

# Pharmacy DAILY

Thursday 14th May 2009

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## Thanks for your support of PD

**PHARMACY Daily** yesterday reached a milestone, with our subscriber list surpassing 5000 for the first time - just over two years since the publication launched.

More than 5000 people now receive **PD** each day directly to their inbox, and we'd like to thank you all for your ongoing support.

As always, we welcome your feedback and comments which can be emailed through to [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

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## Tamiflu stock now available

**ROCHE** has today advised that it's now able to fulfil orders from pharmacy wholesalers for capsules of its Tamiflu antiviral medication.

The company was forced last week to suspend supply of the drug (**PD** 06 May) due to excessive demand which saw it supply 20 times the usual annual volume of the medication in just over a fortnight.

The unprecedented demand saw Roche prioritise limited stock of Tamiflu to hospitals and GPs, but "as of Wednesday 13 May Roche is now back in stock with commercial supply of capsules and is once again able to fulfil orders," according to an official statement.

The company said that all back orders have now been filled and commercial supply is available for

## UK dispensing error decriminalisation push

**THE** Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain is pushing the government for an "urgent change in legislation to decriminalise dispensing errors" after pharmacists started a grassroots petition following a suspended prison term given to a UK pharmacist who mistakenly dispensed beta-blockers instead of steroids to a 72-year-old patient who subsequently died (**PD** 15 Apr).

More than 10,000 UK pharmacists and members of the public have signed the petition, with RPSGB President Steve Churton saying: "The law as it currently stands is outdated, manifestly unjust and disproportionate.

"It discourages pharmacists from reporting errors and this plainly does not serve the public interest," Churton said.

Under the current UK legislation a pharmacist automatically commits a criminal offence each time they make a dispensing error or a labelling error.

future orders of capsules.

"Temporary, priority stock control measures requiring Dr's letter for individual scripts no longer apply," the company added.

Roche said that with the Australian influenza season imminent, it's well placed to respond to the increased awareness of and potential demand for Tamiflu during this time.

The World Health Organization yesterday said that about a third of the world's population, or about 2 billion people, could be infected with swine flu if the outbreak becomes a pandemic.

A report into the spread of the disease so far showed it was moving in a typical pandemic form, and estimated that the influenza A (H1N1) strain is fatal in about 4 out of 1000 cases - similar to the Influenza A outbreak in 1957.

## Guild leasing guide

**THE** Pharmacy Guild is offering its new *Guide to Retail Lease Negotiation and Administration* to members for \$50, and to non-members for \$100.

The publication was launched at the end of March, covering topics including how to best deal with landlords, coping with a financial crisis, current pharmacy trends, disclosure statements, outgoings, fit-out costs, taking over an existing lease and the law relating to retail tenancies in Australia.

"The publication is aimed at ensuring pharmacists remain the most accessible of all health professionals by negotiating an advantageous lease agreement, enabling both their business and the health of their customers to thrive," the Guild said.

It's been written by Hymie Zawatzky, who's spent 20 years helping pharmacists in shopping centres and strips with their lease negotiations.

Copies available by calling the Vic branch on 03 9810 9999.

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## Pharmspace is coming

**THE** first and only "online virtual Careers Fair & Expo" for the Australian pharmacy industry is now accepting registrations.

The interactive 3D event kicks off online on 01 Jul and allows visitors and exhibitors to interact by video, voice or text chat in real time.

See page 3 for more info.

## TGA looks into Ginkgo Biloba issues

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has proposed that an additional condition of listing be imposed on all products on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods which contain Ginkgo Biloba as an active ingredient, requiring a "more comprehensive analysis" of the products to ensure quality.

The statement followed a Freedom of Information inquiry made by Ken Harvey of Latrobe University, requesting details of any testing for adulteration by the TGA of Australian complementary medicines containing the ingredient.

The testing of the Ginkgo Biloba products found that about a third sold here may not contain enough of the basic ingredient to qualify for listing, because of other compounds added during manufacture.

However rather than banning the non-compliant products, the TGA "in consultation with peak industry bodies" has proposed the phasing in of additional analysis of data relating to the items.

The TGA said that although tests on 6 out of 20 products found "ratios that were not consistent with those in the scientific literature," the absence of an Australian standard means this "cannot be considered to be non-compliant, nor is this a safety concern."

Harvey blasted the response, saying: "it seems that the TGA is not concerned with product integrity, truth in labelling and promotion, nor the industry ripping off unsuspecting consumers by substituting clinically inactive adulterants."

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## STOCK EXCHANGE

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* Stock Exchange column, where the industry is able to promote close to expiry or surplus items.

Today Scarborough 7 Day Chemist in Western Australia is offering the following items:

- Exorex 100ml
- Hepsera 10mg 30 tabs x 2 exp 09/09
- Singulair 5mg 28 x 3 exp 09/09
- Pravachol 10mg 30tabs x 2 exp 10/09
- Physeptone 10mg/ml inj 5 x 30 exp 08-2011

Any prices welcome - more info from proprietor Chirag Shah on 08 9245 1950 or by email to [scarboroughchemist@gmail.com](mailto:scarboroughchemist@gmail.com).

**If you have items you'd like to offer through PD's Stock Exchange column please email [stockx@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:stockx@pharmacydaily.com.au).**

## It's all about the heart

**A NEW** study funded by the Heart Foundation has found that patient depression in people with heart failure is closely linked to depression of a partner.

