

Growth slow: IMS

A GLOBAL forecast by IMS Health has predicted just 1% in pharmaceutical sales growth in the US in 2009, due to generic competition, less new launches and the economic slowdown.

Worldwide the market is expected to grow by about 5% with stronger performance in emerging markets.

Gluten-free lunch

THE author of a book for sufferers of Celiac disease has published a series of Lunch Box recipes to make school simpler for gluten intolerant children.

Sandra Ramacher, who wrote 'Healing Food: Cooking for Celiacs, Colitis, Crohn's and IBS' put together the Five Day Lunch Box Recipes, extracted from the book and available for free download at www.cclibs.com.

Ramacher will be presenting at The Gluten Free Food & Allergy Show, 15-16 Nov in Sydney.

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Roxon Primary Strategy

HEALTH minister Nicola Roxon yesterday released a discussion paper on Australia's first ever National Health Strategy, seeking input from across the community on vital reforms to the system.

She said health needs to change for many reasons incl the ageing population, health workforce shortages, and the increasing burden of chronic disease.

The paper proposes ten elements of a better primary care system, including more focus on preventive care, better management of health information via eHealth, flexibility to respond to local community needs via "sustainable and efficient operational models" and argues that greater equity in access and outcomes is essential.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia responded immediately, saying the pharmacy profession was "well-placed to offer cost effective support for implementation of many of the initiatives being considered."

PSA president Warwick Plunkett

Nov Parkville lecture

THE PSA will hold a seminar on polycystic ovary syndrome at the Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University at 8pm on Tue 11 Nov 08, free for PSA/SHPA members; more info 03 9389 4013.

said using the existing network of community pharmacies would make an integrated health strategy more accessible.

"I congratulate the Health Minister for her strong proactive support for a new focus on preventative health," he said.

Australian Self-Medication Industry exec dr Juliet Seifert also welcomed the enhanced focus on prevention and "measures to enable patients to better self manage their conditions."

"The paper recognises the potential for individuals to have a greater role in decision making about their health, through greater self-care, monitoring and prevention," Seifert said.

The discussion paper is available at www.health.gov.au and submissions can be made until 27 Feb 2009.

New orphan drugs

THE TGA has expanded its list of orphan drugs to include Thalidomide Pharmion for the treatment of relapsing or refractory multiple myeloma and erythema nodosum leprosum or Type II lepra reactions.

Another new orphan drug is lepirudin (Refludan) for the treatment of acute heparin associated thrombocytopenia type II patients.



Pharmacy small group tours

ABOVE: A group of around 60 pharmacists was recently welcomed to Croatia at a function in Zagreb, organised by tour company Pharmacy Small Group Tours.

The company has hosted pharmacy tours to India and China, and this year the group is visiting Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Montenegro.

Present at the welcome function was Australia Ambassador to Croatia, Tracey Reid, plus the President and Secretary General of the Croatian Pharmaceutical Society (pictured).

DISPENSARY CORNER



A UNIVERSITY student in Taiwan is understood to be seriously reconsidering her relationship with her boyfriend, who failed to catch her after persuading her to leap from a second floor balcony for a late evening assignation.

The girl was left wheelchair bound with two broken ankles after the incident, which apparently occurred after the boy stepped back when she jumped from her bedroom.

There's been extensive debate of the incident on Taipei University blogs, with some blaming 'Romeo' for being a coward, while others say 'Juliet' was foolish.

The general consensus was that the idea of Juliet leaping into Romeo's arms was quite romantic, but it may have been better for her to climb down using a rope or a sheet.

PHARMACIES in New York City should prepare to greet lots of Isabellas, Sophias and Daniels, with those three names the most popular for new babies in the Big Apple last year.

We're not sure if there's a similar trend here, but some Americans also chose rather more unusual names.

A girl's name that appeared for the first time this year was Unique - luckily there was only one of these.

Another baby girl, probably eagerly awaited, was named Miracle.

Some of the more bizarre names for little boys born in Manhattan last year included Achilles, Phoenix and Wolf.

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