

## Ovarian cancer week

2008 Ovarian Cancer Awareness Week starts today, with the campaign theme 'No one knows your body like you do'.

The National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC) will this week launch a new ovarian cancer training module for its General Practitioner Education Series.

Every year nearly 1100 Australian women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer and nearly 900 die from the disease.

## Communication system on trial

RESEARCHERS in South Australia hope to extend their trial of a system that allows pharmacists and doctors to share patients' medication information.

The IT communication system aims to reduce the incidence of adverse reactions to prescription drugs and related hospital admissions.

A University of South Australia trial in 2006 asked pharmacists and doctors to enter details about their patients' prescriptions on a shared database so they could more easily keep track of any drugs that may interact.

A similar trial began last month at Flinders Medical Centre.

UniSA Professor Paula Swatman said a patient's details could only be seen by the pharmacist and doctor working as part of a "team".

Professor Swatman will apply for an Australian Research Council grant to extend the 2006 community trial.

Australian Medical Association state president Dr Peter Ford told the *Adelaide Advertiser* that the Commonwealth recently changed the regulations so prescriptions could be submitted electronically "but it's introducing the IT infrastructure that's the difficult part."

## OTC contraceptive push

DEMOCRATS senator Lyn Allison has asked the Government to consider implementing a British scheme where pharmacists prescribe the oral contraceptive pill over the counter.

She said pharmacists already ask women about their health and measure their blood pressure.

OTC access to the pill would save Medicare costs as well as unplanned pregnancies, and pharmacies' opening hours would make access easier for women, she said.

Edith Weisberg, from the Sydney Centre for Reproductive Health Research, told the *Sun Herald* she welcomed the idea, while an editorial in the *Lancet* also recently called for the pill to be made available OTC because it significantly lowers the risk of ovarian cancer.

Dr Lisa Nissen, from the School of Pharmacy at the University of

Queensland, said pharmacists, "the most overtrained and under-used professionals in the health system", were equipped to prescribe and supply long-term drugs such as the pill, antihypertensives, diabetes and asthma drugs.

But Australian Medical Association president Rosanna Capolingua said only a doctor was trained to assess if there were problems such as blood clots and provide counselling about fertility and sexually transmitted infections.

"This conversation cannot be held by a pharmacist - they don't have the knowledge base - and to have that discussion over the shop counter is inappropriate," she said.

## NRT ad on cravings

THE next phase of Nicabate's TV campaign has been launched to educate smokers about the physiology behind cravings.

The new ads will be supported by point-of-sale resources, promotions and incentives including \$40 cash-backs on patches.

## Pregnant drinking

DRINKWISE Australia has requested the Federal govt to run a national campaign about drinking while pregnant.

Chief executive Mike MacAvoy said people understood the risks of heavy drinking but new research suggests moderate drinking may also harm the foetus. He wants advisory labels on all alcoholic beverages, as well as a wider community campaign.

One in 100 Australian babies is born with some degree of foetal alcohol spectrum, while national surveys show that up to 47% of women drink to some extent during their pregnancy.

Place your order with  
Pharmacor today

Pharmacor

Click here

www.pharmacor.com.au



## DISPENSARY CORNER

THE Red Cross should talk to the Australian Taxation Office.

Taxation authorities in Poland are giving citizens the chance to pay their tax bills in blood.

Every donation to a blood bank allows Poles to deduct about \$100 from their tax bill.

Donors receive an official certificate which they simply include as part of their tax return in lieu of cash.

GROUNDBREAKING research is being undertaken in Japan, where an academic has invented a machine to measure laughter.

Professor Yoji Kimura of Kansai University has also developed a new unit of measurement - called an "aH" - to calculate it.

"We have found that children laugh more freely, releasing 10 aH per second, which is about twice as much as an adult," he reported.

"IT wasn't me, it was Stilnox."

Theft charges were dismissed against a 35-year-old Sydney woman last week after the judge concluded that her actions were the result of a reaction to the insomnia drug.

Kelly-Anne Eyre was accused of stealing a \$500 electronic photo frame from a Harvey Norman store, but said she had no recollection of the incident.

DID this meal contain all five food groups?

An unemployed man in South Korea has been arrested for cooking his landlord's pet dog.

Neighbours spotted smoke rising from the man's one-room apartment in Seoul and called the fire brigade.

Firefighters found the smoke was coming from the kitchen, with the man now accused of cooking a chihuahua.



# SUPERIOR MORNING CRAVING CONTROL\*

www.nicabate.com.au

\*Clinically proven vs. 16 hour patch. All NRT patches double the chance of quitting. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. Stop smoking aid. Use only as directed. Nicabate® is a registered trade mark of the GlaxoSmithKline group of companies.

NICABATE

