

SF tobacco ban

CIGARETTE company Philip Morris USA Inc has been denied a motion for a preliminary injunction that would have suspended San Francisco's ban on tobacco sales by pharmacies.

Philip Morris has taken a lawsuit against the city, arguing that the new regulation violates the First Amendment because it forces tobacco companies to pull advertising in pharmacies.

But the judge ruled that the ban does not impinge on the company's free speech rights because it can still advertise at the stores, CBS reported.

Mountaintop POS

MOUNTAINTOP'S POS has a new look that it says has been "very well received" by pharmacies.

For more info on the company's Pharmacy Point of Sale and Business Management Systems see the full page ad on *page 2*.

Bronzer winner

THANKS to everyone who entered last week's Designer Brands competition.

Congratulations to Melissa Wigginton of Keppel Plaza Amcal Pharmacy, who was the first PD reader on Fri to tell us the price of the Shimmering Mineral Bronzer is \$12.99.

Melissa will be sent her very own Mineral Bronzer, courtesy of Total Beauty Network.

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Generic pharmacy star

COMMUNITY pharmacist and Pharmacy Guild member Brendan O'Loughlin will star in a new advertisement to promote generic medicines.

The Pharmacy Guild and Generic Health have teamed up to produce the national Community Service Announcement, which will run on all commercial TV networks over the coming months.

O'Loughlin is shown explaining that generics contain the same active ingredient as the original brand name medicine, which means they work in the same way and have the same health benefits.

Generic Health became involved with the campaign to help allay public concerns about

NHMRC coughs up

NATIONAL Health and Medical Research Council has awarded more than \$400,000 for research into new therapies for coughs.

Dr Stuart Mazzone of the University of Melbourne will also use the grant to study how the brain regulates coughing.

using a generic alternative.

"We are proud to support this campaign as it will not only make a difference to our community, but also to pharmacies and government, and for the maintenance of a viable generics industry in Australia," said Gavin Uptier, md of Generic Health.

Guild president Kos Sclavos said: "The Pharmacy Guild supports increased consumer awareness of the benefits of the use of generic medicines. With the support of promotional materials such as this CSA, community pharmacists are well placed to explain these benefits and assist consumers to make the right choice for them."

\$1m green tea test

AUSTRALIAN researchers have received \$913,288 to determine if green tea can protect against breast cancer, bowel cancer and leukemia.

The four-year study aims to discover if the anti-cancer effects shown in animal studies apply to humans.

RGH Pharmacy

**Due to popular demand the
RGH Pharmacy
Anticoagulation Handbook
is now available to the
pharmacy industry across Australia.**

The handbook gives patients important information about warfarin treatment and has a chart to record INR results.

Repatriation General Hospital is making it available for purchase for \$2.80 per booklet, reduced to \$2.40 for PSA and SHPA members.

More information
chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au



Urgent recall

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has today issued an urgent recall of Astrix's Bitter Melon Capsules.

Pentolamine, a prescription-only medicine, was detected in the product, which was illegally supplied to the market.

The recall comes just days after Zhen De Shou Capsules, sponsored by No Fuss Weight Loss, were recalled because they contained prescription only (S4) substances (PD 05 Nov).

DISPENSARY CORNER

A MIRACLE of modern medicine.

Local media sources in Taiwan have reported that a woman has given birth to healthy twins using 13-year-old frozen sperm, with officials saying this sets a record for the island nation.

The sperm belonged to a man who had it frozen when he was diagnosed with testicular cancer at the age of 23.

He had been told that chemotherapy could make him infertile, papers reported.

THROUGH the looking glass.

A tiny glass window implanted on the skin of a mouse has allowed researchers to track individual cancer cells as they spread through the body, a new report states.

It's a bizarre concept, but according to American researcher Jeffrey Segall, the window could one day play an important role in analysing how well developmental drugs block the spread of cancer.

"We hope this technology can be used to test the ability of various drug treatments to inhibit tumour cell invasiveness and metastasize," he said.

The method also has potential to track the impact of drugs on tumour growth.

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