

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from 2019 Australasian Mens Health Downunder Conference.

## Bigger cancer risk

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has warned that Make Coarser Make Bigger capsules, which some people may have bought online, contain the undeclared substances 2-mercaptobenzothiazole (a known carcinogen used in industrial applications), diclofenac (and NSAID) and glibenclamide (a sulfonylurea used for diabetes).

The TGA said this product may be harmful to health and should be disposed of via a local pharmacy.

## Nifedipine high dose

COMMONLY used cardiac drug nifedipine (Adalat and others), when used in high dose, was associated with more than double the risk of a cardiac arrest than any dose of amlodipine, Dutch and Danish researchers reported at the European Heart Rhythm Association Congress 2019.

More than 61,000 patients were involved in the research.

## TGA Brexit contingencies

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has announced details of transitional arrangements in the event of a "no deal" exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union.

The TGA noted that in the event of a Brexit "no deal" there will be no impact on the supply of medicines to Australia from the UK.

"Under the UK-Australia MRA (Mutual Recognition Agreement) on Conformity Assessment, existing arrangements will continue, whereby TGA will accept batch certification on MHRA Certificates for supply of medicines from the UK to the Australian market".

In terms of medical devices, if no Brexit deal is reached, the TGA says it will continue accepting conformity assessment documents issued by UK notified bodies for existing products while they remain current for the purpose of UK market authorisation.

If Great Britain comes to an agreement with the European Union, either in terms of a Brexit deal or an extension of its exit date, there would be no immediate impact on the supply of medicines or devices to Australia from the UK.

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## FDA head resigns

SCOTT Gottlieb, (pictured) has announced his resignation from the role of commissioner of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) after almost two years in the role.



Gottlieb is a physician, medical policy expert, and public health advocate who previously served as the FDA's Deputy Commissioner for Medical and Scientific Affairs and before that, as a senior advisor to the FDA Commissioner.

Under Gottlieb's leadership, the FDA has cracked down on an "epidemic" of teenagers using electronic cigarettes, as well as other measures to reduce smoking.

Gottlieb was also widely recognised for his work modernising research tech and strategies used to advance new drugs.

President Trump tweeted, "Scott has helped us to lower drug prices, get a record number of generic drugs approved and onto the market, and so many other things. He and his talents will be greatly missed!"

## "Telestroke" promise

THE Labor Party has committed to funding an \$11.9 million National Telestroke Network if it takes power at the upcoming election.

The Stroke Foundation said the proposed network would "harness the latest in telehealth technology" so all Australians have a fair go at surviving & living well after stroke.

## PPIs IN GORD: SUPPORTING PATIENTS TO STEP DOWN

### Discuss your patients' expectations of GORD management



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## UK discount probe

BRITAIN'S Competition and Markets Authority has issued a warning to drugmakers about using "anticompetitive discount schemes," but found there were no grounds for action following a probe of discounts offered by MSD for its Remicade (infliximab).

The regulator launched an investigation into discounts offered by MSD in 2015 after the drug's patent expired, saying the scheme "was in breach of competition law" but finding further evidence the move was "not, in practice, likely to limit competition from others".

A biosimilar version of Remicade was launched in the UK the day after the drug's patent expired.

The CMA said MSD's discount program could have potentially delayed significant NHS savings on Remicade, which at the time was costing the scheme £100m annually.

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## Dispensary Corner

**WE ALL** know the calcium in dairy products such as cheese is good for bones - but how to ensure that it tastes as good as possible?

Now scientists in Switzerland have suggested it could have something to do with music played while the cheese is made.

A fascinating study that kicked off last Sep saw nine large 10kg "wheels" of Emmental cheese each placed in separate wooden crates, to test the impact of music on their taste and aroma.

Each block of cheese was exposed to a different genre, ranging from Mozart's "Magic Flute" opera to Led Zeppelin's classic "Stairway to Heaven" and everything in between.

Intriguingly the researchers from Bern University found significant differences in the flavours and textures of the final products, with the wheel exposed to the hip hop beats of "We Got it From Here" by A Tribe Called Quest said to be the most fruity.

Cheesemakers now plan to focus on hip hop, taking 5-10 cheeses and play different tracks to see which has the most effect.

**AUTHORITIES** in the Israeli city of Tel Aviv are aiming to reduce the number of accidents in the street, by installing special LED lights on the road at several busy intersections.

The target is so-called "smartphone zombies," to ensure people whose eyes are glued to the screens of their devices are alerted when it is safe to cross.

"We need to find ways to put the road into their eyes," said Tomer Dror from the local traffic management authority.

## MedAdvisor woos investors

**LISTED** digital medicines management company MedAdvisor put considerable effort yesterday into presenting to potential and current investors its track record and future ambitions.

CEO and MD Robert Read highlighted the company's success, speaking of its high margin, recurring revenue "software as a service" (SaaS) business with more than 1.1 million connected users and over 55% of the Australian pharmacy market as customers.

The other focus of the company relates to its global expansion and its recently announced international Co-Marketing Agreement with pharmacy dispensing software group PDX (PD 21 Jun 18) and Zuellig Pharma in South East Asia (PD 04 Dec 18).

