

Do you have the **Pharmacy Daily** app?

ANDROID APP ON Google play

Download on the App Store

Dispensary Corner

A NEW health crisis in north-eastern Brazil is truly the stuff of nightmares.

One man is dead and more than 40 others are being treated for possible exposure to rabies, after a bizarre series of attacks by so-called 'vampire' bats (pictured).

Victims have reported waking with bed sheets soaked with blood after the flying rodents nibbled on their toes, heels and elbows while they were asleep.

The man who died was a farmer, who was bitten after stepping on a bat and dismissing the injury rather than seeking medical attention.

Three weeks later he was hospitalised suffering headaches, nausea and severe anxiety, and recalled the incident as doctors searched for a cause.

He tested positive for rabies but unfortunately it was too late to administer the vaccine and he died a short time later.

Officials issued a formal warning which led to a spate of reports from others about the bites.

The nocturnal bats are native to South America, and feed on blood, puncturing the skin of their prey - usually horses, cattle or other animals - with sharp teeth.

A spokesperson for the rabies surveillance unit confirmed there had been changes in bat behaviour and an increase in the local population due to deforestation.

Go to mundicare.com.au for more.



DDS: MedAdvisor, FRED NXT

DISCOUNT Drug Stores (DDS) this week announced new initiatives and technological advancements at its tenth national conference, in Noumea, New Caledonia, including a new pain management program, the launch of a health food and organics project, partnerships with script reminder service MedAdvisor and the implementation of its Next Generation Retail Platform powered by FRED NXT (*PD* breaking news yesterday).

In the face of PBS reforms and the challenges of a relatively stagnant retail market, DDS said it aimed to continue leading the way in new customer service developments and dispensary workflow innovations, which had already seen the brand maintain its GP% and grow its total sales 2.9% excluding high cost drugs.

Discount Pharmacy Retail Group gm Douglas Kuskopf-Dallas told delegates the company's investment into new initiatives allowed the brand to adapt to the challenging times of the industry and better serve its customers.



"Our focus is to deliver the highest standard of healthcare advice and deliver industry leading professional services such as our newly launched pain management program, which no other pharmacy group is currently offering, and our diabetes management program which helps pharmacists tap into the GCPA funding and meet community healthcare needs," Kuskopf-Dallas said.

"We are continuing to leverage our Dispensary Ready program by introducing new training programs to help our stores improve their dispensary workflow, freeing our pharmacists up to spend more time with customers," he added.

A new health food and organics category will see the brand move towards its goal of becoming a total holistic healthcare destination.

"There is a continual need to meet the ever-changing requirements and demands of our customers, and we're excited to see the integration of this new holistic healthcare project into our network of existing stores," he said.

Burns first aid critical

THE Department of Health marks National Burns Awareness Month through Jun with a focus on getting first aid measures right through awareness and education.

With 88% of burns happening in the home, some two thirds of Australians mistakenly believe that home remedies, such as applying ice or an icepack, can help, according to new research commissioned by Mundipharma, the manufacturers of minor burns salve products branded Burnaid.

Go to mundicare.com.au for more.

Spirometry for COPD

A NEW educational program on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), launched by NPS MedicineWise in Mar (*PD* 01 Mar), includes a reminder on the critical importance of spirometry in diagnosing the condition, which is estimated to affect 1.45 million Australians, NPS states in a release.

Spirometry is considered the "gold standard" in measuring airflow limitation according to NPS MedicineWise medical adviser Dr Andrew Boyden.

Visit nps.org.au for more.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

CRUISE
WEEKLY

Sponsored by *Cruise Weekly*
your FREE cruise newsletter
Subscribe now
www.cruiseweekly.com.au

Travelmarvel Fly Free to Europe Offer

GLOBAL travel specialist company Travelmarvel is offering free flights to Europe when booking a Prague to Paris 21-day cruise, or Amsterdam to Budapest 15-day cruise under their "European Gems" deals.

Be quick as these offers are only available until sold out, Travelmarvel says.

Some deals also save \$1,000 per couple when land tour combinations are included.

Check out travelmarvel.com.au.

Last call - Viking Earlybird Special

BOOK your 2018 European cruise with Viking River Cruises by 30 Jun 2107 for savings of up to \$2,000 per couple or flights included under certain conditions.

Free flights from Australia come with any stateroom category booking on Europe or Russia cruises of 13 days or more, including taxes.

Similar offers are available for China, Southeast Asia or Egypt river cruise/tour itineraries.

See vikingrivercruises.com.au.

Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.
Sign up free at www.pharmacydaily.com.au.
Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia
Street address: Level 2, Suite 1 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)
Part of the Business Publishing Group.

Publisher/Editor in chief: Bruce Piper
Managing Editor: Jon Murrie
Reporter: Mal Smith
Contributors: Matt Bell, Rebecca Le Bas, Jasmine O'Donoghue
Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Melanie Tchakmadjian advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au
Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Editorial: info@pharmacydaily.com.au

Pharmacy Daily is a publication of Pharmacy Daily Pty Ltd ABN 97 124 094 604. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.