

Arthritis awareness

ARTHRITIS Australia is offering pharmacists free information sheets on common and rare forms of arthritis and musculoskeletal pain as a special initiative of Arthritis Awareness Week, which takes place 06-12 Apr.

The 29 sheets were written by pharmacists, physiotherapists, rheumatologists and GPs, and were reviewed by consumers.

Dr Mona Marabani, President of Arthritis Australia said: "There's quite a bit of evidence that if you have arthritis of some kind, just knowing about it and understanding your options can relieve the pain."

More info 1800 678 988.

New 'healthy but high-risk' treatment

A MEDICATION used to lower blood pressure can protect 'healthy but high-risk' people from heart attack, heart failure, stroke and death.

According to the results of a six-year study, which involved 25,620 patients including more than 1,300 Australians, telmisartan (Micardis) matched ramipril (Tritace, Ramace and Altace) in providing cardiovascular protection, with a reduced rate of side-effects, regardless of a person's blood pressure levels.

Published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the landmark trial concluded that patients receiving telmisartan experienced less coughing and swelling of body tissues, and were more likely to remain on therapy compared with those receiving ramipril.

Australian coordinator for the ONTARGET study, Professor Garry Jennings from the Baker Heart Research Institute, said the results suggested appropriate treatment with telmisartan could equate to 10,000 fewer deaths in Australia each year.

Iodine in focus next week

PHARMACISTS are being urged to inform themselves about the nutritional aspects of iodine in the lead-up to a consumer promotion campaign next week by the International Council for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD).

A survey carried out on trusted sources of information on diet and nutrition issues found that just 4% of people viewed their

Neurology seminar

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia will hold a Sunday Learning Seminar on Neurology on 04 May 08.

Presentations will be delivered by experts in the field, covering topics such as MS, epilepsy and Parkinson's disease.

The seminar carries 5.5 CPD & PI points, and it's on at the Victorian College of Pharmacy costing \$120 for PSA members.

More info 03 9389 4000.

MS drug subsidy

SENSIPAR, a renal disease treatment, and Tysabri, a multiple sclerosis medicine, will be subsidised for Australian patients from July 1, the Government confirmed last night.

According to a report in today's *Daily Telegraph*, MS sufferers were upset the Government yesterday approved the PBS listing of a once-a-day Ritalin pill while they were still waiting for help with the expense of their treatments, which costs some patients up to \$37,000 a year.

Cabinet was not scheduled to discuss the subsidies for Sensipar and Tysabri until April 22, nine days after Prime Minister Kevin Rudd returned from a 17-day overseas trip.

His office said last night subsidies cutting the cost of the medicines to \$31.30 for general patients and \$5 for pensioners would apply from 01 Jul.

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e-Health changes

HEALTH minister Nicola Roxon has affirmed her support for the National e-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA) after the sudden resignation this week of its chief executive, Ian Reinecke.

Roxon said she was "confident that NEHTA will continue to deliver its work program" as it searches for a new ceo.

NEHTA has been criticised for not engaging with professional bodies as it develops standards for the administration of electronic medical records.

Electronic medicine received a major boost last week with the announcement of the formation of ScriptX by a group of Australia's leading prescribing and dispensing software suppliers.

The Pharmacy Guild has put its money where its mouth is in support of ScriptX, pre-purchasing the first 10 million transactions on the system for Guild members, which should allow the system to be effectively trialled in pharmacies across Australia.

local pharmacist as the main source of nutritional advice.

In fact one in three Australian parents rely on the internet as the main source of info - ahead of GPs, dietitians or nutritionists.

ICCIDD vice chairman Prof Creswell Eastman said the reliance on the often incorrect internet highlights the need for health professionals to "discuss the importance of regular iodine intake with pregnant women and parents of young children."

The iodine push follows a plan by Food Standards Australia New Zealand to mandate the addition of iodine to bread, with the regulator saying there is evidence of iodine deficiency in Australia.

A new food standard recently introduced also orders the addition of folate to bread from Sep 09 at the latest.

Med certs DVD

JENNY Bergin, director of the Community Pharmacy Practice Division for the Pharmacy Guild, will present an overview of issuing medical certificates at the University of South Australia tomorrow night.

