



### FDA slams illegal swine flu websites

THE US Food and Drug Administration says that it's issued more than 50 warning letters to websites marketing products claimed to "diagnose, mitigate, prevent, treat or cure the 2009 H1N1 flu virus" which haven't been officially approved.

In May the FDA warned that it would enforce laws that protect consumers from illegal products, and says more than 66% of the sites have now removed the offending claims or products.

Some examples of the dodgy items included a shampoo which claimed to protect against the virus, a spray which allegedly left a "layer of ionic silver" on the hands to kill the virus, and even an electronic instrument, costing several thousand dollars, which claimed to use 'photobiotic energy' and 'deeply penetrating mega-frequency life-force energy waves' to strengthen the immune system and prevent symptoms associated with H1N1 viral infection.

### Guild: we're not bullies

CLAIMS that the Pharmacy Guild is bullying employees over Multi-employer Business Agreements (MBA) have been vigorously rejected by the peak industry body.

On Monday, *Pharmacy Daily* published comments made by the Pharmacists Division of the APESMA, which stated that the Guild was "bullying and coercing employees" into signing the new workplace agreement.

But the Guild has today said that the MBA "protects jobs and existing conditions, providing security for employees in difficult economic times," highlighting the fact that it offers an immediate 1% pay increase plus any future increases prescribed by Federal authorities.

"Nobody will be worse off under the MBA," the Guild said, adding that if a pharmacist's current rate of pay is higher than the MBA, their existing rate will be maintained.

The Guild also said that APESMA had "disregarded the fact that the MBA, now being considered by staff in some pharmacies in NSW

and Western Australia, must pass the Government's Workplace Authority No Disadvantage Test in order to be approved."

The NSW branch of the Guild proposed the MBA as an alternative to the proposed Pharmacy Industry Award 2010.

"The MBA is a legitimate option for pharmacies seeking to preserve jobs and their viability in the face of unsustainable cost increases and inflexibility contained in the new Award which will take effect from January," a spokesperson said.

"The Guild is actively trying to persuade the Australian Industrial Relations Commission to amend the new Award and delay its introduction for five years."

The Guild said that about 8% of pharmacies in NSW and 15% in WA are asking their staff to vote on the introduction of the MBA.

### New orphan drug

THE TGA has designated Phebra's midazolam (Midazolam Buccal Liquid) as an orphan drug.

The medication is indicated for the treatment of status epilepticus in children and adolescents aged 0 to 19 years.

### Dry July is on again

DRY July, an initiative designed to give you a break from alcohol and to raise funds for cancer patients at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick is going national in 2009.

The initiative asks participants to undergo a month of self-imposed temperance while raising funds through sponsorship.

Launched in 2008, in its first year the event raised over \$250,000 from participants in NSW.

To register see [www.dryjuly.com](http://www.dryjuly.com).

### Funds for prostates

THE Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) has flagged an additional \$5 million of funding for research after new data found that prostate cancer is under-researched compared to other cancers.

Literature reviews show that during the 41 year period from 1966 to 2007 the number of papers published on prostate cancer was just a quarter of those on gastrointestinal cancer, and a third as many as those on breast cancer.

The 2009/10 funds come on top of the \$4 million committed in 08/09.

### Alzheimer's trials

ALZHEIMER'S disease sufferers who are living in Victoria are being asked to consider volunteering for clinical trials that will examine several experimental approaches to new treatments for the condition.

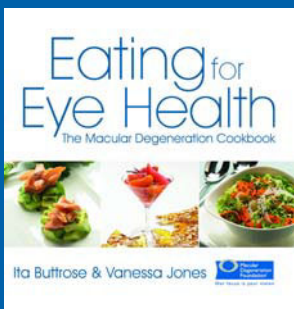
Patients who are interested in volunteering for the trials can call toll-free on 1800 800 285.

### GSK researcher gong

THE scientists behind new immunology research were last night given the GlaxoSmithKline Award for Research Excellence for 2009 at a presentation at the Melbourne Museum.

Professors Joe Trapani and Mark Smyth, from Melbourne's Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, are about to commence a clinical trial of a preventative treatment which uses a process called adaptive immunotherapy, where a patient's white blood cells are genetically modified to more easily recognise cancer cells.

### WIN A COPY OF THIS BOOK!



What are the best eye health foods?

It seems Australians are confused, with many believing carrots are the most beneficial food for eye health and this is not correct as spinach and corn are actually top eye health foods. Each day this week, *Pharmacy Daily* is giving readers the chance to win a copy of *Eating for Eye Health*, valued at \$24.95.

