

Happy birthday, Viagra!

THIS Sun marks a decade since Pfizer's erectile dysfunction medication Viagra (sildenafil citrate) became available in Australia.

The company said more than 590,000 patients had been prescribed the drug here in that time, with its availability linked with significant increases in the number of men seeking professional help for the ailment.

Otago PhD course

THE University of Otago in Dunedin, NZ is inviting applications from pharmacists registered or able to be registered in NZ for a PhD studentship on the topic of Medicines Use Review.

The student will examine the clinical and social outcomes of NZ's Medicines Use Review and Adherence Support service - info.rhiannon.braund@otago.ac.nz.

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Metcash sizes up Sigma

GROCERY wholesaler Metcash is understood to be one of several companies looking at a possible purchase of Sigma Pharmaceuticals according to today's *Financial Review* newspaper.

The move follows the ultimately unsuccessful proposed joint venture between the firms to together distribute products in the event of a successful takeover.

Natio Australia deal

BEST-SELLING pharmacy skincare brand Natio is the official skincare and cosmetic partner of the upcoming Baz Luhrmann movie epic *Australia* which stars Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman and launches Nov.

The company has created a special collection of *Australia* mineral lipsticks, saying it includes colours inspired by the natural landscape portrayed in the movie, named Daybreak, Journey, Epic, Essence and Drama.

Guild briefings

THE Pharmacy Guild will this month kick off its third round of Member Briefings to update pharmacists on a range of issues including the Fifth Agreement, PBS reform, wholesalers, awards, e-prescribing and HMRs.

The next briefing will be for District nine from 7-10pm next Tue 16 Sep at Mantra Deep Blue in Warrnambool, costing \$44 pp which includes dinner.

District 8's briefing will be held on Tue 23 Sep at Four Points by Sheraton in Geelong.

See www.guildevents.com.au.

of Symbion pharmacy by Metcash - a proposal which was kyboshed by Terry White Chemists.

The report cites a number of analysts saying that Sigma may be thinking of a breakup including separately selling off its Herron brand and generics businesses.

Sanofi-aventis, which recently purchased the Symbion Consumer businesses from Primary Health Care, is also said to be running the ruler over Sigma.

Small rural projects

THE Rural Pharmacy Workforce Program has announced the successful projects for the first round of funding in 2008.

Ten projects have been approved, with applications for the second round of funding opening tomorrow.

The scheme is funded under the Fourth agreement and was established "in recognition of the key role pharmacists play in maintaining the health of all Australians, particularly in rural and remote Australia."

Funding of up to \$20,000 is available for projects with an anticipated duration of up to twelve months - more info michelle.quester@guild.org.au.

New orphan drug

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has added Janssen-Cilag's Prezista (darunavir) to its list of designated orphan drugs.

It's indicated for the treatment of HIV infection in children and adolescents aged 6 to under 18.

Win a Polishing Body Wash!

CONGRATULATIONS to Suzie Freebury of The Heart Foundation who was the lucky winner of yesterday's competition.

TODAY is the last day for PD subscribers to enter for a chance to win a Polishing Body Wash from DermaNew, courtesy of Total Beauty Network.

The Body Wash is a total body cleansing gel, exfoliating and helping to remove cell debris and polish your skin.

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

In what Rejuvenation kit is the Polishing Body Wash featured?

The first person to answer correctly will win.

HINT: Go to www.tbn.com.au each day and click on the DermaNew logo at the top of the page.



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DISPENSARY CORNER



PHARMACISTS now have an explanation for those previously mysterious surges in business.

It's all due to what was on TV the previous night, according to Belgian researchers who have found that watching hospital dramas can make you worry more about your own health.

The scientists surveyed 1300 teenagers about their viewing habits and found that those who liked medical shows were more likely to be concerned about getting sick themselves.

THE Texan city of San Antonio has revealed that it plans to become the first major US metropolis to harvest methane gas from human waste on a commercial scale.

Residents of the city produce about 140,000 tonnes a year of "biosolids" which will be converted into natural gas and sold to power generators.

STINGOSE certainly wasn't enough for three people who were stung to death by bees after a truck carrying several dozen hives overturned in northeast China this week.

The accident happened near Changchun, with TV reports showing thousands of bees swarming around the vehicles as emergency workers wearing protective clothing attempted to clear the debris.

To make it even more tragic three more people were killed several hours later when two trucks collided as they tried to avoid the angry insects.

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