A DVD of the forum, which gives an introduction and background to the issuing of medical certificates and their importance in the future of professional services, will also be available from the SA branch of the PSA.

More info sa.branch@psa.org.au.

TGA ticks Gardasil

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved cross protection data submitted by CSL for its Gardasil HPV vaccine.

The data shows that Gardasil has demonstrated cross-protective efficacy against cervical disease caused by additional types of HPV.

The new information is now included in the updated product information for the vaccine.

WIN AN AUSTRALIS BRUSH ON FOUNDATION



EACH day this week, *Pharmacy Daily* is giving subscribers the chance to win an Australis Perfection Brush on Foundation.

The secret lies in the unique tool,

which effortlessly distributes just the right amount of make up to the skin for a flawless complexion.

Congratulations to **Amy Cooper** from the **Pharmaceutical Society of Australia** in the ACT, who was the closest to guessing that Australis is 21 years old this year.

To enter today, simply be the first to correctly answer the question below to - info@pharmacydaily.com.au

Question: What colour is the new Australis logo?

Hint: see Pharmacy Daily from 19 Mar.



Fri 20 - Sun 22 June
Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre

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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy! Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Dryer killer nails

Manicare has launched a nail dryer that gives smudge-proof nails in an instant. Lightweight, compact and pretty in pink, the dryer can be easily stored away, ready for a salon style treatment at the fingertips. It's a cute and convenient addition to any woman's manicure routine.

RRP: \$9.95

Stockist: Manicare

Tel: 1800 651 146



Reshape contours



Take action against deep wrinkles, sagging skin and less defined contours with Revlon's new Age Defying with Botafirm Sculpt-Logic Skincare. The day and night formulations are infused with Botafirm, a patented blend of hexapeptide and botanicals, which clinical studies claim reduces the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles by 47% in two weeks.

RRP: \$45

Stockist: Revlon

Tel: 1800 025 488

Everywhere for everything

Trilogy's Everything Balm is a great multi tasking beauty tool that will cut your beauty kit in half. Rich in Omega 3 and 6, natural super-emollients, vitamins and antioxidants, this all-purpose balm means soothing dry skin; healthy nails; lip conditioning; massage oil; and skin nourishing and protecting.

RRP: \$34.95

Stockist: Trilogy

Tel: 03 9533 1336



The new black

Black, the new scent from Karen Low Paris, is a timeless, masculine, oriental scent, in a stylish chunky bottle. Citron and bergamot draw you in towards the exotic heart of olive blossom and Mediterranean aromatic plants while cedar wood, Guaiac wood, tonka bean and blonde tobacco round out the base.

RRP: \$30 (100ml)

Stockist: Parfumerie Simes

Tel: 1800 672 464

7-in-1 ovulation kit

Offering better value, the new OvuPlan Pregnancy Planning Kit now contains seven OvuPlan ovulation tests, seven urine collection cups and one Pregnosis Clear In-stream Early Pregnancy Test. OvuPlan is the only ovulation brand that offers both a saliva ovulation test as well as a urine test.

RRP: \$29.95

Stockist: Key Pharmaceuticals

Tel: 1800 653 373



DISPENSARY CORNER



A US transgender man who kept his female reproductive organs is now five months pregnant.

34-year-old Thomas Beatie of Oregon is "married" but his wife is unable to conceive because she's had a hysterectomy.

Beatie, formerly known as Tracy Lagondino, had chest reconstructive surgery and took testosterone to become a man.

However when he decided to fall pregnant he stopped taking the hormones and then artificially inseminated himself with anonymous donor sperm.

"Wanting to have a biological child is neither a male nor female desire, but a human desire," he claimed.

THE all-pervasive internet has made its way into the funeral industry.

UK firm Wesley Music has launched a new service which offers pay-per-view funerals, allowing mourners who can't attend in person to pay their respects online.

The funeral webcasts will cost about £75 (A\$200) and will be captured by a small camera mounted in the chapels of crematoria across Britain.

The company insisted that the funerals remain private and intimate despite being broadcast on the web, with mourners requiring a password before being able to access the footage.

"Families are dispersed across the world these days and sometimes it's the case that someone cannot get home in time for a funeral," said Wesley Music spokesman Alan Jeffrey.

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