

Fragrance winner

THANKS to everyone who entered last week's Designer Brands competition.

Congratulations to Sigma Pharmaceuticals' Karen Pearson, who was the first PD reader on Fri to tell us that the fragrances are available in 100ml bottles.

Karen will be sent a beautiful fragrance, courtesy of Total Beauty Network.

Gardasil under fire

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is investigating reports that three women contracted pancreatitis soon after receiving the cervical cancer vaccine Gardasil.

A spokeswoman for Gardasil manufacturer CSL, however, told the Sun Herald the firm was confident the drug was safe.

The TGA has received 1013 reports of suspected adverse reactions to Gardasil, including soreness, headaches and nausea.

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Baxter busted by ACCC

THE Federal Court has found that Baxter Healthcare breached 'misuse of market power' and 'exclusive dealing' provisions of the Trade Practices Act when it entered into long term supply contracts with state authorities.

The long-running case brought by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission related to deals which bundled the supply of sterile fluids with peritoneal dialysis products.

The court found that Baxter, as the sole supplier of sterile fluids, had taken advantage of its market power to structure the terms on which it supplied other products to health departments in SA, WA, NSW and Qld.

ACCC chairman Graeme Samuel

Pill warnings

PARENTS of a woman whose death has been linked to taking oral contraceptive Yasmin have called for clearer pack warnings.

Tanya Hayes, a 24-year-old Melbourne student, died last week from a pulmonary embolism. She had been taking Yasmin and acne drug Roaccutane for four months and had ignored symptoms including breathlessness and cough for about a fortnight.

"We want the precautions for the Pill written on the outside of the Pill (packaging)," her father, Robert Hayes told the *Herald Sun*.

According to the TGA, there have been 56 adverse events reports linked to Yasmin since 2003, but no deaths.

welcomed the decision, saying it had taken the proceedings after a complaint from a medical practitioner that "exclusivity agreements between the government and Baxter limited the choice of treatment which would best meet the needs of their patients."

The case now moves to a single judge to "consider the imposition of penalties and other relief."

Chalmers on Choice

IAN Chalmers, chief executive of Medicines Australia, has attacked the inaccuracy and irresponsibility of a recent article in Choice and says the magazine "should stick to washing machines and toasters".

Writing in *The Australian* on the weekend, Mr Chalmers referred to Choice's "Pushing Pills" report, which alleged that pharmaceutical companies attempted to persuade doctors to prescribe expensive new drugs because they were more profitable.

The Choice report cited outdated Therapeutic Guidelines from 2003, and failed to mention the 2004 Heart Foundation guidelines that recommended any of the five available drug groups may be used for first-line treatment of newly diagnosed patients.

"It may suit Choice's agenda to rely on an outdated standard rather than a current clinical benchmark. However, this practice is both disappointing and irresponsible," he said.

Win a Blender Bottle!

THIS week *Pharmacy Daily* has joined forces with Hipp Future to bring you another fantastic competition.

Every day we will be giving away five of Hipp Future's fantastic new 'Blender Bottles', the best mixer since the wire whisk, allowing you to make smooth, great-tasting drinks anytime.



Made from surgical grade stainless steel, the Blender Ball wire whisk makes short work of your mixing needs. All you need to do is drop the ball in with your ingredients and shake.

For your chance to win this fantastic prize, send your answer to each day's question to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Today's question is:

What is the best mixer since the wire whisk?

The first five subscribers to answer correctly each day will win.



Clear the smoke

HEALTH professionals are being encouraged to build on their knowledge of smoking cessation using a new online training program which offers 6 PSA accreditation points.

It's been developed by Pfizer Australia and interested pharmacists can register at www.clearingthesmoke.com.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

THIS guy certainly doesn't seem to have prostate problems.

New Zealand police have arrested a man dubbed "The Piddler on the Roof" after he was caught on camera urinating into a parking meter on the top floor of a multi-storey carpark.

An official police statement said "He pees up in the air in a big arc, so it goes in the coin slot and out the hole where people collect their tickets."

A COUPLE in Egypt are now the proud parents of ten children, after a 27-year-old woman gave birth to septuplets on Sat.

Ghazala Khamis had taken fertility drugs in an attempt to have a son, after previously giving birth to three daughters.

A day after the caesarean section to deliver four boys and three girls she said she hadn't been able to hold the babies yet. "I saw them on TV. They are very cute," she said.

All seven babies, weighing between 1 and 2kg each, are in good condition but being a month premature are being kept in humidicribs.

Egypt's health minister has promised to provide free nappies for two years.

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