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DAAs funding

DOSE Administration Aids (DAAs) are now being funded by the Department of Veteran Affairs for veterans and a trial of DAAs are being funded by the Federal Govt to supply DAAs in the future.

One DAA example is the Webster Pak by Webstercare, with Mon-Sun down the pack, your photo and list of medications at the top and Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Bedtime across the pack; & each compartment is filled by a pharmacist with exact dosages.

Indigenous graduate

SIMONE Liddy is the first Indigenous student to graduate with a Bachelor of Pharmacy from Charles Darwin University.

A recipient of a scholarship through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme, funded by the Department of Health and Ageing and managed by the Pharmacy Guild, she gained her degree while holding two part-time pharmacy assistant positions and four work placements.

Liddy is the NT Young Australian of the Year, represents the NT in hockey and is a NT Indigenous Education Council member.

Lipid management

THE results of new research released by the Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute have highlighted the need for a uniform approach to guidelines for lipid management in high risk patients.

160 GP's took part in the survey, conducted in Jun - Jul 08, and although it was revealed that the majority, 74%, of GP's refer to a lipid management guideline, there were over 15 different guidelines in usage.

In addressing this issue, Professor Stewart, Head of Preventative Cardiology at the Baker Institute, commented that "While the majority of GP's refer to current guidelines, they may not be aware that the guidelines they are using have been updated."

The research also reviewed the monitoring time frames of high risk patients, with 44% of GP's reviewing the risk status after 3 or more months of therapy, as opposed to current guides which recommend more frequent attention.

Don't cut PBS spending

MEDICINES Australia has urged the Government not to cut funding for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme in the 2009 Federal Budget.

Speaking at the National Press Club, MA chairman Will Delaat said reducing PBS spending would impact negatively on patient health and result in higher costs elsewhere in the healthcare system.

"To quote the Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon, 'The point we often miss with the PBS is that we are *saving* money by often *spending* money on medications,'" Mr Delaat said.

"The PBS delivers those savings because innovative medicines can prevent the need for care at public hospitals, shorten stays in hospitals where they are required

and relieve the costs of other institutional care.

He said the PBS should be treated as an investment that offsets the cost of chronic disease.

"Clearly Australia is not immune from the impacts of the current financial uncertainty, and the Federal Government faces some tough calls as we navigate our way through this challenge," Mr Delaat said.

"But it would make no economic sense for the Government to seek short-term savings by cutting the PBS.

"Any cut to the PBS would translate directly to an increase in state healthcare expenditure at the very time when state governments are struggling to adequately fund public hospitals."

Novartis hits back

NOVARTIS have responded to the NPS radar on Aclasta with a statement declaring the once-a-year Aclasta was found safe and well tolerated in trials.

The company also stated that there were no to-date findings indicating a difference in the risk of osteonecrosis between intravenous and oral bisphosphonate therapy.

Blackmores wins

BLACKMORES has again been named the Sustainable Small Company of the Year at the Australian Sustainability Awards ceremony, which is held annually to recognise corporate sustainability achievements.

Blackmores' new low-emission, low-impact campus is due to open at Warriewood in February.

Win a 6 pack of Slimmm UHT!

THIS week *Pharmacy Daily* has teamed up with Slimmm and API once again to bring you another fabulous competition.

And today is your last chance to win a pack of the new Slimmm Ready to Drink UHT!

Slimmm is a weight management, meal replacement program designed to fit in with busy lifestyles. With a unique break out day each week, Slimmm helps you to lose weight and make smarter, healthier food choices in the long run.

The Slimmm program offers your customers the variety they want with the convenience they need to lose weight!

To enter, simply send the correct answer to the following question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



Today's question is:

Name one of the two exclusive ingredients that makes Slimmm more effective?

The first person to respond with the correct answer each day will win.

HINT! For clues and information visit www.slimmm.com.au



Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Michael Ward of Webstercare (NSW).**



DISPENSARY CORNER

MISSING breasts found!

More than 100,000 pairs of inflatable breasts, reported missing (*PD* 05 Dec), have turned up on a ship in Melbourne, after a clerical error in China saw them loaded onto the wrong vessel.

The plastic boobs were meant to be making their way to an Australian mens magazine promotion in Sydney, but instead spent a week on a Melbourne dock.



YET another Chinese medical miracle.

A bodybuilder, who clearly concentrates on building up strength in unusual areas of his physique, has managed to pull a one tonne car using a rope fastened to his eyelids (below).

21 year-old Luo Deyan of Guiyang said he learnt his skills from a local martial arts master, and is hoping to get into the Guinness Book of Records.

He also has the ability to lift two buckets of water with his eyelids as well as stopping electric fans with his tongue.

Reports don't say how the car-pulling tow ropes were actually attached to his eyelids.



Eye don't know how he does it!

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