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**Today's issue of PD**  
Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus the latest MIMS Monthly Update.

## Mundipharma adds Pentrox to portfolio

**MUNDIPHARMA** today announced it has entered an exclusive distribution agreement with Medical Developments International Limited (MVP) for the non-opioid pain medication Pentrox (methoxyflurane). Pentrox is self-administered through a custom-built inhaler under the supervision of a treating healthcare provider, with pain relief starting in six-10 breaths. The medication is indicated for short-term relief of moderate to severe pain, associated with trauma or interventional medical procedures in conscious patients.

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References: 1. Ludwig M et al. Respir. Res 2013; 14:124. 2. Koenigshofer M et al. Multidiscip. Respir. Med. 2014; 9:57. 3. Fazekas T et al. BMC Complement. Altern. Med. 2012; 12:147. AU-5311 05/2019

## Pharmacy biologics push

THE Department of Health has confirmed that effective from this month community pharmacists are able to substitute the biosimilar version of etanercept for patients who are prescribed Enbrel. The "a-flagging" of etanercept is being reinstated, allowing pharmacist substitution for patients who present at the pharmacy with a Written Authority script for subsequent continuing treatment with Enbrel 50mg/ml. The a-flag for etanercept at the initial and first continuing phases of treatment under Written Authority remains unchanged.

Dispensing software now reflects the 01 Jun change for etanercept 50mg/ml, injection 4 x 1ml syringe and etanercept 50mg/ml injection 4 x 1ml pen device. MSD has welcomed the change, which means that its Brenzys can be substituted subject to the new requirements, unless "brand substitution not permitted" has been marked by the doctor. MSD Australia Specialty Care Director, Margie Austin, said "this is an important change that reflects the Government's confidence in biosimilars and its commitment to support uptake of these medicines". She noted that since Apr 2018 over 8,000 Australians have been receiving etanercept each month

## FWC approves EBA

**HEALTH** professionals are set for a boost after the Fair Work Commission (FWC) approved a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement. The new Health Professionals EBA will come into force effective from Wed 05 Jun, having received the backing of 91.8% of workers who cast their ballot. Union group, Professional Pharmacists Australia noted that a commitment had been secured to ensure workers receive the new pay rates from Thu 30 May, with back pay to be paid on Thu 13 Jun. All other conditions of the new EBA, including professional development and new flexible working arrangements will come into effect tomorrow.

through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. "This is a substantial group of patients that pharmacists can engage to discuss the potential for brand substitution through a-flagging," she said. Austin noted that Brenzys currently holds a 17% share of the etanercept market in unit terms. The a-flagging of etanercept has been reinstated for eligible patients with severe psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, severe active rheumatoid arthritis or severe chronic plaque psoriasis.

## Tipping winners

**CONGRATULATIONS** to this week's winners of the *Pharmacy Daily* Footy Tipping competitions. Sharyn McErlean from the Pharmacy Guild took out the top spot in the NRL tipping for Round 12 this week, while the top tipper in AFL's Round 11 was April Pearce from Queensland Health. The top tipper in each code across the season will win \$1,000 gift card courtesy of Guild Digital - more details at [pharmacydaily.com.au](http://pharmacydaily.com.au).



## Docs urged to share workload

**DOCTORS** need to stop focusing on "guarding their patch" and let other trained health professionals ease their workloads, a former Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch President believes. Responding to a study which put the cost of physician burnout in the US at US\$4.6 billion per annum, ex-Guild NSW Branch President, Rick Samimi, urged Australian doctors to share the burden of healthcare before they run out of steam. "Doctors should stop guarding their patch and allow other health professionals, such as pharmacists, optometrists and nurses to treat more minor conditions, and provide service which [would] free up doctors to address more complex diagnostic conditions they are trained to do," he said. The study, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, found many

doctors suffered burnout due to the impact of the increasing bureaucracy they face in their roles. Speaking to US broadcaster, *NPR (National Public Radio)*, one of the study's authors, Professor of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Lotte Dyrbye said, "Everybody who goes into medicine knows that it's a stressful career and that it's a lot of hard work". "We want to be able to deliver good quality care to our patients, and our systems get in the way. "[However], there is a general sense of loss of meaning [to the work]," she said. Dyrbye warned the US\$4.6 billion estimated cost of burnout was conservative, only accounting for lost hours and turnover, but not factoring the cost of potential malpractice cases and other indirect costs of burnout.

