

Naked Kiss winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Kate Rutherford of Sigma Pharmaceuticals, who was the first *PD* reader on Fri to tell us that Naked Kiss lasts for 3-6 hours.

She'll receive her very own Lip Plumping product from Naked Kiss, courtesy of Total Beauty Network.

Thanks to everyone who entered the daily competition last week, and keep watching *PD* for more competitions to come.

PSA awards

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is welcoming nominations for the 2008 PSA Excellence Awards.

There are three award categories - Lifetime Achievement, Pharmacist of the Year (Gold Medal) and Young Pharmacist of the Year (Silver Medal).

PSA president Brian Grogan said the awards aim to raise community awareness of the role and range of professional services provided by pharmacists, "who strive to make a difference in the communities they serve."

The award is sponsored by Symbion Pharmacy Services; more info www.psa.org.au.

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Guild slams Metcash bid

THE Symbion Pharmacy bid by grocery firm Metcash appears to be facing severe opposition, with the Pharmacy Guild saying that supply arrangements proposed under the deal would not be "suitable or practical" for pharmacies.

A report in today's *Financial Review* leaks details of the Guild submission to the ACCC about the deal, saying Metcash is likely to lower its offer, of about \$470m,

RGH e-Bulletin

THIS week's edition of the Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy E-Bulletin gives a background on thalidomide, which as well as being associated with congenital abnormalities in the late 1950s is now indicated for the treatment of multiple myeloma and leprosy.

The bulletin is available from chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au.

TGA pulls Clethane

FOUR more batches of Clethane have been withdrawn by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

A sanofi-aventis spokesperson told *PD* these last four batches had shown an extremely small level of contamination but were being withdrawn as a precaution.

There have been no adverse reactions in Australia reported as a result of the contamination.

These latest batches contained about 0.2% of the contaminant known as OSCS or "over sulphated chondroitin sulphate."

Health care authorities in the UK have allowed stock containing levels of OSCS up to 5% onto the market with a contraindication for intravenous administration and use in pregnancy.

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or withdraw completely later this week after the commission rules on the bid later this week.

A meeting by pharmacist members of the Terry White chain on Fri also unanimously backed the group's opposition to the deal (*PD* Fri).

Sigma Pharmaceuticals will be frustrated by the move, which will affect a proposed distribution joint venture with Metcash set to save the company about \$15m each year through consolidating logistical arrangements.

Asthma role for pharmacists

AN asthma study has reinforced pharmacists' role in primary healthcare and chronic disease self-management.

The study, published in today's *Medical Journal of Australia*, highlighted pharmacists' use of dispensing histories and the benefits of other interventions.

PSA's Debbie Rigby said the study involved pharmacists who had been actively involved in identifying patients whose asthma may have needed review, and then referred them to a GP.

"The innovative software application developed by the research team [at the University of Tasmania's School of Pharmacy] provided the pharmacists with the ability to use their dispensing histories to identify patients who may have been too reliant on reliever medications," she said.

The pharmacists suggested the patients visit their GP to discuss their asthma management, with the interventions resulting in fewer patients being reliant solely on reliever medication.



DISPENSARY CORNER

WHO needs Viagra when you can eat watermelon?

Scientists claim that fresh watermelon can have a similar effect to Viagra, with the fruit's flesh containing an ingredient called citrulline.

When consumed in large quantities (six slices or so is apparently a recommended 'dose'), citrulline reacts with the body and is changed into arginine, which in turn boosts nitric oxide.

This "relaxes blood vessels, the same effect that Viagra has, to treat erectile dysfunction and maybe even prevent it," said Bhimu Patil, director of Texas A&M University's Fruit and Vegetable Improvement Centre.

However another expert warned that there could be unfortunate side-effects, saying: "The problem you have when you eat a lot of watermelon is you tend to run to the bathroom more."

A MINIATURE dachshund has been put down in the USA after it gnawed off the toe of its diabetic owner while she was asleep.

56-year-old Linda Floyd says she has no feeling in her toes because of nerve damage caused by her condition.

She discovered her big toe was missing after waking up from an afternoon nap, and called emergency services.

A veterinarian who attended the incident said the toe was bandaged at the time, due to a minor injury, "which may have somehow attracted the dog."

Get your copy of **Community Pharmacy** today!

Community Pharmacy: Strategic Change Management has hit the book shelves!

The book, which covers the essential trends and issues in successful pharmacy management for today and the future has been written by S.I. (Charlie) Benrimoj, Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Sydney; Alison Roberts, a research fellow in the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney; Dexter Dunphy, Distinguished Professor and Ian Palmer, Associate Dean (Research) and Professor of Management at the Faculty of Business, University of Technology, Sydney.

The book will help community pharmacists and pharmacy owners adapt to an increasingly competitive retail environment by providing industry-specific tools for change.

Key features include authentic pharmacy case studies, development by world leading authorities utilising the latest research and balanced coverage with theoretical insights and practical focus.

The book is highly suitable for pharmacy students, providing the knowledge and skills for best practice in community pharmacy - [click here to view a list of bookstores stocking the publication](#).