It provides a selection of everyday, easy-to-follow recipes that are great for eye health and can help reduce the risk of Macular Degeneration – the leading cause of blindness and severe vision loss in Australia. Many recipes contain the antioxidants lutein and zeaxanthin as well as omega-3s which are found in foods such as spinach, corn and fish.

To order a copy of the cookbook or find out more information about Macular Degeneration, visit [www.mdfoundation.com.au](http://www.mdfoundation.com.au) or call 1800 111 709.

To enter today, simply send your answer to the following question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**Where can you purchase a copy of *Eating for Eye Health*?**

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

CONGRATULATIONS to Sue Guth of Homebush Pharmacy who was yesterday's winner, and will be receiving a copy of the book.



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## Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au).



### DISPENSARY CORNER

**PASSENGERS** infected with swine flu have been allegedly 'cheating' temperature scanners at Ho Chi Minh City's airport in Vietnam by taking medications such as Panadol or Nurofen.

Vietnam has been desperate to isolate itself from the pandemic, and is apparently particularly concerned about travellers from Australia because of the perception that Influenza A (H1N1) is rife here.

A local health official accused passengers of deliberately bypassing thermal cameras by using "fever reducers".

**SCIENTISTS** in Europe are recommending that people concerned about their health should buy large saucepans.

The tip follows a finding that carrots which were boiled whole contained up to 25% more of the cancer-fighting compound falcarninol than those which were chopped up first.

A researcher from the UK's Newcastle University said: "Chopping up your carrots increases the surface area so more of the nutrients leach out into the water while they are cooked."

Four years ago the same team found that rats fed on a diet containing carrots or falcarninol were found to be about 33% less likely to develop full-scale tumours than those in a control group.

**A CREAM** used for the treatment of pre-cancerous skin conditions has been found to also reduce the signs of ageing.

The *Archives of Dermatology* this month reports that the medication was effective against actinic keratoses - but also improved wrinkles, dark spots, shadows and sallowness, according to the *BBC*.

The authors of the study, from the University of Michigan Medical School, said they expected some people to attempt to "capitalise on this cosmetic effect," but warned that the cream could also cause adverse skin reactions.

### Smart Socks

This unique Australian-designed product integrates special foot care and blister prevention features into a therapeutic sock. A new weapon in the fight against foot discomfort and heel blisters, the Smart Sock features a hidden heel pocket with an external opening for the insertion of washable blister protection padding, an internal lining, extra thickness for a cushioned lower heel and toe, and a cotton construction for foot hygiene.

**Stockist: Smart Sock**

**Tel: 02 9977 4712**

**Web: [www.smartsock.com.au](http://www.smartsock.com.au)**



### Feel confident with Poise Wipes

Poise Wipes are moist, lightly scented wipes designed for women who experience bladder weakness. One in three women who have children will experience a slight loss of bladder control, and this product is designed to 'give these women the confidence to continue doing the things they love. The wipes offer an incremental sales opportunity for retailers and take up little shelf space.

**RRP: \$2.99 for 10 wipes**

**Stockist: Kimberly-Clark Australia**

**Pharmacy codes: Symbion 419966, Sigma 855510, API 292664**

**Web: [www.poise.com.au](http://www.poise.com.au)**

### New sports injury supports

Coming to Australia this August is the new Neo G variable compression range of supports, the only sports injury supports classified as 'Class 1 Medical Devices.' The supports are designed to fit the wearer and can be tightened or loosened for comfort and blood flow safety. Neo-G have 20 variable compression supports for every area of the body. The product offer stock savings and great margins for retailers.

**Stockist: Neo-G Australasia**

**Web: [www.neo-g.co.uk](http://www.neo-g.co.uk)**

**More info: Kesh Baines, 0434 492 527**



### Your new best BioFriend

BioFriend's new BioMask traps and kills bacteria and viruses on contact while still allowing you to breathe normally. The mask traps 99.9% of harmful germs and is self-sanitizing from all-day wear. It is available in standard and small sizes and is effective against common colds, Influenza A, swine flu, bird flu and more.

**Stockist: Filligent Limited**

**Web: [www.filligent.com](http://www.filligent.com)**

**More info: +852 2542 2070**

### Totally Beautiful Nails

Available in a kaleidoscope of colours, this new product promises salon quality for nails without having to set foot in a salon. Totally Beautiful Nails features a formulation that is scratch proof, quick-dry, and comes in cutting-edge fashion colours, making it a quick beauty fix that doesn't break the budget.

**RRP: \$2.50**

**Stockist: Total Beauty Network**

**Web: [www.tbn.com.au](http://www.tbn.com.au)**

**Tel: 03 9462 7500**

