

WHO children push

THE World Health Organisation has launched a global campaign which aims to promote research into medicine for children.

The move includes a new List of Essential Medicines for Children, with 206 products safe for kids.

"But a lot remains to be done. There are priority medicines that have not been adapted for children's use or are not available when needed," said a WHO spokesperson.

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Pharmacy Daily's wine facts

WELCOME to our regular *Pharmacy Daily* wine feature. We know that many pharmacists enjoy a nice bottle of wine, so have decided to provide a regular column on some of the new wines available.

THE earliest written account of wine is in the Old Testament.

The book of Genesis details Noah's planting of a vineyard and making of wine and was later followed by wine texts from ancient Egypt.

There are also detailed descriptions of wine in Homer's *Odyssey* and *Iliad*; plus well travelled Franciscan wine manuscripts that journeyed from Mission to Mission along the newly discovered California coast.

As Robert Geddes, Master of Wine puts it, "Wine is an oral tradition" - and in keeping with that tradition is Robert's new, highly acclaimed, introductory wine book: *A Good Nose & Great Legs - the art of wine from the vine to the table*.

Rob writes about wine with enthusiasm and excitement which can often get lost in the sometimes dull society of wine enthusiasts.

This entertaining book offers a broad array of chapters ranging from wine history, winemaking,

NPS assistant training

NATIONAL Prescribing Service has produced its first ever training material targeted directly at pharmacy assistants.

Pharmacies across Australia will shortly receive copies of the training module, which provides teaching materials for community pharmacists to deliver to their pharmacy assistants.

The move follows the recent *Generic medicines are an equal choice* TV campaign run by National Prescribing Service.

NPS ceo Lynn Weekes said "pharmacy assistants are often the first people consumers speak to about their medicines.

"This module recognises the important role they play in helping consumers make choices about medicines to use them appropriately and safely."

Champix approval

THE PBS listing of smoking cessation drug Champix (*PD* yesterday) will be effective from 01 Jan 08.

varieties, tasting, buying and food matching.

The book also provides readers with knowledge to choose and enjoy wine with flair, but most importantly it unassumingly covers "the importance of place."

The book is full of useful and fascinating information and insights aimed at anyone with a "thirst" for increasing their knowledge of wine.

A Good Nose & Great Legs shows the world that Australian wine has not only come of age and has the depth of character and balance to continue its commercial successes both here and overseas.

Like a 1966 Grange this book is a classic and once you have swallowed up all the entertaining and informative information; you may find yourself wanting to enjoy all this new found knowledge with ANY Clare Valley Riesling, which is as crisp, light hearted and refreshing as "A good nose & great legs"!

Murdoch Books, rrp \$39.95.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

A US man has been sentenced to four years in prison, after defrauding friends and family out of about \$1m by convincing them his wife was a CIA agent who could arrange for the diagnosis of any medical problems via satellite imaging.

38-year-old Brent Finley apparently also managed to convince his gullible victims that if the scan found any hidden diseases, secret agents would administer medicines to them as they slept to cure the problems.

THESE police probably have clogged arteries.

Investigators in Italy have exposed a ring of cheese-loving cops who reportedly demanded bribes of mozzarella.

According to the official report the police stopped cheese delivery vans and forced them to hand over cheese or face hefty fines.

It's understood the cheesy comestibles were for the crooked cops' own consumption.

HOW about this for the ultimate in antioxidants?

We've all heard of the benefits of red wine and dark chocolate - now a Melbourne company has combined the two.

Farm By Nature has commercialised a process which allows alcoholic drinks to be added to chocolate to create the world's first non-liqueur wine chocolates.

Initial flavours available include shiraz, merlot and pinot noir, with a spokesman saying that "While people often eat wine and chocolate together, nobody has yet combined real wine and chocolate in a way that complements both".

Weekes said the module should help assistants to answer common questions from consumers.

It will also assist pharmacies to meet PSA's 'Guidelines for Pharmacists on PBS Brand Substitution' and includes a QCPP-compliant template for the development of a brand switching policy in the pharmacy.

Assistants enrolled in Pharmacy Self Care's "Counter Connection" program will also be eligible for reward points if they complete the training module.

Glivec indication

EFFECTIVE 01 Dec Glivec will be reimbursed on the PBS for newly diagnosed adult patients with a rare form of blood cancer called Philadelphia chromosome positive acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, in conjunction with chemotherapy.

Govt health summit

NEWLY appointed Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon will meet with her state counterparts for the first time today.

The meeting, in Hobart, will discuss the proposed establishment of a National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, which will evaluate the performance of public hospitals in the light of Labor promises to improve the performance of the health sector.

US Avandia move

TWO US pharmacy benefits providers have dropped diabetes drug Avandia from their national formularies.

Prime Therapeutics and HealthTrans provide managed pharmaceutical programs for organisations incl US health funds.

Both companies said they'd made the move after analysis of clinical data about Avandia.

GSK said the surprise move was disappointing because "it limits options for treatment and could be detrimental for patients".

API out of ASX 200

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries has been removed from the Standards & Poors/Australian Stock Exchange All Australian 200 index, in a regular quarterly rebalancing of the index.

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