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#### Flu vaccine delayed

SUPPLIES of the influenza vaccine will be delayed for a month because manufacturers have experienced very low yields of this year's two new strains.

The longer production time means pre-winter vaccinations will commence approximately four weeks later than previous years.

A Department of Health and Ageing spokeswoman said free vaccination programs for over-65s would be given priority when the flu vaccine became available.

#### Real life C.S.I.

THE ROYAL College of Pathologists of Australasia is promoting a free public lecture in Sydney this week.

"Forensic Pathology: The Real C.S.I." is on Tue 11 Mar at 7pm at the Stanton Library, 234 Miller Street North Sydney, presented by Professor Jo Duflou - all welcome.





Available from Tri-Med Australia under the TGA's Special Access Scheme.

**Contact Dr Mendis** 08 93881444 www.trimed.com.au

## SYB pharmacy price cut

**PRIMARY** Health Care is likely to receive a lower price for Symbion's pharmacy and consumer divisions than the \$1b-plus previously expected, with the global credit crunch hitting the cost of debt funding.

The Ironbridge and Archer Capital consortium (IAC), which had reached a deal with Symbion and Healthscope to buy the assets before the Primary takeover, says

it's still interested but at a lower price than originally offered.

What's more, Healthscope and IAC are demanding \$27m in break fees owing to them after the Healthscope bid failed.

Primary says it isn't concerned, claiming to have had at least four new offers for the pharmacy and consumer businesses.

Primary today advised it now holds 92.96% of Symbion.

#### Muscular dystrophy fund

THE Leonie Stanley Memorial Research Fund (LSMRF) was launched today at the Australian Medical Association's Old branch.

The fund was established by Muscular Dystrophy Association Queensland (MDAQ) after it received a considerable bequest from member Leonie Stanley.

LSMRF will support existing and new research initiatives, promote awareness and give sustainability to this specialised research sector.

#### Hayfever trial

VOLUNTEERS are required for a trial of a nasal spray for hayfever.

Seven centres in three states are looking for 200 volunteers to take part in the seven-week early-phase clinical study.

Participants will be compensated for the four visits involved in the trial.

The new treatment is derived from the shells of marine crustaceans, which encourages the body to create its own immune response that then balances out the effects of allergens.

More info on 1800 828 717.

### Not just for babies

JOHNSON and Johnson is promoting the beauty benefits of Johnson's baby oil because of its fast absorbing and moisturising capabilities.

The company says the product locks in "ten times more moisture than many other lotions or creams when applied to wet skin".

Johnson's Baby Oil beauty applications include use on the lips, nails, decolletage and legs, as well as reducing the appearance of stretch marks and dissolving the thickest of make-up.

#### **Depression link**

PEOPLE with depression and anxiety are more likely to lead unhealthy lifestyles, new research suggests.

Scientists from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention analysed data from 217,379 adults in a study to be published in General Hospital Psychiatry, finding depressed people were more likely to be obese, smoke, drink heavily and be inactive.

#### **Bronchitol for China**

A CLINICAL trial application for Bronchitol to treat bronchiectasis has been accepted for evaluation by China's State Food and Drug Administration.

Approval of the trial is expected by the end of the year.

Preliminary market research indicates that the number of Chinese people who suffer from bronchiectasis is more than doubld that in the rest of the world.

The manufacturer, Pharmaxis, expects Bronchitol to be the first targeted medication for this patient group in more than 20 years.

#### **Blood pressure** vaccination

HIGH blood pressure may be treated by vaccinations in the future, indicates a new study.

Swiss company Cytos has developed a vaccine that showed reductions in blood pressure that lasted for four months.

The trial involved 48 patients who were given a single course of

Of those given a higher dose, their blood pressure dropped from about 146/95 to a slightly healthier 141/92.

Those given a lower dose did not show any improvement.

# DISPENSARY

A TEENAGER in the UK has refused to undergo knee surgery because of the smell of a dead rat in the operating theatre.

During a pre-operation consultation at the Queen Elizabeth II hospital in Hertfordshire a surgeon assured 19-year-old Andrew Cowper that staff were trying to find the rodent's body.

"He said the smell didn't represent a health risk but I was appalled," Cowper said, deciding to postpone the procedure.

The dead rat was found later in the roof of another part of the hospital.

THE Oregon Urology Institute in the USA has suggested that sports-mad men make the most of the current college basketball season by having a vasectomy.

There's an annual basketball tournament dubbed March Madness, and the clinic is running radio advertising saying "you need an excuse to stay at home in front of the big screen.

"Get your vasectomy at Oregon Urology Institute the day before the tournament starts.

"It's snip city," the ad continues, with institute director Terry Fitzpatrick saying he'd already reserved 12 appointment slots for 19 Mar the day before the games start.

The radio station broadcasting the ads is also promising to send each patient a "recovery kit" consisting of sports magazines, free pizza delivery and a bag of frozen peas.

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