

PBS site upgrade

THE Health Department has launched a new look home page for the PBS Industry Subsite, which offers improved search functionality.

Other additions to the site include *Guidelines for Deeds of Agreement for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme*, a document which has been developed by the health dept in conjunction with Medicines Australia and the Generic Medicines Industry Association.

Other changes in the site include a consolidation of all forms that may be required by the department to list a medicine on the PBS and new details of the Expert Advisory Panel on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medicines, which assists with the PBS listing of medicines for the treatment of conditions which predominantly occur in indigenous populations.

Nexium fomulation

ASTRAZENECA has announced a new approved indication for Nexium for the treatment and management of erosive oesophagitis and symptomatic Gastro-Oesophageal Reflux Disease (GORD).

There's also a new formulation of the medication, Nexium 10mg granules, available in unit dose sachets, with the granules easily dispersed in water to form a suspension and administered orally or via nasogastric or gastric tube.

\$7.4b PBS Reform saving

THE PBS reforms will save the government a huge \$7.4 billion over a decade - more than twice the original \$3b saving predicted when the reforms were first announced in Nov 2006.

That's the conclusion of a Guild-commissioned report which will be launched today at the APP conference on the Gold Coast by Guild President Kos Sclavos.

The Guild has engaged Peter Davey of Illuminate Health Consulting to produce the report into the ongoing savings from the PBS reform process, with Sclavos telling *PD* it was vital that updated and independent data is available.

"These are very powerful figures which we can use to dispel myths

NUROFEN JUST GOT FASTER THAN STANDARD NUROFEN



TWICE AS FAST

NUROFEN ZAVANCE

ABSORBED UP TO TWICE AS FAST AS STANDARD NUROFEN

Tax breaks on POS

FRED Health is urging pharmacies to make the most of business tax breaks on purchases of items such as point of sale and PC hardware under the federal gov't's economic stimulus package.

The concessions include extra tax deductions of up to 30%, and pharmacies turning over \$2m or less can qualify if they buy assets worth over \$1000, with a purchase threshold of \$10,000 for those with a \$2m+ turnover.

The 30% allowance applies for assets acquired 13 Dec 08-30 Jun 09, installed by 30 Jun 2010.

about the perceived growth of the PBS," Sclavos said.

The Guild has commissioned a number of reports as it prepares for the upcoming negotiations with the government over the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, with another study by Access Economics clearly showing that the PBS growth predicted in the first and second Intergenerational Reports has not eventuated.

During today's State of the Industry Symposium, Sclavos will also reveal details of a third report by Medici Capital which shows that front of shop "holds its own" - in contrast to commonly held beliefs that the dispensary subsidises retail pharmacy sales.

More than 2000 pharmacists from across Australia are today converging on the Gold Coast for the APP conference and exhibition.

Pharmacy Daily will report on location from the conference and will also be on stand 207 with the chance to win an Apple iPod Touch, so be sure to drop in!

US narcotic move

THE US FDA has warned nine pharmaceutical companies to stop making 14 "unapproved narcotic drugs that are marketed in several dosage forms and are widely used to treat pain."

The FDA sent warning letters to several firms including Boehringer Ingelheim Roxane and Mallinckrodt about the products which include "high concentrate morphine sulfate oral solutions and immediate release tablets containing morphine sulfate, hydromorphone or oxycodone."

The FDA said doctors are often unaware that not all drugs on the market are approved.

Vision Van hits road

REGIONAL pharmacists are being encouraged to support the Vision Van as it tours around the eastern seaboard of Australia over the next 90 days screening Australians at risk of Age-Related Macular Degeneration.

The van will travel to 28 towns incl Forster and Tamworth in NSW, the Gold Coast and Hervey Bay in Qld and Geelong and Frankston in Vic; bookings for free AMD screenings on 1800 176 255.



DISPENSARY CORNER

HERE'S why you need that Xbox.

Researchers in the UK have found that playing video games can boost vision in adults.

People who played the games showed an improved ability to notice small changes in shades of grey against a uniform background, also known as "contrast sensitivity".

A degradation in this ability is one of the first aspects of vision to be affected by ageing, with existing treatments for the condition requiring eye surgery, glasses or contact lenses.

The improvements in the study were sustained for months or even years, which suggested that having "square eyes" from staying too long in front of a computer screen may actually be a good thing.

THE secret to long life is fried egg sandwiches - at least according to Britain's oldest woman, who turned 113 on Tue.

Florence Baldwin was born in Leeds on 31 Mar 1896, meaning she was 16 when the Titanic sank, and 73 when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon.

She said she'd always been healthy, not even visiting a doctor regularly until after she turned the ripe old age of 104, with a key part of her diet being a daily fried egg sandwich.

WIN TAN IN A CAN

Le Tan has again teamed up with *Pharmacy Daily* giving readers the chance to win a can of the new **Le Tan Jet Dry** over the next two weeks.

Le Tan Jet Dry is the perfect last minute tan solution that can be applied before work or a night out on the town with the confidence it will be completely dry and ready when clothing is put on three minutes later.

Le Tan Jet Dry is infused with vanilla fragrance making it one of the most pleasantly scented tans available.

Each 100g can retails for \$12.99, and to receive your very own can for FREE, simply send through the correct answer to the following question:

According to the Le Tan website, why is Le Tan Jet Dry so great?

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

The first correct entry received each day will win the prize, so get those entries in quick!

Hint: Visit the Le Tan website at: www.letanfast.com.au.

CONGRATULATIONS to yesterday's winner, **Elisa Gavin** of **Regional Pharmaceuticals** in Rosebery.

