

STOCK EXCHANGE

DO you have any excess medications you'd like to offer to other pharmacists?

Pharmacy Daily's regular Stock Exchange column gives the industry the chance to promote close to expiry or other surplus items.

Today's item is Proscar 5mg which expires 10/08, available from Jandowae Pharmacy in Qld.

Pharmacist Sharon Baker is offering the Proscar for \$80 incl GST; more information on jandowae@pharmacydaily.com.au.

If you have items you'd like to offer through *PD's* please email stockx@pharmacydaily.com.au.

TGA signs FDA pact

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has signed a new five year cooperative arrangement with the US Food and Drug Administration.

The deal will "significantly enhance information exchange" between the organisations, the TGA said.

Awareness week

TODAY marks the start of the first Australian Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Week.

Supported by Actelion, the week aims to raise awareness of the condition, which is estimated to be undiagnosed in thousands of Australians.

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney Professor of Medicine Professor Anne Keogh said "Breathlessness is not okay. It may be a signal of a potentially life-threatening condition".

See www.phaaustralia.com.au.

James to Pulse

FORMER Mayne Group ceo Stephen James has been named as a director of "integrated health services company" Pulse Health.

US\$5 billion bill for Vioxx

MERCK & Co has agreed to pay US\$4.85 billion into a settlement fund to resolve all claims relating to its painkiller Vioxx in the USA.

The company said this didn't contradict a previous pledge to "defend each claim," saying claimants would still have to show "objective, medical proof" of myocardial infarction or ischemic stroke in connection with taking Vioxx.

The NSAID was withdrawn from the market in Sep 2004 after a

study revealed a higher risk of heart attack and stroke in patients taking the drug.

The company was defending about 26,600 lawsuits including more than 47,000 plaintiff groups alleging personal injuries resulting from the use of Vioxx.

The landmark settlement will see plaintiffs receiving payments depending on how long they took the drug and the severity of any adverse reactions.

Merck stressed that the US deal wasn't a class action settlement, and didn't admit any liability.

It said that in other jurisdictions it would "continue to vigorously defend" Vioxx litigation in court.

FeelGood Guide smoking program

FEELGOOD Guide founder Hilary Kahn has announced a new "full service consulting program" for pharmacies, due for a soft launch on 17 Feb 2008.

Dubbed *No Need to Smoke*, the program will make participating pharmacies a "first choice destination for quitting," Kahn said, claiming it would "remove the issue of giving advice and watching customers leave to buy the product elsewhere."

"The financials are great, offering the opportunity to turn this 'sleeper' category into a triumphant example of realigned potential in this important health category," she said.

More info 1300 855 084.

Smoking deaths

THE World Lung Foundation says it expects tobacco-related deaths across the globe to double to 10 million per year by 2030.

Most of the growth will come in developing countries, where smoking rates continue to soar, with an estimated 1.64 billion smokers by 2030 compared to 1.3 billion today.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

"IT'S a fat world, after all."

That's the catchy headline on a story in News Limited papers yesterday, reporting that Disneyland in Anaheim will next year close the *It's a Small World* attraction for renovation - and to solve the problem of boats stalling when they hit bottom.

Disney denied the problems were related to ever-expanding American waistlines, but did confirm it will make the water in the ride's canals deeper as well as build lighter boats.

AND while we're on the subject of the obesity crisis, and Australian expert in health and nutrition is now calling for airlines to levy a fat surcharge.

In a move which could see travellers visiting pharmacies for a weigh-in before buying a ticket, Dr John Tickell said that "If you are going to charge for excess baggage, then charge fat people for excess weight".

STILNOX strikes again!

An Australian actor has been snapped wandering the streets of London in his underwear.

Bryan Wiseman, who is known for his role as Dr John Wilson in Aussie soap *Home and Away*, claims he took a Stilnox to get over jet-lag and "the next thing I know, I woke up in my hotel with dirty feet".

Some snap-happy tourists managed to capture the Covent Garden perambulation for posterity (right).



RGH e-bulletin

THIS week's edition of the Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy e-Bulletin deals with practical clinical biostatistics.

The bulletin says clinicians need to have a grasp of the basic concepts of biostatistics in order to enable them to correctly interpret the findings of research and apply it in clinical practice.

It's available at no charge from chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au.

Hypertension audit

GENERAL practitioners are being invited to review their management of hypertension patients by participating in a new Clinical e-Audit from National Prescribing Service.

The web-based program gives participants immediate feedback on optimal management of individual patients using best practice clinical indicators.

Enrolments for the free quality improvement activity are open from now until 11 Jan 08.

See www.nps.org.au/healthpro.

Stop snoring ruining your life

It's long been considered a joke in the bedroom but snoring can have serious consequences if left unchecked, affecting bedroom intimacy, work performance and general wellbeing.

Snoring deprives sufferers of the sleep that experts say is vital to our physical and mental health, and essential for the normal functioning of all the systems of our body.

Now a unique, patented anti-snoring device offers an easy-to-use solution that requires no specialist intervention.

The new aveoTSD™ is a tongue stabilizing device that's a simple and effective, clinically-proven medical aid for the treatment of snoring. Made from a soft, medical-grade silicone for comfort, the aveoTSD works by holding the tongue forward using natural suction.

In this way, it prevents the tongue falling back into the back of the throat - part of the mechanics of snoring - and keeps the airway open during sleep.



More than 18,000 people worldwide are now successfully using the aveoTSD and are enjoying the natural health benefits that come with a good night's sleep.

Ask for the aveoTSD at your local pharmacy - the only oral anti-snoring medical aid that is available over-the-counter.

For further information phone 1300 300 330 or visit our website at www.aveotds.com.au.

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