

Two pages today

TODAY'S *Pharmacy Daily* has two pages including our monthly MIMS update and the regular Pharmacy Guild column on p2.

ASMI appointment

THE Australian Self-Medication Industry has today announced the appointment of Ruth Kendon as its new Regulatory and Technical Manager for Complementary Medicines.

Kendon has spent 24 years in private practice as a naturopath and herbalist in Sydney, and has also taught clinical nutrition and served as a director of the National Herbalists' Association of Australia.

"Ruth has outstanding credentials in both the theoretical understanding as well as the day-to-day practical application of complementary and alternative medicines," said ASMI executive director Juliet Seifert.

"With the complementary sector facing calls from some quarters for increased regulation, the appointment of such a well credentialed executive will assist ASMI members in having their voices heard," she added.

COPD pharmacists wanted

THE Australian Lung Foundation has issued a call for additional pharmacists in the Newcastle/Hunter Valley region of NSW to participate in a research project related to Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

The University of Sydney is also involved in the project to pilot a screening, referral and management program for COPD, funded by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia under the Fourth Agreement R&D program.

"COPD is a leading cause of death and hospitalisation in Australia," said chief investigator Heather Allan of the Australian Lung Foundation.

"Of particular alarm to the Lung Foundation however, is the

PSA WA seminar

THE WA Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is next Tue 18 Nov hosting an update on HIV/AIDS for pharmacists at the FJ Clark Lecture Theatre QE11 from 7pm.

Speaker is Prof Martyn French from RPH who will cover modern management issues for patients - more info 08 9388 2886.

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STOCK EXCHANGE

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* Stock Exchange column, where the industry is able to promote close to expiry or surplus items.

Today Medichem Pharmacy in Perth, WA has on offer:
Aromasin 25mg 30 tab exp 06/09
Diflucan 100mg 14 capsules 12/08
Questran Lite 8g 50 sachets 03/09
Questran Lite 8g 50 sachets 05/09
Questran Lite 8g 50 sachets 07/09
Risperdal Consta IM 50mg 11/09
Flavorx Medication Flavouring Kit
Persocare dividers 1 box

Most items are available for cost less 50%; more information from Manal or Jelena on 08 9343 1900 or jelenaperth@yahoo.com.

If you have items you'd like to offer through *PD's* please email stockx@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Immunisation grants

THE ACT Division of General Practice has been awarded a \$20,000 GlaxoSmithKline Adult Immunisation Grant (Urban) for a proposed 'Planning for pregnancy' immunisation program.

In the Rural category the grant was awarded to the NSW State Emergency Service for a proposed volunteer flu vaccination scheme.

MIMS November prescribing update

NEW PRODUCTS

SEROQUEL XR (**quetiapine**) is an atypical antipsychotic agent available as modified release tablets for the treatment of schizophrenia, prevention of relapse, and maintenance of clinical improvement during continuation therapy.

Seroquel XR should be administered once daily, without food, and the tablets should be swallowed whole and not split, chewed or crushed. The dose should be adjusted depending on the clinical response and tolerability of the patient.

In adults, the daily dose at the start of therapy is 300 mg on day 1, 600 mg on day 2 and up to 800 mg after day 2; the usual effective dose range is 400 to 800 mg/day. For maintenance therapy in schizophrenia no dosage adjustment is necessary. The safety of doses above 800 mg/day has not been evaluated.

Elderly patients should be

started on 50 mg/day, which can be increased in increments of 50 mg/day to an effective dose.

Seroquel XR is available as 50, 200, 300 and 400 mg modified release tablets (packs of 60s) as PBS Authority (Streamlined) item [1589 Schizophrenia].

INDICATION CHANGES

The indications for Valtrex (**valaciclovir**) have been extended to include treatment of recurrent herpes labialis (cold sores). The recommended dosage is 2000 mg twice daily for one day with the second dose taken about 12 hours (no sooner than six hours) after the first dose. Treatment should begin at the earliest symptom of a cold sore (e.g. tingling, itching or burning).

SAFETY-RELATED CHANGES

- Clinical judgement should be exercised when selecting anti-diabetic treatments, including Byetta (**exenatide**), for patients

with risk factors for pancreatitis including a past history of pancreatitis, gallstones, alcoholism and severe hypertriglyceridaemia.

There have been rare, spontaneously reported cases of acute pancreatitis, including fatal cases of haemorrhagic or necrotising pancreatitis in patients who have received Byetta. There are no early signs or symptoms that distinguish which cases will develop into acute haemorrhagic or necrotising pancreatitis.

Patients and their caregivers should be made aware of the symptom of acute pancreatitis (persistent, severe abdominal pain) and to report such pain, particularly if associated with vomiting or diarrhoea, immediately.

If pancreatitis is suspected, Byetta and other potentially suspect medications should be discontinued and not recommenced unless pancreatitis has been excluded.

