

Good cholesterol link to diabetes

LOW levels of HDL, or 'good cholesterol', may cause type-2 diabetes, according to experts at the Heart Research Institute in Sydney.

These findings suggest that the decrease in HDL which is associated with type-2 diabetes may actually be a causative factor in the disease.

"Consequently, if we could increase HDL in people at risk of type-2 diabetes, such as those with insulin resistance, obesity, or a family history, we may be able to prevent the onset of the disease," said research author Michelle Fryirs, a PhD student at the Institute.

Ms Fryis was honoured with the Young Achiever Award at the Heart Research Institute Awards for Excellence Dinner last night.

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HIP succession planning

THE parent company of the Health Information Pharmacy franchise group says it's set to launch a new "unique and lucrative succession planning

Bayer settlement

BAYER Healthcare has agreed to pay \$US97.5 million to resolve allegations that it paid diabetic suppliers to switch their patients to Bayer from competitors' products and caused them to submit false Medicare claims.

According to the US Justice Department, Bayer allegedly paid almost \$US3 million in kickbacks between 1998 and 2002.

The dept said Bayer has entered an agreement which allows it to continue in the US Medicare program, Reuters reported.

Generic savings

ALPHAPHARM is emphasising the savings that consumers can make by switching from branded hayfever and allergy relief medicines to its generic versions such as Xergic, Alzene and AllerEze - particularly in the light of the global economic crisis.

Savings range from \$1.23 to \$6.58 meaning families can cut their costs significantly over a 12 month period, the company said.

model for pharmacists."

Speaking at the Health Corp agm yesterday, ceo Ken Lee also said the company was also reviewing the marketing strategy for its Health-e-Weight in the light of new entrants into the weight loss sector and resulting lower margins.

HIP lost \$290,000 in the second half of the year, an improvement on the first half loss of \$832,000.

Online reach

PHARMACIES can now advertise their in-store promotions on a new online sales portal.

The first of its kind in Australia, *whatsonsale.com.au* compiles all the current sales being conducted by leading retailers, so consumers can see where to go shopping to save money.

"During these gloomy economic conditions, retailers may be opting to have more sales to help move product, but the cost to retailers of marketing these sales and absorbing lower margins, will put further pressure on their already-stretched marketing dollar," said Pat Walsh, the website's founder.

"*Whatsonsale.com.au* gives them a cost-effective way of promoting their products."

Last chance to win Australis 21st Anniversary collector lipsticks!



Pucker up ladies - it's time to party! Australis is turning 21 this year, and to mark the occasion has teamed up with *Pharmacy Daily* to give readers the chance to win a set of its recently launched limited edition range of collectors lipsticks.

These lipsticks are not only in the most popular shades for Summer 2008, but they also capture colours from the passing decades.

The collection includes Disco Fever, High School Sweet Heart, 21 Diamonds, Demure, Bathing Beauty and Red Carpet.

Each lipstick retails for \$12.95, but to receive the whole collection FREE, be the first to email the correct answer to this question:

In the FAQ section of the Australis website, how do you stop lipstick bleeding?

Send your answer through to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au and the first correct entry will win the prize, so hurry!

Tip: Visit the Australis website www.australiscosmetics.com.au **CONGRATULATIONS** to Sanaz Spadaro of API who was yesterday's lucky winner.

Insomnia advice

NATIONAL Prescribing Service is offering 'non-medicine strategies for managing insomnia' on its website, with the new issue of Australian Prescriber, online next Mon, giving an overview of the "hypnotic hazards" of zolpidem, zaleplon and zopiclone - see www.australianprescriber.com.



DISPENSARY CORNER

SOME products sold in pharmacies can apparently cause health problems.

A judge in the USA is allowing a case to proceed, in which a Detroit city employee is claiming she was unable to continue working because of a colleague's strong perfume.

The ruling determined that Susan McBride has a potential claim under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

McBride's lawsuit said she's "severely sensitive" to perfumes and cosmetics, with her co-worker's fragrance making it "difficult for her to breathe".

HOW about this for strict regulation of complementary medicines?

Authorities in China have executed the perpetrator of a scheme in which millions of dollars were invested by the public on the promise of aphrodisiacs made out of ants.

Wang Zhendong promised returns of up to 60% in the scheme, with the ants also to be used for making liquor and other herbal remedies.

The bogus ant-breeding project is now a key feature of government warnings about investment schemes that sound too good to be true.

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