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Diet and dry eye

ATTENDEES at last weekend's annual Blackmores Research Symposium heard a range of high profile medicos discuss the latest evidence linking supplements with medical conditions.

One of the speakers was Professor Minas Coroneo from Prince of Wales Hospital, who said he believes that "supplementation with omega-3 fatty acids from fish oils and flaxseed oil may benefit patients with dry eye."

Several hundred people attended the symposium, titled "Exploring a lifestyle prescription for the 21st century", with other research discussed incl evidence linking vitamin D deficiency with cancer.

Pharmacy e-Bulletin

THIS week's edition of the RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin gives an overview of guidelines for the use of antifungals in haematology and oncology - available free from chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au.



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National prevention push

THE National Preventative
Health Taskforce established in
Apr by health minister Nicola
Roxon has produced its first
discussion paper, with an
ambitious target to make Australia
the "Healthiest Country by 2020."

The document outlines the case for reform in the Australian health system, calling for "urgent comprehensive and sustained action" to tackle the massive

OCP clears acne

NEW oral contraceptive Yaz has been proven effective in treating acne in a manufacturer-sponsored trial.

The drospirenone/ethinyl estradiol pill, after six cycles, almost halved the number of acne lesions in more than 200 healthy females with moderate acne.

The study found also found that women taking Yaz were three times as likely to have 'clear' or 'almost clear' skin as those taking the placebo by the third cycle of treatment.

Reporting in *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, the US researchers said the anti-androgenic properties of the progestin, drospirenone, as well as the 24/4 regimen allowed for prolonged exposure to the hormone.

economic burden of chronic disease, with a focus on obesity, tobacco and alcohol which together cause about 32% of Australia's illness.

Measures proposed include PBS subsidy for Nicotine Replacement Therapy, with the report strongly backed by the Australian Self-Medication Industry.

ASMI exec dr Juliet Seifert said the taskforce had taken a "fresh approach to tackling some of the most prevalent and costly public health problems."

The discussion paper will form the basis of meetings to be held in each capital city and some major rural centres across Australia between now and next Feb, with submissions invited at www.preventativehealth.org.au.

PA08 car pool

TRAVELLING to the Pharmacy Assistant Conference on the Gold Coast this week?

If you would like to save money and make friends on the way, the Pharmacy Guild is coordinating a car pool for delegates.

Contact Kim Thorne to find a match - whether you are a driver or a potential passenger.

Email k.thorne@guild.org.au or call 07 3831 3788.

DISPENSARY CORNER

ZEBRA LP2844 \$395 ex GST* The direct thermal LP 2844 bar code label printer is ideal for Dispense and POS label printing applications

A BLONDE woman's legal bid for compensation from L'Oreal in the USA over a dyeing job gone horribly wrong has failed.

The woman said her social life was ruined in 2005 when she accidentally dyed her blonde hair brunette with a product she claimed was wrongly labelled.

The lawsuit said she needed antidepressants, suffered anxiety and recurring headaches and ended up staying home and - shock horror - wearing hats! because of the incredible trauma of being brunette.

The Connecticut Superior Court threw the case out last week, saying she hadn't proven the company put brown hair dye in a box labelled for blondes.

THIS CHINESE man must have extremely clear sinuses.

56-year-old Ru Anting of Henan Province is able to write calligraphy with water he shoots from his eyes.

He told reporters that he discovered the unusual talent as a child after swallowing water while swiming, and finding he could shoot it out through his tear ducts.

Originally just a curiosity, he began developing the talent in the 1990s when he lost his job.

"At that time I started to train myself and hone my eye spraying skills," he explained.



Ru Anting writes four characters, 'Fu Ru Dong Hai' (Fortune as vast as the sea) by spraying water from his eyes.

Win a Slimmm Starter Pack!

THIS week *Pharmacy Daily* has teamed up with Slimmm and API to bring you a fantastic new competition!

Each day for the next week we will be giving away a Starter Pack for the exciting new weight management program, Slimmm.

Slimmm is a meal replacement

program, designed to fit in with busy lifestyles, it works by replacing two meals per day with shakes, soups or bars.

The Starter Pack includes a week's supply of shakes, a shaker, a program guide and 2 FREE meal replacement bars.

To enter, pharmacists simply have to send the correct answer to the following question to **comp@pharmacydaily.com.au**.

api

Today's qustion is:

How many days per week does a customer stay on the Slimmm program?

The first person to respond with the correct answer each day will win this great prize.

HINT: For clues and information visit **www.slimmm.com.au**.

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