



Bayer Genzyme deal

GENZYME Corporation and Bayer Healthcare have officially settled the transaction under which Genzyme has acquired the rights to Bayer HealthCare's haematologic oncology portfolio.

The move means that two products have now been transferred to Genzyme - MabCampath (alemtuzumab) and Fludara (fludarabine phosphate).

Both therapies are approved in major markets including Australia, NZ, the USA and Europe.

"This is a significant move for Genzyme Australasia and allows the organisation to considerably expand its presence in haematology and oncology in both countries," said Genzyme Australasia managing director, Dan Brown.

Bayer Australia md Hans-Dieter Hausner said the move would allow the company to concentrate on its new generation of targeted oncology therapies, including Nexavar which was listed on the PBS on 01 Feb this year.

Guild robot dispensing tick

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia yesterday announced its official endorsement of the Gollman Robotic Dispensary System which is distributed in Australia through Gollman Bouw Pty Ltd.

The endorsement came via the Guild's fully owned subsidiary Gold Cross Products and Services, which promotes a spectrum of pharmacy products ranging from jelly beans, rusks, paper & plastic products through to blood pressure monitors, refrigerators and even pharmaceuticals such as Xenical.

Gold Cross general manager Trevor Clarkin said the high standard of the Gollmann system, along with its ability to dispense up to 300 items an hour, made it "the stand-out choice for Australian pharmacists."

"We are delighted to endorse the Gollmann Robotic Dispensary System," he said.

"With the help of this system, pharmacists can spend more time consulting with customers and dispensary technicians can feel confident when preparing prescriptions for the pharmacist."

Robotic dispensing systems have started to gain a foothold in Australia, with the Willach brand claiming 70 installations over the last two years.

Ironically Willach was launched here in 2007 by Mark Bouw, who left the company last year (PD 03 Oct) to instead promote the "second generation" Gollmann system, with Gollmann Bouw Pty Ltd being a joint venture with the German manufacturer.

Willach+Heise in Australia is now

Migraine folate link

RESEARCHERS in Queensland have suggested that taking folate supplements may reduce the severity and frequency of migraine headaches, after a preliminary study of 52 sufferers found daily supplements of folic acid and vitamins B6 and B12 halved migraine disability when compared with a placebo.

Pharmspace full page

TODAY'S Pharmacy Daily has two pages of news plus a full page promoting the upcoming Pharmspace online virtual Careers Fair & Expo, which was inadvertently omitted from PD on Tue - see p3.

headed up by Greg McPherson who was appointed to the role earlier this year (PD 23 Feb).

A third German manufacturer, Rowa, is represented here by Lamson Pty Ltd but after an initial flurry of promotion this system doesn't appear to have gained any significant foothold in the market.

Clarkin said the Gollmann Bouw endorsement had considered the company's "flexible approach to installation and shop-fitting, as well as the provision of ongoing training and maintenance support services," claiming it was the best robotic dispensing system currently available in Australia.

Mark Bouw said he was honoured that the Gollmann system had been "selected for endorsement," and said he hoped the move would see Australian pharmacists recognise the value of robotic dispensing.

The distributors of pharmacy robots have recently been urging pharmacists to take advantage of the capital investment tax incentives announced as part of the government's stimulus packages to help offset the costs of the systems.

The Guild Group's NetFin commercial finance arm is also offering finance packages for Guild members for the Gollmann Robotic Dispensary System.

Pandemic alert level raised in Victoria

THE Australian Health Protection Committee has advised that the pandemic level has been raised to a modified SUSTAIN response for Victoria, while keeping the national level at CONTAIN for the other states and territories.

The measures will see Victoria "more appropriately respond to the relatively higher number of cases and the sustained community transmission of the infection in Victoria," the Health Dept said.

As of 5am this morning there were a total of 634 cases of Influenza A (H1N1) confirmed across Australia, with 521 of them in Victoria.

Moving to modified SUSTAIN will see Victorian officials more intensively target people in high risk settings, implement extensive contact tracing, target antivirals to people exhibiting symptoms as well as their household contacts, and "require people who are confirmed to have Human Swine Flu to isolate themselves for three days following the commencement of antiviral treatment."

Health authorities in NSW, SA and Queensland have also ordered that children quarantine themselves from school for seven days after visiting Victoria.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Lisa Luxa of Australian Pharmaceutical Industries, who was the winner of yesterday's competition.

The Little Fing'rs range offers a wide variety of nail products including artificial nails, self-adhesive nails, nail art and accessories for young girls.

Little Fing'rs has teamed up with **Pharmacy Daily** to give subscribers the chance to win a pack of Fing'rs self-adhesive nails everyday this week.

This fun range of nail products is best suited for girls and includes nails in small sizes, quick drying glues and many self-adhesive nails, which are great for younger buyers.

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Hint! Visit the website at www.fingrs.com for answers.