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## Rural cadetship launch



**DIRECT** Chemist Outlet has announced the official launch of a new Rural Cadetship Program, which provides financial support and hands-on opportunities for pharmacists to build their skills in pharmacy practice.

Applications are now open for the 2019 Direct Chemist Outlet Rural Cadetship Program, which aims to pave the way for students to become successful pharmacists and enjoy opportunities for career advancement.

The initiative was unveiled by Jessica Burrey from Direct Chemist Outlet, Emerald Pharmacy Services, at a Rural Information Evening hosted by the Queensland Pharmacy Students' Association on Wed 29 May.

Burrey, who was a 2019 Guild Pharmacy of the Year Finalist, highlighted the need to develop and engage students to undertake pharmacy as a career choice.

"We have a responsibility to create awareness and value around our important and expanding role as members of the primary

healthcare team and to develop future pharmacists to enable them to drive progress within the industry and positively impact patient health outcomes.

"Investing in students and Early Career Pharmacists through mentoring and developing career pathways is imperative to continuing viability and growth of the pharmacy industry, and an area we are continuing to advance at Direct Chemist Outlet," she said.

Speakers at the event included existing University of Queensland students sharing their experiences of rural placement, including Gabe Upton, TROPHIQ Pharmacy representative; NAPSA Rural and Indigenous Chair Cathryn Carlisle; Stephanie Mathews from South Queensland Rural Health; Lucy Walker of Goondiwindi Terry White Chemmart; and Jessica Burrey.

Further information regarding the cadetship, student placements and internship through the Direct Chemist Outlet group can be obtained via email to [careers@directchemistoutlet.com.au](mailto:careers@directchemistoutlet.com.au).

## PBS Jun update

**THE** Department of Human Services has updated the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) website with its additions, deletions and alterations, including the PBS access to a-flagged Brenzys (etanercept - see [page 1](#)).

The one new item exempt from statutory price reductions for this month is hydromorphone oral liquid 1mg/mL.

The update also details formulary allocations, ex-manufacturer prices, items exempt from statutory price reductions and drugs subject to price disclosure - visit the PBS site for full details at [pbs.gov.au](http://pbs.gov.au).

## Eating disorder grant

**THE** Federal Government has announced \$5 million in funding for "ground-breaking research into the early detection, diagnosis and treatment of eating disorders".

Health Minister, Greg Hunt, said one million Australians live with an eating disorder, with the projects funded including a specific focus on using digital solutions to prevent the onset of eating disorders, and on transforming the health system to enable earlier intervention.

The money is part of the \$125m Million Minds Mission which aims to enrol a million additional people in new mental health programs.

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## Dispensary Corner

**SPORTING** endeavours clearly start early in Lithuania, where last week 25 infants competed in the 20th annual Baby Race.

A special 5m-long red carpet was used for the event staged by a Vilnius radio station as a commemoration of International Children's Day which apparently happens on 01 Jun each year.

Ardent supporters of the competitors reportedly waved toys and banged tins of baby food to encourage the tiny competitors who were aged 7 to 11 months, according to *Reuters*.

Although several of the tots just sat down and looked around at all the commotion, one persevered to take the crown, an 11 month old boy called Ignas.



### JUMPING for joy?

Pogo sticks are being touted as a fitness-inducing alternative to electric scooters and bikes, with a Swedish mobility start-up called Cangaroo planning to launch the "on-demand" micro-transportation option this year.

Initially set to debut in Copenhagen, the company has also flagged a launch in London and San Francisco, with founder Adam Mikkelsen saying the on-demand bouncers can be used to get around, but also keep jumpers motivated by counting each jump.