- Compulsive behaviour such as

gambling, hypersexuality, shopping, eating, medication use and punting (repetitive purposeless activity) has been reported in patients taking dopamine agonists, e.g. **levodopa/carbidopa** or **benserazide** (e.g. Kinson, Madopar, Sinemet, Stalevo), or **bromocriptine** (e.g. Kripton), for the treatment of Parkinson's disease, especially at high doses. Doctors, patients and caregivers should be alert to the possibility of such behaviour, which may have serious social and financial consequences.

- Men taking **methotrexate** (e.g. Methoblastin) should use contraception during and for three months after treatment because clinical studies have shown the drug can cause an increased number of abnormal and immobile spermatozoa.
- Serum levels of **sodium valproate** can decrease when the drug is co-administered with **carbapenem cilastatin** (Primaxin), according to

reports during post-marketing. In some cases breakthrough seizures have occurred. Careful monitoring of sodium valproate serum levels should be considered if imipenem is to be co-administered.

- Concomitant use of systemic **ketoconazole** increases exposure to **salmeterol** (e.g. Serevent), a drug interaction study has observed. This may lead to prolongation in the QTc interval. Due to the potential increased risk of cardiovascular adverse events, the concomitant use of salmeterol with strong CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g. ketoconazole, **atazanavir**, **ritonavir**, **clarithromycin**, **indinavir**, **itraconazole**, **nefazodone**, **nelfinavir**, **saquinavir**) is not recommended.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full Product Information.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

This week's update from the Guild

Council meeting

TODAY marks the first meeting of the Guild's new National Council.

The new National Council includes six new representatives – Mike Farrell (Queensland); Peter McBeath (NSW); Paul Sinclair (NSW); Julianne Drewitt (Tasmania); Scott McGregor (South Australia); and Amanda Galbraith (ACT Branch President).

Continuing Councillors are Harry Zafer (WA); Si Banks (NSW); Dipak Sanghvi, Rob Foster and Toni Riley (Victoria); Ian Todd (SA); Tim Logan (Queensland); Nunzio Meta (NT); Judith Liauw (Tasmania Branch President); and Lenette Mullen (WA Branch President).

Kos Sclavos was re-elected unopposed as the National President.

The new National Council will see a new Committee Structure adopted after this week's National Council meeting.

The commencement of the new National Council was preceded by an organisational restructure of the Guild's National Secretariat, which began in 2007 and was mostly completed at the beginning of this financial year.

All of these changes have been devised to ensure the Guild will effectively meet the many challenges of the near future, not the least of which are negotiations for the Fifth Agreement.

MEANWHILE tomorrow night the Annual Dinner of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia will be held in The Great Hall of Parliament House in Canberra, with guest speaker Nicola Roxon MP, Minister for Health.

Aussie e-health launch

ASX-LISTED iSOFT has today announced the global launch of LORENZO, a "next generation software solution for healthcare organisations".

The company claims the system will "revolutionise the way healthcare is delivered around the individual" and is set to be implemented as part of a massive UK e-health project.

iSOFT said LORENZO enables healthcare providers to manage their processes whilst at the same time giving secure authorised access to patient information to those who need it, anywhere and

at any time.

"The availability of the health record across all boundaries is a major breakthrough in the delivery of healthcare," the company said.

iSOFT ceo Gary Cohen said the announcement followed successful trials in the UK and Europe, and a rollout to manage over 30 million patient records would see LORENZO as "the foundation upon which to build and deliver new generations of highly configurable, high quality, cost-effective, connected healthcare services."



ABOVE: A long-time customer of Your Pharmacy in Mentone, Vic was the lucky winner of a brand new Holden Barina in a recent API Pharmacy Best Buys promotion.

Heather Edwards won the monthly prize by purchasing items from the Pharmacy Best Buys catalogue and entering her name into the draw.

The API program is supported by national press advertising, in-store point of sale collateral and

monthly prizes to help drive consumer traffic and sales by promoting branded products at competitive prices.

The owner of the pharmacy, Robert Rychter said he was delighted that one of his customers had won the car.

He's pictured above right with, from left: Lisa Luxa, API bdm; local Holden dealer Vaughan Davies; and winner Heather Edwards.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

THE global economic crisis doesn't appear to be affecting all sectors of the Japanese economy, with a department store marketing a \$1300 Christmas roast chicken.

Just twelve of the pricy birds will be flown from Landes, France in time for Christmas Eve, stuffed with chestnuts, foie gras and black truffles.

A spokeswoman for retailer Takashimaya said: "People may think it's expensive, but it would be perfect for a party."

"The meat is not heavy but juicy, and there will be truffles between the flesh and meat, making it very fragrant."

Just one of the not-cheap chooks has been ordered so far.

COULD this be a medical miracle?

Police in Germany are searching for a thief with no arms, who apparently managed to walk out of a shop with a stolen television.

According to reports from Munich, two accomplices "used clamps to fix the TV to his body before helping him out of the store."

Distracted staff say they didn't realise what had happened until they noticed that one of the display units was missing from its stand, and decided to review recordings from the store's security cameras.

A police spokesman was quoted as saying: "It's hard to believe that the sight of an armless man walking along with a giant TV clamped to his body did not get anyone's attention."

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