

## Sanofi changes

SANOFI Aventis has requested a number of amendments to brand premiums for 11 drugs.

The 24 PBS-listed items include glimepiride, metronidazole, ketoprofen, and codeine phosphate with paracetamol.

The requested changes will take effect on 1 February 2009 and are listed on [www.pbs.gov.au](http://www.pbs.gov.au).

For queries call 1800 732 273.

## Bayer Schering Pharma BiTEs

BAYER Schering Pharma AG, has acquired an exclusive option for a collaboration and licensing agreement with Micromet, a biopharmaceutical company developing antibodies for the treatment of cancer, inflammation and autoimmune diseases.

Bayer Schering Pharma will pay Micromet a 4.5 million Euro fee to secure a one-year option on a specific BiTE antibody.

## PSA/Guild united front

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild have reaffirmed their commitment to work together this year in the lead-up to the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

PSA president Warwick Plunkett said that 2009 was an important time for the two organisations to recognise the need for a common voice on major issues.

"The continued cooperation also ensures the ongoing viability of community pharmacy and their ability to provide new professional services," Mr Plunkett said.

National president of the Guild, Kos Sclavos, said: "It is the view of both organisations that we have the skills and knowledge to work collaboratively with the Government to establish a successful Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, to take effect from June 2010.



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## DISPENSARY CORNER

STEP aside Tony Furgeson, Madonna is introducing the world to a new diet (again).

In an effort to stay young forever (until that pesky fountain of youth can be found), Mad's has thrown away Atkins, replacing it with Salmon, Salmon, and you guessed it, Salmon.

The diet, designed to knock 12 years off her age, will also involve specially blessed Kabbalah water priced at an annual cost of US\$120,000 (A\$177,500), and is claimed to contain minerals which keep skin young - forever?

WHO would have thought that the humble Rubix Cube could be bad for your health.

Bad if you spend hours a day trying to solve it - over 26 years.

Bob Hawke was still in power, and married to Hazel, when Graham Parker bought the toy.

A recession, drought and a war later and he finally snapped the last block into place.

"I have missed important events to stay in and solve it and I would lie awake at night thinking about it," he told media recently.

Graham now has wrist and back problems from his masterpeice, and according to The World Cube Association, has taken the longest recorded time to finish the puzzle.



## Limited CD-ROM

CASE Studies in Clinical Practice - Use of Laboratory Test Data: Process Guide and Reference for Pharmacists is now available in CD-Rom format.

Only 200 copies are for sale through the PSA.

## ConPharm deal

EARLYBIRD registrations are open for ConPharm '09, to be held at the Hyatt Regency, Sanctuary Cove, on 28-31 May.

Details at [www.saneevent.com.au/ws/conpharm09/](http://www.saneevent.com.au/ws/conpharm09/)

"The good news is that the Guild and the PSA are on the same page as we approach this important work.

"As an industry, we are well aware of the implications of the global financial crisis on public funding, but we will be pointing strongly to the multi-billion dollar savings already achieved in current and future costs of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme."

A Joint Agreement Planning Committee, to work closely with the Department of Health and Ageing, will include two PSA Board members and the Health Economics Committee of the Guild.

## TGA drug audits

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration plans to outsource some quality checks of drug manufacturers in China, India and other Third World countries that produce medicines for sale in Australia.

In a bid to "rationalise" international inspections, American and European inspectors will examine the factories, according to a report in *The Australian* today.

A document was signed off last week to seal the deal between the TGA, US Food and Drug Administration and European Medicines Agency Planning.

In the last financial year, the TGA completed only 92 overseas audits out of more than 2000 factories approved to export here in Australia.

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## Registration now open!



[www.appconference.com](http://www.appconference.com)

## Travelling Well comp is back!

EACH day this week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving you the chance to win one of two copies of Dr Deborah Mills' latest book, *Travelling Well*.

The book is a must-have guide to a safe and healthy journey, with detailed advice about pre-trip preparation, how to look after yourself while away, and what to do if you get sick.

Dr Deborah Mills, widely known as "The Travel Doctor" is one of Australia's leading travel health care providers, and has over 20 years experience in the field.

To enter today, send your answer to the following question to:  
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**What is Lassa Fever and in what country does it exist?**

This great prize will go to the first two correct responses, so for your chance to win, make sure you send in your entry NOW!

Congratulations to **Maire Blackhall** of **Hunt Sharp Pharmacy** and **Sophie Koutsoukos** of **Good Price Pharmacy Coorparoo**, who were yesterday's lucky winners.



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