## Pharmacy good for heart

A VISIT to the local pharmacy every week is good for medication adherence in elderly patients with a history of heart failure, a European study reveals.

Results from the PHARM-CHF trial released at the European Society of Cardiology scientific congress, Heart Failure 2019, highlighted the important role pharmacists play in boosting quality use of medicines.

As part of the trial, patients were directed to take their medications to a pharmacist for a medication review, during which the pharmacist assessed any potential adverse drug interactions and double-ups of medications.

The pharmacist discussed any changes with the patients' treating physician and patients received their medications in dose administration aid pillboxes with compartments for mornings, afternoons and evenings.

Co-author of the study, Professor Martin Schulz, from the Department of Pharmacy at Freie Universitat Berlin, revealed the

patients' medication adherence had jumped from 44% at the beginning of the study period to 86% by the conclusion.

"Adhering to a complex medication regimen is hugely challenging for elderly patients with heart failure," he said.

"It's estimated that 30-50% of patients in Europe are non-adherent to heart failure medications, which results in increased frequency and severity of symptoms such as breathlessness, worsening of heart failure and consequent higher hospitalisations and higher mortality.

"The key point is that pharmacy visits need to be used as an opportunity to provide structured care," Schulz said.

Co-author and Director of the Department of Cardiology at Leipzig University, Professor Ulrich Laufs, said he believed that general practitioners and cardiologists would welcome pharmacist-led interventions to assist in treating their patients.

## Guild Update

### Pharmacy Connect 2019 program

*INNOVATION, transformation and collaboration* is the theme for the Pharmacy Connect 2019 program, which will be held at the Hilton Sydney from 5-7 September.

With more than 30 speakers covering topics from digitally enabled health and business innovation, to dispensary performance and full scope of practice, Pharmacy Connect 2019 will deliver an original, exciting and informative program to delegates.

According to Pharmacy Guild New South Wales Branch President David Heffernan, the program will unpack valuable industry information and play an instrumental role in planning for the future of pharmacy in Australia.

"Important activities are taking place in the lead up to Pharmacy Connect, including the aftermath of the federal election and commencement of 7CPA negotiations, making this conference one of the most important tools in understanding the changing pharmacy landscape," Mr Heffernan said.

Another highlight of the conference will be the presentation of evidence for a full scope of pharmacy practice, by international speaker Professor Ross Tsuyuki from Canada who will share his view on the importance of recognising full scope as the new standard for the pharmacy profession.

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To win, be the first from QLD to send the correct E.R.A.S.E answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**What is the source of cold & flu symptoms?**

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Josephine Lombardo.

For the temporary relief of cold and flu symptoms. This medicine may not be right for you. Read the label before purchase. Follow the directions for use. Incorrect use could be harmful. If symptoms persist, talk to your health professional.



## New Indications

- **Fingolimod (Gilenya)** is now indicated for the treatment of children  $\geq 10$  years of age with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis, to reduce the frequency of relapses and to delay the progression of disability.
- **Fondaparinux sodium (Arixtra)** is now indicated for the treatment of unstable angina or non-ST segment elevation myocardial infarction in patients for whom urgent (< 120 minutes) invasive management (percutaneous coronary intervention) is not indicated, and for the treatment of ST segment elevation myocardial infarction in patients managed without any form of initial reperfusion therapy.
- **Nitric oxide (INOmax)**, in conjunction with ventilatory support and other appropriate agents, is now indicated to selectively decrease pulmonary arterial pressure in adult patients with perioperative pulmonary hypertension in conjunction with heart surgery.

## New Contraindications

- **Articaine HCl and adrenaline (epinephrine) (Septanest)** is now contraindicated in phaeochromocytoma, and complete heart block (not compensated by a pacemaker).
- **Tolvaptan (Jinarc)** is now contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to benzazepine derivatives.

## Don't Rush to Crush Updates

These are the new and updated monographs.

DRTC Monograph Name	New/Revised
Letermovir	New
Milnacipran	New
Neratinib	New
Pazopanib	Revised
Risperidone	Revised

*This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.*