# Pharmacy DAILY —

Friday 10th July 2009

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# iPods - the new pharmacy essential

**PHARMACY** colleges in the USA are beginning to require all incoming students to have an iPod touch or an iPhone for the new semester.

The University of Florida is the second pharmacy school to implement the requirement, after a similar move by the University of Missouri in May.

"We want our students to become adept at using these mobile devices early on because we see this as the future in pharmacy practice," said UF College Dean William Riffee.

He said pharmacists were likely to in the future rely on the devices to "access patient medical records and verify prescriptions."

Students will use the gadgets to participate in interactive class quizzes as well as downloading free applications which will help firstyear students learn the name of various drugs.



# Pharmacy sticks up for Sigma

**THERE'S** been lots of feedback about the Sigma Mediterranean Conference (*PD* Wed, Thu) with several pharmacists coming out strongly in support of the event.

A number have pointed out that although the trip is being promoted by Sigma, cruise and air fares for participants are not being subsidised by the firm but are a good deal because of the group booking.

One Melbourne pharmacist, William So of Pharmacy 517, said he attended the last Sigma cruise

# iNova allergy launch

**INOVA** Pharmaceuticals has today announced the launch of a "new look allergy range" for the treatment of allergic conjunctivitis and rhinitis.

Dubbed 'Eyezep' the eye drop range complements iNova's Azep Nasal Spray, which is a fast and long-acting antihistamine treatment for allergic rhinitis.

Both products contain azelastine hydrochloride and are in-licensed by iNova for the Australian market.

Product mgr Richard Horsburgh said that with 20% of people affected by ocular allergies "the launch of Eyezep presents an enormous opportunity for pharmacy."

He said the product would be supported by a campaign to help pharmacists and pharmacy assistants better support customers affected by allergic conjunctivitis.

More information on the products at www.zepallergyrelief.com.au.

### **New CMEC dates**

**THE** Complementary Medicines Evaluation Committee of the TGA has advised that dates for its 2009 meetings have been changed.

The meeting which was to have been held on 24th July 09 has been cancelled, while the originally scheduled 2nd October meeting will now be held on 4th September.

The 4th December 09 meeting remains as originally scheduled.

# **Updated Tamiflu list**

**THE** Victorian branch of the Pharmacy Guild has updated its list of pharmacies providing free Tamiflu, through the joint program facilitated by the Guild and the Department of Human Services.

The full listing of 260 pharmacies can be viewed online at www.guild.org.au/vic.

in 2007, and said the company "didn't try to promote the use and supply of their products".

So said that a number of other companies were also involved, with the educational component "a lot more than one and a half days," adding that including doctors made it a great way to boost relationships between the professions.

Another **PD** reader said she had the impression that perhaps people complaining about the cruise were upset because they weren't invited!

"As a retired pharmacist I say to all who are going to the cruise 'go for it' and really enjoy yourselves."

Kate Lynch of the Generic Medicines Industry Association (GMiA) told **PD** that although Sigma isn't a member of Medicines Australia, any Sponsor promotion of prescription products - whether member or non-member - is required to comply with the MA code of conduct.

This is a stipulation of the TGA's letter of marketing approval for any prescription product, she said.

"Members of GMiA, including Sigma Pharmaceuticals, do comply with the Medicines Australia code of conduct," Lynch emphasised.

# Sclavos to speak at National Press Club

**NATIONAL** President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Kos Sclavos, will address the National Press Club on Wed 29 Jul.

The Guild said "this will be an important address on the current state and future directions of community pharmacy," and tickets to the event are available for \$55 for Press Club members and \$75 for non-members - 02 6121 2199.

## Surgery for colitis

AN Australian study published in the American Journal of Gastroenterology has shown that removing the appendix from people suffering from ulcerative colitis can provide a significant therapeutic

The study was led by Professor Terry Bolin of the Prince of Wales Hospital, and he said the research showed a clinical improvement in 90% of the 30-patient sample, with 40% experiencing a complete resolution of symptoms.

He said appendicectomy could be indicated as a first line treatment for people living with the condition.

The research built on previous studies which found that it was rare for people to develop colitis if they had their appendix removed at a young age.

## Bayer insulin deal

**BAYER** Schering Pharma has signed an exclusive supply and distribution agreement with Polish insulin producer Bioton S.A. and its Singaporean subsidiary, SciGen.

For an up-front payment of €31m Bayer has acquired the right to market and distribute insulin produced by Bioton under the trade name of SciLin in China.

"The contract and payment guarantee the exclusive commercial delivery of this recombinant insulin to Bayer in China with a secured supply of the product for the next 15 years," Bayer said.

Bayer already has a significant presence in the Chinese diabetes market, through its Glucobay treatment for type 2 diabetes.

There are estimated to be 40 million diabetics in China, with projected annual growth in demand for insulin of more than 40%.



Pharmacy Women's Congress

14 - 16 August 2009 Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa, Gold Coast

□ Discuss the future of pharmacy 
 □ Learn more about owning your own pharmacy
 □ Meet like-minded women 
 □ Beat the winter chill

# **WIN!** Two nights luxury accommodation

Register to attend before 20 July for your chance to WIN two nights' accommodation at the luxurious **Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa.** 

To check out the program, register or for more information visit: www.**pharmacywomenscongress**.com.au



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

# Pharmacy

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# **CPD Calendar**

### WELCOME to Pharmacy Daily's Continuing Professional Development Calendar, featuring

upcoming events, conferences and opportunities for pharmacists to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

### 1 Jul - 31 Jul: The Pharmspace 09 Virtual Careers Fair & Expo is now online 24/7 -

www.pharmspace.com.au. 11-13 Jul: PSA will hold a Re-Entry Course - 02 9431 1120.

