained in the vaccine for use in persons 65 years of age and older. Fluzone High-Dose is available as a 0.5 mL single dose, prefilled syringe in packs of 5.

## New Indications

- **Abilify Maintena (aripiprazole)** is now indicated as monotherapy for maintenance treatment to prevent the recurrence of manic or mixed episodes of bipolar I disorder in adults.
- **Keytruda (pembrolizumab (rch))** is now indicated as monotherapy for the treatment of locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma in patients who have received platinum containing chemotherapy, and in patients not eligible for cisplatin containing therapy.
- **Orencia (abatacept (rch))** is now indicated for the treatment of active psoriatic arthritis in adults when the response to previous disease modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) therapy has been inadequate. Orencia can be used with or without non-biologic DMARDs.
- **Stivarga (regorafenib)** is now indicated for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma in patients who have been previously treated with sorafenib.
- **Victoza (liraglutide (rys))** is now indicated as an adjunct to diet and exercise for treatment of adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus to achieve glycaemic control as monotherapy when metformin is contraindicated or is not tolerated. When indicated to improve glycaemic control, Victoza is now also indicated to reduce the risk of cardiovascular events in patients at high cardiovascular risk, as an adjunct to standard of care therapy.
- **Vyvanse (lisdexamfetamine dimesilate)** is now indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe binge eating disorder in adults when non-pharmacological treatment is unsuccessful or unavailable. Treatment should be commenced and managed by a psychiatrist, and is indicated as part of a total treatment program that optimally includes other measures (nutritional, psychological and medical) for patients with this disorder.

## New Contraindications

- **Acarizax (house dust mites *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus* and *Dermatophagoides farinae* standardised allergen extract)** is now contraindicated in patients with active or poorly controlled immune defects.
- **Burinex (bumetanide)** is now contraindicated with hepatic encephalopathy.
- **Diane-35 ED, Juliet-35 ED (cyproterone acetate/ethinylestradiol), Qlaira (dienogest/estradiol valerate), Valette (dienogest/ethinylestradiol) and Yaz (drospirenone/ethinylestradiol)** are now contraindicated with risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE), including known hereditary or acquired predisposition for VTE (such as activated protein C resistance (including factor V Leiden), antithrombin III deficiency, protein C or S deficiency), major surgery with prolonged immobilisation, or a high risk of VTE due to the presence of multiple risk factors. Diane-35 ED, Juliet-35 ED, Qlaira, Valette and Yaz are now also contraindicated with risk of arterial thromboembolism (ATE), including known hereditary or acquired predisposition for ATE (such as antiphospholipid antibodies (e.g. anticardiolipin, lupus anticoagulant) and hyperhomocysteinaemia), or a high risk of ATE due to multiple risk factors or to the presence of one serious risk factor such as severe hypertension or severe dyslipoproteinaemia.
- **Movapo PFS (apomorphine hydrochloride hemihydrate)** is now contraindicated for children and adolescents under 18 years of age.
- **Nurofen Plus (ibuprofen/codeine phosphate hemihydrate)** is now contraindicated with active or a history of recurrent peptic ulcer/haemorrhage (two or more distinct episodes of proven ulceration or bleeding); severe hepatic impairment; concomitant treatment with monoamine oxidase inhibitors or within 14 days of stopping treatment; perioperative pain treatment in setting of coronary artery bypass surgery.
- **Renitec (enalapril maleate)** is now contraindicated in combination with a neprilysin inhibitor (e.g. sacubitril). Do not administer Renitec within 36 hours of switching to or from sacubitril/valsartan, a product containing a neprilysin inhibitor.