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## Guild Update

### This week's update from the Guild Pharmacy of the Year - no time to waste!

There is now less than six weeks to go before entries close for Pharmacy of the Year 2010, which is being organised by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia in partnership with Johnson and Johnson Pacific. There's no time to waste if you'd like for your pharmacy to be considered for this prestigious award. Preparing an entry is easy, so if you're too busy in the lead up to Christmas to make an entry, you could delegate the task to a member of your staff. Winners will share in a \$17,500 cash prize pool, and also receive:

- a stylish trophy to display in their pharmacy;
- a professional in-pharmacy photo shoot to be used in subsequent promotions; and
- local press and trade media coverage.

All travel and registration costs will be paid for category winners to attend the award ceremony at the Australian Professional Pharmacy (APP) conference on the Gold Coast in March 2010.

This year, the award has been revamped to include a new, simpler submission process.

There are now three exciting new categories in which Quality Care pharmacies can be considered as a finalist:

- (1) Excellence in business management
  - (2) Excellence in community engagement
  - (3) Innovation in professional services.
- Each category winner will be in the running to win the overall Pharmacy of the Year Award.

#### People's Choice

In addition to the revamped Pharmacy of the Year Award, we will once again conduct the popular People's Choice Award, where members of the community can vote for their favourite community pharmacy.

Entrants are not required to prepare a submission, with the winner being determined by the greatest number of customer votes.

Voting slips are available to order from the Guild, or you can print them from the Guild website.

Members of the public can also vote online at [www.guild.org.au/askyourpharmacist/poty2010.asp](http://www.guild.org.au/askyourpharmacist/poty2010.asp).

Submissions close on Friday 18 Dec 09.



**The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia**

## European antibiotic alert

**DOCTORS** across Europe will next week be officially warned to stop prescribing antibiotics for minor ailments such as coughs and colds, because of major concerns about a rise in antibiotic resistance.

The European Centre of Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) confirmed it will write to GPs warning a crisis is looming in which antibiotics will become powerless to fight life-threatening hospital infections.

"If this wave of antibiotic resistance gets over us, we will not be able to do organ transplants, hip replacements, cancer chemotherapy, intensive care and neonatal care for premature babies," said ECDC spokesman Dominic Monnet.

In Britain alone last year 38 million prescriptions for antibiotics were written by GPs, with the Centre saying doctors are under pressure.

"Patients are often demanding antibiotics, especially parents demanding them for their children," it said, with a 2002 survey showing that 60% of people did not know that antibiotics don't work against viruses such as flu.

Particular concerns relate to the

hospital-acquired MRSA superbug as well as a new family of bacterial infection including Acinetobacter, which currently affects about 1000 patients a year and can cause blood poisoning and pneumonia in vulnerable patients.

Although a number of new antibiotics are under development to combat the resistant infections, it's important that patients stop asking for antibiotics and that doctors stop prescribing them unnecessarily, said the Centre.

## TGA Micro warning

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has issued a reminder to sponsors regarding the requirements for microbiological standards for medicines, which come into effect 01 Jan 2010.

The new rules specify the minimum microbiological requirements for product shelf life, and sponsors should consult these guidelines for medicines prior to 01 Jan.

Medicines that were released for sale prior to 01 Jan will not be subject to the regulations.

## And the best paper is...

**INFORMA** Healthcare's 'Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy' journal has awarded the '2009 Best Paper' to the 'Melt Extrusion and Spray Drying of Carbamazepine and Dipyrindamole with Polyvinylpyrrolidone/Vinyl Acetate Copolymers' report.

According to Informa the report, written by James E. Patterson, Michael B. James, Angus H. Forster and Thomas Rades, "pushed the boundaries of drug development by identifying which excipient properties are most influential in the bioavailability of two important compounds."

## Hep A outbreak

**THE** NSW Food Authority is warning residents to avoid eating loose semi-dried tomatoes and is advising all allied health staffers to look out for people with potential liver disease after the confirmation of an outbreak of Hepatitis A cases linked to Victorian semi-dried tomatoes.

Symptoms to look out for include fever, nausea, poor appetite, abdominal discomfort, dark urine and jaundice.

## Sweden sells monopoly

**THE** Swedish Govt has accepted a US\$861m bid from four groups including Altor Equity Partners, Kronans Droghandel, Vaardapotekeri Norden and Priveq Investment, to buy-out its 465 state-owned pharmacies.

Sweden nationalised all its pharmacies in 1970, however in 2006 the Govt promised to privatise the industry and has since then, gradually sold off the outlets.

## CoQ10 beverage

**RENEWAL** Laboratories is preparing to launch a new range of supplement beverages, including Coenzyme Q10, resveratrol, omega3 fish oil and a variety of other antioxidants.

According to the Laboratories members of the beverage range will help maintain heart health, aid weight loss, assist with joint inflammation and muscle pain as well as bolster general health and well-being.