### 13 Jul: A seminar on Non-drug Therapy for Sleep Disorders will be held at the Unara Conference Centre, Tooowoomba - 07 3844 4900.

- 19 Jul: PSA NSW will hold its **Advanced Clinical Education Seminar** featuring nine aged care topics, with 6 CPD points more info 02 9431 1109.
- 31 Jul-1 Aug: SHPA will hold a Sydney seminar in Critical Care Advanced - 03 9486 0177.
- **6-7 Aug**: SHPA will hold an **Advanced Clinical Pharmacy** seminar in Melbourne - more information 03 9486 0177
- 14-16 Aug: The 2009 Pharmacy Women's Congress will be held on the Gold Coast -

pharmacywomenscongress.com.au.

- 30 Aug-03 Sep: The annual **Pharmacy Snow Business** Conference is taking place at Mt Buller in Victoria - see www.medici.com.au/study-tours.
- 16-19 Sep: Pharmacy 2009: The **Pharmacy Management** Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove on the Gold Coast - more info www.pharmacyconference.com.au.
- 15-18 Oct: The PSA's Pharmacy Australia Congress 2009 will be held in Sydney www.pac2009.com.au.
- 5-8 Nov SHPA will hold its 35th National Medicines Management Conference in Perth - www.shpamm2009.com.
- 16-23 Jan 2010: Pharmacy Study Tour in Aspen, Colorado www.medici.com.au/study-tours.

# New TGA fees now official

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration today posted an updated list of fees and charges for 2009/10, ten days after the originally planned implementation date (PD 30 Jun).

Late last month the TGA advised sponsors and manufacturers to check its website before making applications, with the 2009/09 fee levels maintained until the increases had been approved.

Now the changes have gone through, and the site lists the full schedule of new fees and charges for prescription, OTC, listed and complementary medicines as well as medical devices.

There's been some controversy about the new charges, under a requirement that the TGA work towards cost recovery.

### Conference earlybird

**PEOPLE** who register to attend the Pharmacy Women's Congress before 20 Jul will have a chance to win two nights accommodation at the luxury Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa.

The conference runs 14-16 Aug more info 07 3831 3788.

Prescription medicines application, evaluation and annual fees are up 6.6%, while fees for registered non-prescription medicines have increased 13.3%.

Listed non-prescription charges are up 14.3% while blood, blood components and human tissues annual licence charges are increasing by 12.8%.

The TGA said all of its current fees and charges "will be subject to a further comprehensive review in 2009-10" including the preparation of a full agency cost recovery impact statement.

### WHO OKs Cervarix

**THE** World Health Organization has approved GSK's Cervarix vaccine for cervical cancer, in addition to its previous approval for alternative Gardasil.

The Cervarix approval means that United Nations agencies and partners can now officially purchase the vaccine for their programs in third world countries.

More than 80% of the estimated 280,000 cervical cancer deaths worldwide each year occur in developing countries, the UN said.

# **DISPENSARY CORNER**

A WOMAN from Poland is suina a hotel in Egypt, claiming that her daughter became pregnant by swimming in the resort pool.

Magdalena Kwiatkowska says she should be compensated after her 13-year-old daughter came back from a family holiday expecting a baby.

Her Warsaw travel agent confirmed the complaint, which states the girl conceived because of "stray sperm" in the pool, with the mother reportedly adamant that her daughter didn't meet any boys while she was there.

**THE** elixir of life may have been hiding for some time in the dirt from Easter Island.

Rapamycin was first discovered on the South Pacific paradise in the 1970s, and has for some time been used to prevent organ rejection in transplant patients.

However US scientists have now conducted a study, published this week in the journal Nature, which found that it also extended the expected lifespan of aging mice by an amazing 38%.

"We believe this is the first convincing evidence that the ageing process can be slowed and lifespan can be extended by a drug therapy starting at an advanced age," said one of the researchers from the University of Texas Health Science Centre.

He estimated that if the drug had the same effect in humans it would be greater than the expected increase in extra years of life if both cancer and heart disease could be cured.

**"STRESS** eating" is now a well documented phenomenon, with a study in the American Journal of Epidemiology finding that overweight men and women gain even more kilos when put under extra pressure.

Interestingly, the stress effect "didn't appear to impact normalweight people - just those who were overweight or obese from the beginning of the study," said researcher Jason Block from the Harvard Medical School.

# IN REVLON EYELASHES!



Add red carpet glamour to your look with the Revlon Fantasy Lengths and Lash Flares fake eyelash range.

Revlon has teamed up with Pharmacy Daily this week, giving readers the chance to win a packet of glue on eyelashes each day.

The range includes Fantasy Lengths

Self Adhesive Eyelashes, Fantasy Length Glue-On Eyelashes and Lash Flares Individual Lashes and is valued at \$9.99 a packet. The easy to apply lashes are long lasting, comfortable, weightless

and suitable for contact lens wearers. So give yourself perfect lashes every time thanks to Revlon.

Today is your last chance to win these very own fake lashes. Simply send through the correct answer to the following question:

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

The first correct entry received each day will win! Hint: Visit the Revlon website at: www.revlon.com

**CONGRATULATIONS to Danielle Taggart of Hillarys Community** Pharmacy in WA who was yesterday's lucky winner!