Zuellig Pharma is a \$12b business providing pharmacy and medical services to more than 350,000 medical facilities.

Read pointed to the current 3,200 pharmacies currently using



MedAdvisor, the 19% revenue growth to \$3.88m with 65% of revenue recurring and gross margins up to 87.6% in the half year 2019.

Looking ahead, Read trumpeted the company's strong financial position with gross margins exceeding operating

expenses, targeting growth in new markets, the EBOS investment of \$9.5m and cash reserves of \$7.5m (HY19) to fund existing expansion initiatives in Australia and the USA.

He highlighted the estimated \$630 billion global cost of medication non-adherence, with just 54% of chronic patients in Australia not using MedAdvisor complying with medication regimes.

Other key drivers for the business included reduced government payments to pharmacies meaning they need to sell more services, and the "threat of Amazon [which] means pharmacy needs improved links with patients and convenience services with digital technology, which MedAdvisor provides".

## Win with BetterYou

This week Pharmacy Daily & BetterYou are giving away each day a prize pack including the BetterYou™ B12 Boost Oral Vitamin Spray and the BetterYou™ Magnesium Flakes 250g valued at over \$40.

Support your energy levels and maintain brain health with the BetterYou™ Vitamin B12 Oral Spray. Specially formulated to be ingested via the inside of your cheek, by bypassing your digestive system. BetterYou™ Magnesium Flakes offer pure relaxation and rejuvenation with a highly concentrated form of 100% natural magnesium chloride (47%). Soaking in a hot bath helps to relax and ease sore muscles and stiffness whilst give your skin a hydrating and soothing treat. For more info see [www.betteryou.com.au](http://www.betteryou.com.au).

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

**What 2 sizes do the BetterYou™ Magnesium Flakes come in?**

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Katrina O'Brien.*

## Alcon acquisition

**NOVARTIS'** eye care division Alcon has announced the acquisition of US-based PowerVision Inc, a privately-held firm focused on creating "fluid-based intraocular lens implants".

The PowerVision technology, used in cataract surgery, creates a continuously variable monofocal lens by utilising the natural contraction of eye muscles.

The deal is worth US\$285 million, plus additional payments based on specific regulatory and commercial milestones starting in 2023.

## Guild Update

### PBS payment times

**HEALTH** Minister Greg Hunt announced at APP that the payment lag between when a prescription is dispensed and when a pharmacy is reimbursed for the PBS benefit provided to the patient has been reduced from 9-16 days to 2-9 days.

This was a terrific announcement, and the Guild is pleased to confirm that it will come into effect from 21 March 2019, meaning also that members will receive two claim payments on 29 March 2019.

This change is the result of extensive advocacy by the Guild on behalf of Guild Members to ease the cash flow burden on community pharmacy.

For more information, please see the Department of Human Services website by **CLICKING HERE**.

# LIFTING THE KILT ON MEN'S HEALTH

## 2019 AUSTRALASIAN MENS HEALTH DOWNUNDER CONFERENCE

An informative day for all healthcare professionals and support organisations. Speakers have been selected to highlight the patient journey from diagnosis, through rehabilitation to recovery.

[mhdu2019.com.au](http://mhdu2019.com.au)

### ROYAL CANBERRA GOLF CLUB YARRALUMLA

Wednesday 27 March 2019

9.00 - 9.15am Registration

9.15 - 5.00pm Conference sessions

5.00 - 7.00pm Cocktail reception

All catering and cocktail reception included in ticket price

\$490 full price registration  
(enquire re student rate)

### ENQUIRIES

Grace Bayfield

Mens Health Downunder

[grace@menshealthdownunder.com.au](mailto:grace@menshealthdownunder.com.au)

T: 02 8999 8040

Mens Health Downunder is delighted to invite you to a full day conference, that will take a patient centric view of both the post radical prostatectomy treatment regime and the issues surrounding erectile dysfunction.

The conference is open to all, but specifically aimed at pharmacists, GPs, nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists, urologists, Government agencies & not-for-profits.

### SPEAKERS INCLUDE



#### Dr Hodo Haxhimolla Urologist

Urologist who has performed more than 1000 cases of minimally invasive radical prostatectomies and kidney surgeries

Director of robotic surgery at the National Capital Private Hospital



#### Brad Butt Pharmacist

Highly experienced Community Pharmacist

Strong clinical focus with a special interest in Men's Health

Founder of Mens Health Downunder



#### Maureen Bailey Local Mens Health Physio

Physiotherapist with over 36 years' experience

Special interest in treating male continence and pelvic pain issues



#### Tim Stewart Pharmacist

Passionate about Pharmacy based Men's Health initiatives

2017 'Pharmacist Intern of the Year' by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia



#### Allison Turner ACT Prostate Nurse

Registered Nurse for 36 years, working in Urology and Oncology for 20 years

Prostate Cancer Specialist Nurse at The Canberra Hospital for 4 years

### PLUS

- ★ Interactive interview session with real world patients
- ★ Expert panel session



### REGISTRATION

Spaces are limited. Head to [mhdu2019.com.au](http://mhdu2019.com.au) to book your ticket now!

[menshealthdownunder.com.au](http://menshealthdownunder.com.au)

