

TGA takes time

THE average time to evaluate new medicines in Australia seems to be getting much longer, with figures released by the TGA yesterday showing entities approved between 01 Apr and 30 Jun 08 took on average 203 TGA working days, compared to an average since 1992 of 158 days.

COPD study

A LARGE trial of Spiriva (tiotropium) administered to almost 6000 patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease has shown sustained improvement in lung function for up to 4 years.

The medication didn't alter the rate of decline in lung function but the study, presented at the European Respiratory Congress in Berlin this week, also reaffirmed the favourable safety profile of tiotropium, according to Associate Professor Matthew Peters of Concord Hospital, Sydney who was one of the investigators.

Palliative care initiative

A NEW research project aims to strengthen the role of community pharmacists in palliative care of patients with terminal conditions.

The Pharmacy Guild, alongside Palliative Care Australia, has announced plans to fund a new research strategy in this area.

"Pharmacists in some localities already play a pivotal role in the palliative and end of life care of patients, families and carers; and provide support and resources related to medication use, relief

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DISPENSARY CORNER

WASTE not, want not.

That's the healthy attitude of a Chinese man who's selling his wife's excess breast milk over the internet.

Li Jun of Hanyang province said his wife had had an "excellent appetite" since delivering their baby daughter last month, meaning she's been producing excess milk.

"Every hour she produces about 200ml of milk, which is too much for our child," he told a local media outlet.

"Her daily milk production is enough to feed another baby."

Mr Li denied that he was trying to profit from the recent food scandal in China in which babies were poisoned after drinking formula made with milk powder containing melamine.

"If a family is really in poverty we will provide them the milk for free," he said.

DNA analysis in the future could help solve crimes by predicting the surname of criminals.

Scientists at Leicester University have demonstrated that men with the same surname are highly likely to be genetically linked.

By analysing DNA from the Y chromosome the researchers found that there was a 24% chance of two men with the same surname sharing a common ancestor - and this increased to nearly 50% with more rare surnames.

And more than 70% of men with unusual names such as Attenborough and Swindlehurst shared identical genetic details in their Y chromosomes.

Jack Perkins walks for diabetes



THIS weekend rev-heads from around the country will gather in Bathurst, NSW for the Supercheap Auto Bathurst 1000 races.

One of them will be budding V8 supercar driver Jack Perkins, who's the son of Bathurst legend Larry Perkins and also happens to be living with type 1 diabetes.

Jack is an ambassador for the Juvenile Diabetes Research

Foundation as well as Accu-Chek Blood Glucose Meters, and this week led a pre-Bathurst walk to help raise funds for the JD RF.

250 walkers took part and so far the event has raised \$17,000 with sponsorship still coming in.

The JD RF Walk to Cure Diabetes is a national event, with more than 60,000 people participating last year and raising over \$2m.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Sue Muller of The Pharmaceutical Locum Company who was yesterday's lucky winner.

Today is the last day **Pharmacy Daily** is giving subscribers the chance to win a Lift Lip Gloss from Naked Glow, courtesy of Total Beauty Network.

The Marine Filling Spheres instantly smooth, plump and hydrate while the natural organic oils heal and soothe your lips. And of course there is no petroleum or paraben added!

For a chance to win, send your answer to the below question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

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