Currently the beverages are in a patent pending process, and if successful, will be available to stock shortly.

## WIN A MINERAL PURITY FOUNDATION



**THIS** week Australis has teamed up with **Pharmacy Daily**, giving readers the chance to win the new Australis Mineral Purity Powder Foundation.

Valued at \$17.95, the pure mineral powder formula allows you to create buildable even coverage that lasts all day.

The lightweight powder looks and feels like you are wearing no make-up.

It contains no talc, parabens or fragrance, ensuring that your skin is free from any irritations.

Available in five shades, the foundation includes a soft silky kabuki brush to help you achieve a natural flawless application.

For your chance to win your own Australis Mineral Purity Powder Foundation today, simply send through the correct answer to the following question:

**What kind of brush is included with  
the foundation?**

Email your answer to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

The first correct entry received each day will win!

For more info visit [www.australiscosmetics.com.au](http://www.australiscosmetics.com.au).

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Cathy Sellars from **Amcal Avenues Pharmacy**, who was yesterday's winner of the Australis Mineral Purity Powder Foundation.



### Istodax approval

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has approved a new injectable drug 'Istodax' for the latter stage treatment of the rare Cutaneous T-cell Lymphoma disease.

The approval comes after two clinical trials involving 167 patients, 35% of which were found to have a reduction in tumor sizes following the use of Istodax.

### GSK trials immunotherapy

**GLAXOSMITHKLINE** is currently seeking Australian volunteers from NSW, Vic, Tas, ACT, WA Qld and SA, who have previously been treated for non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) for its latest investigational lung cancer vaccine.

The trial will be a double-blind randomised, placebo-controlled

Phase 3 study to assess the efficacy Antigen-Specific Cancer Immunotherapeutics, in conjunction with an immune reaction booster via a series of vaccines, to force the patients body to attack certain cancer-specific antigens, including the Mage-A3 protein.

Mage-A3 protein is a wholly cancer specific antigen, found in a variety of cancer forms including NSCLC, melanoma and bladder cancer, but not within a healthy cell and to be eligible for the trial patients must express the Mage-A3 protein.

### Blackmores & Terry hit one for six



**STAFF** members at the Terry White Pharmacy in Stanhope Gardens, NSW, were tickled pink last week when they had the chance to meet Australian cricketing legend, Glenn McGrath.

Glenn is currently in the process of visiting the top McGrath fund-raising pharmacies as part of the Blackmores Multis Pink Cap campaign launch, where stores across the country were asked to decorate their stores pink and conduct a series of fund-raising events for the McGrath Foundation.

The entire Stanhope shopping centre got behind Terry White

Stanhope Garden's fund-raising efforts, and managed to raise a whopping \$3000 on top of the pharmacy's \$3000, which was then generously matched by Blackmores taking the total to \$9000!

During his store visit Glenn signed autographs, mingled with staffers and even bowled to three lucky local community members.

Overall the fund-raising initiative has raised more than \$24,000 for the McGrath Foundation, whilst Blackmores has also committed a continued percentage of its Blackmores Multi product sales to the Foundation.



### DISPENSARY CORNER

**AN AUSSIE** burglar was caught dosing on the job, after having stolen a large quantity of prescription drugs from a nearby pharmacy earlier in his 'shift'.

The 35-year old suspect was right in the middle of lock-picking a Perth shopping complex, when the urge to sleep became too much.

Police later found him curled up snoozing, with lock-picking wire still in his hand-and in the door!

A search of his car revealed a load of prescription medication linked to a pharmacy robbery earlier in the evening.

"He obviously had a long night, whatever he was doing, and that got the better of him," a police spokesperson said.

**A PROFOLACTIC** producer in China's Hunan province has been busted by police after the discovery that it had produced and sold more than two million 'fake' condoms.

Suspect manufacturer Li Anping, originally bought the condom's wholesale before his 'factory' workers dolloped in some unknown/untested lubricant and packaged them- without gloves or proper sterilisation processes, and sold them nationwide under well-known banners including Jissbon and Durex.

According to the State press, Li produced in advance of 2.16mil condoms before his 'factory' was shut down, and police are still in the process of tracking down the offending articles.

### Qld Golf charity day

**THIS** year's annual Queensland Chemists Charity Golf Day will be held at Lakelands Golf Club, Gooding Drive, Merrimac on 16 Nov from 10am.

Registration is \$125 per person and includes a light lunch, 18 holes of golf, use of motorised cart and buffet dinner.

To register online go to [www.qcgc.com.au](http://www.qcgc.com.au).

### Anti-epileptic launch

**TODAY** marks the UK launch of 'Zebinix', a new once-daily adjunctive treatment for adults suffering partial onset seizures with or without secondary generalisation.

According to drug manufacturer Eisai, Zebinix helps to reduce the frequency of seizures, resulting in what it calls 'better health-related quality of life' regarding 'seizure worry and cognitive function'.

# Tight arse Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

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