The findings of the 'two hearts' research will be presented this Sat at the Heart Foundation conference in Brisbane, with Andrew Stewart of the Department of Psychology at Melbourne University suggesting that in such cases treatment may need to be undertaken as a couple, rather than an individual.

The study focused on specific aspects of care-giving in a real medical population, finding a clear link between patients and partners when it comes to depression.

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## Govt should use Self Care -PSA

**THE** Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is urging the government to use the PSA Pharmacy Self Care program as a starting point in developing proposals for preventative health.

PSA President Warwick Plunkett was responding to Tuesday's Federal Budget, saying he welcomed its "focus on preventative care and its moves to encourage multidisciplinary primary care teams.

"However it is disappointing that the Government doesn't yet grasp the key role that pharmacists can play in the primary care team as the most accessible health professionals," he said.

Plunkett said pharmacists must also be utilised in the budget commitment to preventative health programs, including tobacco, obesity and alcohol.

"The PSA's Pharmacy Self Care program has a clear focus on

preventative health and consumer self-care which should be utilised in any program the Government undertakes in the area of preventative health," he added.

"The budget is unclear on exactly how the Government plans to develop the preventative health program and the PSA would like to see details of the proposals."

Plunkett said Pharmacy Self Care is an established program on preventative health "and we would welcome the opportunity to assist the government in the implementation of their initiative so that time, effort and public funding is not wasted in duplicating programs."

## UK Seretide recall

**GLAXOSMITHKLINE** in the UK has been forced to recall a batch of its Seretide 250 Evohaler (25µg of salmeterol xinafoate and 250µg of fluticasone propionate) due to the possible presence of counterfeit inhalers in the supply chain.

Analytical testing of counterfeits in batch number 1183R exp 06/09 have indicated that "some parts of the counterfeit product are genuine" but there's a possibility of reduced patient doses.

## Tranquil night

**BLACKMORES** has advised that the recommended retail price for its Tranquil Night (PD yesterday) is \$20.75 for 60 tablets.

More information on the product is available on 1800 803 760.

## HOT Travel Deals

**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.

### ORIENT EXPRESS TRAVEL

**GROUP** has a Hong Kong Summer Spectacular special from Jun-Aug. Stay 4 nights at the Hotel Jen, Hong Kong Island from \$1159 per person incl Cathay Pacific return economy flights and a choice of either airport transfers, Ocean Park Tour or Aqualina Cruise.

Visit [www.oetravel.com](http://www.oetravel.com) for info.

**EMIRATES** has launched a 'Kids Go Free' promo for families visiting Dubai, where up to two kids can stay, eat and play for free with two paying adults. Valid till 20 Sep 09 - for a list of participating hotels and complimentary activities such as golf, bowling, skiing, underwater zoo and ice skating visit

[www.emirates.com/au](http://www.emirates.com/au).

European car leasing specialist, **GLOBALCARS** is offering savings of up to \$240 and free upgrades on a selection of Renault bookings.

Offer valid for pick-ups till 31 Dec for bookings made before 29 May for a minimum lease of 21 days.

For details and bookings visit [www.globalCARS.com.au](http://www.globalCARS.com.au).

**FLIGHT CENTRE** has a 3-day indulgence package for coffee lovers in Venice, Italy from \$1035 per person twin share incl 2 nights' accom at the Palazzo Sant' Angelo, breakfast, one dinner, gondola ride and tours. Valid for travel till 1 Jul - 1 Aug 09, visit [www.flightcentre.com](http://www.flightcentre.com).



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**A CITY** in Belgium has announced that it will go vegetarian one day a week, as part of moves to reduce its environmental impact.

Starting last Monday in Ghent, all public servants won't eat meat on the "veggie day" in response to UN figures which show that livestock is responsible for about 20% of greenhouse gases.

Later this year the move will also be extended to the city's school students, with the initiative also aiming to tackle obesity.

As well, councillors are printing 90,000 "veggie street maps" to help visitors locate the city's vegetarian restaurants.

**SMOKERS** at a pub in the UK are enjoying lighting up after the landlady figured out a way around new anti-smoking laws.

The tap room at the Cutting Edge hotel in Worsbrough has now been turned into a "Smoking Research Centre".

Patrons first complete a questionnaire on their smoking habits, and are then able to have a cigarette with their beer.

Owner Kerry Fenton said turnover had doubled at the pub since she introduced the idea.

"It's given business a short in the arm and it's all in the name of research, legal and above board.

"I'm a non-smoker but I believe in the freedom of the individual."

It's expected that other UK pubs will also introduce research centres unless the loophole is closed.

**"THIS** used to be a tomato."

A US office worker cleaning out a refrigerator full of rotten food created a smell so noxious that seven staff were taken to hospital.

An emergency call saw a Hazardous Materials team forcing an evacuation of the San Jose building, due to an unplugged fridge packed with decaying food.

The keen cleaner had put the old lunches in a conference room while using cleaning chemicals to get rid of the mess in the fridge, with the mixture of decaying food and disinfectant seeing 28 coworkers treated for vomiting and nausea.



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## who should visit?

All members of the pharmacy industry, Pharmacists, technicians, assistants, retail staff, owners, employers, industry reps... Pharmspace is no different to a traditional trade expo, it just happens on your computer. Almost everything you can see and do at a real expo!

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