

HRT study

RESEARCH published in this month's *European Heart Journal* claims that women using hormone replacement therapy to treat menopause symptoms don't have a higher risk of heart attack, especially using a cream or patch.

The observational study of almost 700,000 healthy Danish women aged 51-69 is counter to previous studies linking HRT to cardiovascular events.

API back in the black

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries has today confirmed previous guidance, with a \$49.7m pre-tax profit (\$15.2m net profit after tax) for the year to 31 Aug.

Total revenue was \$3.24b, up 22.2% on the company's last full 12 month period which ended 30 Apr 2007, while the NPAT was up \$26.5m on the shock 2007 loss.

CEO Stephen Roche said API had

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DISPENSARY CORNER

A MAJOR health initiative in Vietnam is set to see "sickly" people banned from riding motorbikes.

The criteria will include a chest measurement of potential motorcyclists, with the ban applying to anyone measuring less than 71cm (28 inches).

The proposal aims to weed out people who are too thin or too short to ride, but has generated outrage from many less well-endowed females.

"Many Vietnamese women have small chests," wrote one, with another popular commentator saying that "From now on, padded bras will be best-sellers in Vietnam."

People who suffer from "enlarged livers" or sinusitis will also be ruled out.

BRITISH scientists have made a major breakthrough in clothing research, finding that women who wear red are likely to have a better time going on dates.

The University of Rochester research reported male subjects saying they would spend more money when shown a picture of a woman wearing red, compared with the same woman in a blue skirt.

The *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* report said the results showed that the colour red makes men feel subconsciously more amorous.

They speculated links to behaviour in some animals such as female monkeys who have "bright red sexual swellings" when they are ovulating.

Emma knows her numbers



ABOVE: Emma Fernance of the Pharmacy Guild in Qld had her blood pressure taken during the launch of the Stroke Foundation's new 'Know your numbers' campaign this week (PD yest).

Doing the honours at one of the more than 100 community

pharmacy-based 'pressure stations' is Macarthur Central Pharmacy mgr Peter Thannhauser.

The campaign aims to raise awareness of Australia's second biggest killer, with a target of testing at least 100,000 Queenslanders.

HOT Travel Deals

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature.

Each week we plan to highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

Time to start thinking about the next school holidays! Norfolk Air have released a fantastic special - "Kids Fly Free" ex Brisb, Syd, Newcastle and Melb for travel from November 08 to end of January 2009. A great opportunity to enjoy a holiday on Norfolk Island. Call Norfolk Air on 1800 612 960 or see your travel agent.

Treasure Island Resort Fiji are offering a "Stay for 4 nights Pay for 2 nights" deal. This pay for half or Flexi stay offer applies for longer stays. Valid for travel up until 31 March

2009. Blockout dates apply. Contact your Travel Agency for more details.

Club Med Lindeman Island is offering an amazing 'Second Person Stays for Free' deal this summer. Club Med all-inclusive packages mean there are no hidden extras. Prices for a 10 night stay start from \$3008 ex Syd for the first adult, and include flights, accommodation, three gourmet buffet meals daily, open bar, kids club, entertainment and all transfers and taxes. Book before Oct 31. For more details visit www.clubmed.com.au.

now "restored a sustainable profit position," adding that the result was particularly pleasing in the light of the slower retail environment and the PBS Reforms implementation.

He said Priceline had opened its 300th store during the year and is on target for 400 outlets by 2010, adding that: "we believe we have a robust retail model that will appeal to consumers throughout the economic cycle."

A dip in volumes before the PBS reforms was short-lived, with API reporting a "rapid rebound" in pharmacy ordering during Aug and strong contributions from Soul Pattinson and Pharmacist Advice.

"We have steadily built on the range of services we offer to pharmacies and with a consistently reliable distribution capability it has underpinned our market position," Roche said.

St John's Wort

A COCHRANE review of 29 studies into the use of the herb *Hypericum perforatum L.*, commonly known as St John's Wort, has shown that it's as effective as some prescription medications in the field of melancholic symptoms.

The 5489 patients studied were suffering a range of symptoms associated with anxiety and low-mood, and showed a 95% decrease in the symptoms when taking the herb compared with placebo and also with some standard prescription medications.

Also, fewer taking St John's Wort left the studies due to adverse effects than those taking the prescription medications - see www.cochrane.org.

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