

Rx drugs blamed

PRESCRIPTION medicines are one of the main reasons that people gain weight, according to a book to be released this week.

The 21st Century is Making You Fat by UK author Pat Thomas cites 10 'unusual suspects' incl contraceptives, hormones, some antidepressants and blood pressure drugs for growing obesity.

"If weight loss was simply a matter of cutting calories and being more active then our population should be in pretty good shape, but we are not getting thinner," Thomas says.

'Cankles' campaign

AUSTRALIA'S first Cankle Awareness Campaign has been launched to highlight this growing problem in people aged over 45.

According to High Tech Health, a cankle is "the absence of a defined ankle on a person whereby the calf of the leg merges directly into the foot [and] the calf appears to replace the ankle".

High Tech Health said its initial campaign in Brisbane and Perth will target more than 150,000 potential cankle sufferers, directing them to seek out participating pharmacies to trial the latest in cankle treatments, including its product, The Circulation Booster.

Host a bite

GREAT Australian Bite organisers are calling for registrations for this annual event that raises funds for diabetes.

The 'bite' can involve any meal held during April with friends, colleagues or neighbours.

Funds raised go to Diabetes Australia NSW to assist diabetes awareness - info 1300 136 588.

Nurses want PBS access

THE Australian Nurses Federation (ANF) has stepped up its call to give nurse practitioners PBS prescribing rights and Medicare provider numbers.

"We have a very strange situation where state legislators recognise the expertise and competence of nurse practitioners but the previous national government refused to allow their patients access to rebates through the PBS and Medicare," said Ged Kearney, ANF's acting director.

"By providing nurse practitioners access to the PBS schedule, the Federal Government would remove the existing barriers that prevent those most in need from accessing the full potential of

these expert clinicians."

The call follows the release of a study from the Queensland University of Technology that indicated more than two-thirds of nurse practitioners in Australia described their role as "extremely limited", largely because of limitations on their prescribing rights.

Stock Exchange

DON'T forget *Pharmacy Daily's* Stock Exchange feature, in which pharmacists are able to offer medications they no longer need to other pharmacies.

Send details of any surplus stock you want to offer to stockx@pharmacydaily.com.au.

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Mouse catches cold

THE first mouse to catch a cold could help scientists develop new treatments for the common cold, asthma, bronchitis and COPD.

Researchers at the Imperial College London created a genetically engineered laboratory mouse susceptible to rhinoviruses.

They hope the rodent will provide a test-bed for new remedies for the common cold and other more serious conditions.

Studying rhinoviruses, which were previously thought to only infect humans and chimpanzees, has been difficult in the absence of a mouse model.

The rhinovirus-prone mouse will provide a "major boost to research efforts" in the area, said study leader Sebastian Johnson.

Look at the future of Australian pharmacy!



ABOVE: 270 students from 14 pharmacy schools around Australia converged on Sydney University late last month for the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association annual congress.

The week of education and entertainment included students from the NT's Charles Darwin University for the first time, with key speakers including Guild president Kos Sclavos and Sydney University Dean of Pharmacy Professor Iqbal Ramzan.

NAPSA president Paul Buisse said the congress was a "huge accomplishment," while chairman

of the organising committee Ramesh Walpola said it gave delegates the chance to examine issues affecting the profession.

Other events included a PSA-sponsored harbour cruise, an Australia Day trip to Bondi Beach and the inaugural 'Battle of the Branches' games, with the congress culminating in a Gala Ball.

Prof Andrew McLauchlan gave the closing address, encouraging students to "pursue their dreams and strive to achieve gold standards within their profession."

The 2009 NAPA congress will be held in Perth next January.

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Hiding eyes' secrets

Physician's Formula CoverToxTen50 Wrinkle Therapy Concealer claims to reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles by 50 per cent in 10 minutes. A concealer and an eye treatment in one, the brush-tip applicator covers up dark circles and wrinkles and covers any bluish imperfections.



RRP: \$19.95
Stockist: Frostbland
Tel: 02 8709 8800

Festival of colour

In time for India's festival of colour, when everyone comes out to party and play with paints and dyes, is KenzoAmour's Indian Holi fragrance. The sensual scent is full of roses, red berries, rice, musk and frangipani. To celebrate the festive launch, customers will receive a perfumed necklace along with the fragrance.

RRP: \$99
Stockist: KenzoAmour
Tel: 02 9695 4800



Advanced age control

Clarins Generation 6 Double Serum is an anti-wrinkle, extra-firming skin treatment. It contains maritime pine for protection against free radicals; London rocket for increasing cell's consumption of oxygen and stimulating cell metabolism; marula for nourishing and rejuvenation; and kiwi and macadamia for restoring the skin's lipids.



RRP: \$103
Stockist: Clarins
Tel: 02 9663 4277

New line defies lines

This is Innox's biggest launch in over a decade, with new formulations and a fresh look. SkinLine-Defy Triple Action Gel Wash cleanses, tones and removes makeup; Radiant Skin Moisturiser SPF 15 boosts radiance and helps prevent wrinkles; and there's also a line-defying eye crème and lifting eye gel.

RRP: \$19.95-\$27.95
Stockist: Innox
Tel: 1800 025 607



Vegan with va-va-voom!

Inika, a 100 per cent certified vegan and chemical-free brand, has a new limited edition eye shadow shade, Manhattan Mist Creamy Crayon. This shimmering silver chubby pencil, with jojoba and shea butter for a creamy consistency, is made for the woman who has embraced the mineral makeup trend.



RRP: \$27
Stockist: Inika
Tel: 1300-1-INIKA



DISPENSARY CORNER

LEGISLATORS in the US state of Mississippi have come up with a novel way to deal with the obesity crisis.

They're proposing a new law which would make it illegal for restaurants to serve very fat customers.

The proposal would allow health inspectors to revoke the licence of any eatery which "repeatedly feeds extremely overweight people."

A politician said he hoped the move would draw attention to problem, saying "No-one's doing anything about it. They just keep on going to the buffets."

Pundits said the proposal was unlikely to be voted into action, with one analyst saying "I've seen a lot of crazy laws but this one takes the cake. Literally."

THE Chinese government has acted to protect health workers.

Rules published earlier this week ordered the public to desist from violent attacks on nurses in particular, who appear to be frequently targeted by aggrieved patients.

"Nurses are an important component of the medical force and their work is closely tied to medical security and people's health," said news agency Xinhua.

The move follows a number of incidents, including one where staff at a hospital in Jiangsu province armed themselves with truncheons and helmets to protect themselves from a spate of assaults.

Now anyone who insults, threatens or insults a nurse "must be punished according to the law," the government said.

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