Pharmacy DAILY

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Sigma Efor case

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals has been blocked from releasing its generic version of Efor, with the Federal Court yesterday ordering the company not to market, take orders for, sell or offer to supply the medication pending a court case on patents later this year.

Wyeth had requested the injunction after Sigma began importing Evelexa, its generic version of Australia's biggest selling antidepressant, with orders taken for delivery from last Mon 01 Jun.

Wyeth claims the Sigma product infringes its patent on the drug.

During the hearing Sigma ceo Elmo de Alwis testified that the company's generic version of Efor is "the jewel in Sigma's crown" and warned that the injunction could lead to a fall in Sigma's share price.

Tamiflu suspension shortage

ROCHE has advised that it's temporarily unable to provide Tamiflu suspension for commercial supply to pharmaceutical wholesalers and hospitals.

The shortage is due to "unprecedented demand", and the company said there's currently a limited supply of 30mg and 45mg capsules available which can be prescribed for paediatric patients over 1 year of age.

For a limited time these lower dose capsules will be supplied directly to hospitals by Roche and won't be available to community pharmacies via wholesalers, the company said.

Instead pharmacies will have to purchase the 30mg and 45mg capsules directly from Roche, by

faxing a special letter from patients' doctors (without disclosing patient details) to 1800 641 769.

Tamiflu will be dispatched by Roche to the retail pharmacy via overnight courier, as long as orders are received by midday.

Pharmacies without an account with Roche will need to arrange payment on Visa or Mastercard over the phone with the company by calling 1800 800 766.

Roche said it continues to have sufficient stocks of 75mg Tamiflu capsules to meet "all commercial supply," even with the imminent Australian influenza season.

The company said it is well placed to respond to the increased awareness and potential demand during this time.

Pharmacists and doctors who have patients unable to swallow Tamiflu in a capsule form, and where no suspension is available, are being advised to contact Roche Medical Information Services on 1800 233 950.

Motion sickness advice

NATIONAL Prescribing Service is advising that the best approach to travel sickness for children is to use "simple preventative measures" such as avoiding unnecessary head movements by using a pillow or a headrest.

The latest edition of *Australian Prescriber* released this week has an article on motion sickness by Linda Gaudins, QUM Pharmacist at Sydney Children's Hospital.

She says that although medicines such as antihistamines are available to treat travel sickness, "their lack of efficacy and potential to cause side effects" means they should be used with caution.

Other simple measures proposed include focusing attention out of the car, not encouraging reading and avoiding getting too hot.

See www.australianprescriber.com.



DISPENSARY CORNER

DON'T drink and bounce.

That's the warning from doctors in a Scottish hospital after analysing a series of trampoline-related accidents presenting in its emergency department over a recent six week period.

They found that 80% of the injuries were caused when too many people - including in most cases somewhat inebriated adults - climbed onto the equipment.

In each case the lightest people on the trampolines, usually children, were the most likely to be hurt with injuries including quite serious fractures as jumpers bounced together and got out of phase with each other.

They said the advent of the northern summer was likely to make matters worse, with more people spending time outdoors.

Ironically the spate of injuries has followed a boom in popularity for trampolines which have been widely promoted for their health and exercise benefits.

EATING curry once or twice a week can help prevent the onset of Alzheimer's disease, according to a US researcher who presented his theory at the Royal College of Psychiatrists' annual meeting.

Professor Murali Doraiswamy of Duke University in North Carolina said that the spice turmeric, commonly found in Indian food, contains a key compound called curcumin which appears to prevent the spread of amyloid protein plaques in the brain.

He said researchers were currently trialling higher doses - eating curry every night - to see if they could maximise the effect.

Doraiswamy also said it might be possible to develop a "curry pill" which has the same outcome.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature.

Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

CHRISTMAS has come early with a special deal from Royal Caribbean Cruises.

The line is offering fares from as little as \$118 per person per day for a family of four for a 17 day cruise aboard *Rhapsody of the Seas* departing 21 December from Sydney - a total of \$7999.

That's \$2165 off the brochure fare, with the voyage travelling to New Zealand - but at this price you'll need to book quickly so see your travel agent today or call 1300 754 500.

WORLD EXPEDITIONS has released a 13 day trip to Vietnam at an unbeatable price, saving up to \$300 per passenger.

The tour departs on 7 November and takes in Hanoi, an overnight luxury boat trip on Halong Bay, Hue, Dalat and Ho Chi Minh City, with a side trip to the historic Cu Chi tunnels.

More information 1300 720 000.

Closer to home, the five luxury **SOFITEL HOTELS** across Australia are offering packages until 31 Aug in which guests will receive a \$100 hotel credit each night of their stay, which can be used within the hotel for meals, spa treatments or other services.

Rates start at \$250 per night for the hotels in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sydney, Melbourne and Werribee Park in Vic - www.sofitel.com.

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