



### Sydney alumni

**THE** University of Sydney Pharmacy Alumni Association has extended the closing date for nominations for two new achievement awards for pharmacy graduates.

The *Pharmacy Alumni Award for Achievement* and the *Pharmacy Young Alumni Award for Achievement* awards cover community, international, voluntary and professional achievements by nominees both within or outside of the professional area.

Nomination forms are now available for download at [www.sydney.edu.au/pharmacy/alumni](http://www.sydney.edu.au/pharmacy/alumni) and are due by the amended closing date of Fri 16 Apr 2010.

## Corum to repay \$5m loans

**LISTED** pharmacy software supplier Corum Group has advised that it will be repaying almost \$5 million in loans to Westpac on or before 31 May after "extensive discussions" with the bank.

The company said it has "arrangements in place to ensure it can meet these commitments." but has also activated a dispute resolution process because it's disputing Westpac's entitlement to a termination payment.

The negotiations with the bank have been ongoing for some time, with Corum having a deficiency of current assets of \$11.5m on 31 Dec. Corum also said it was expecting

a \$1m after tax profit for the current financial year.

The official ASX announcement didn't give further details on how Corum will fund the \$5m payment.

### Genepharm to Ascent

**AUSTRALIAN** pharmaceutical manufacturer Genepharm has changed its name to Ascent Pharmaceuticals, effective from today.

The move comes as part of Genepharm's bid to more closely align the business with its "growing international brand of Ascent Pharmaceuticals".

Ascent Pharmaceuticals has said that it plans to remain wholly Australian owned and managed, "retaining its fully integrated business model allowing for independent control over everything from R&D through to distribution and promotional support".

CEO Dennis Bastas also confirmed that Ascent had forged an exclusive relationship with Pfizer established products which ensures that "our partner pharmacies will be at the forefront of change as many products come off patent over the next three years".

### New PSA ACT pres

**CATHY** Beckhouse has been elected to the position of ACT branch president for the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, after the resignation of Gabrielle Cooper due to her responsibilities at the University of Canberra.

Currently a National PSA Board Member, Beckhouse comes to the presidency with 10 years of pharmacy experience, and through her new role hopes to expand pharmacists' and pharmacy staffers' knowledge of complementary medicines.

### Fish oil review

**THE** second edition of the TGA's *Medicines Safety Update* has now been published, including an article on the safety of fish oil and omega-3 fatty acids which concludes that health professionals should be "mindful of the theoretical risk of bleeding with fish oil when monitoring patients treated with fish oils and anticoagulants".

*Medicines Safety Update* replaces the previous *Australian Adverse Drug Reactions Bulletin*.

It's available for download now at [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

## Sigma winner's a grinner



**ABOVE:** Sigma recently ran a catalogue promotion for consumers which saw the major prize awarded to a customer at Pharmacy Essentials in Southgate on the Gold Coast in Queensland.

The campaign was based around the theme "Did you Know?" and aimed to reinforce the importance of the local pharmacist as a valuable resource for qualified advice on health issues.

Weekly prizes of eight Nintendo Wii game consoles were on offer for six weeks, while the major prize winner went into a draw to win

\$250,000.

At noon last Fri at Pharmacy Essentials the overall winner, Kathy Jones, chose one of 250 identical envelopes.

Unfortunately Kathy didn't choose the \$250,000 prize but still walked away with a cheque for \$5000.

Pictured above from left are Joe Shepherd, Pharmacy Essentials Southport manager; Simon Hambrecht, director, Pharmacy Essentials; prize winner Kathy Jones; Sue Kendall, Sigma state sales manager Qld; and Shelley Browne, Sigma Territory Manager.

## train hard - eat wise

**Endurance Biscuits** are a new Australian-formulated product specially created for customers who cycle, run, swim or train.

Developed by master nutritionist Alison Evans, the products meet Australian food standards for 'Formulated Supplementary food' and are HACCP certified.

- Great taste - chocolate and coffee flavour
- High in **PROTEIN** for repair of tissues and muscle maintenance
- High in **ENERGY**
- Contains **ZINC** for faster healing and improved immunity
- Contains **CALCIUM** for maintaining bone density
- Contains **CAFFEINE** to enhance performance

A great addition to the supplements section of any pharmacy.

Enquiries welcome to [am\\_evans@bigpond.com](mailto:am_evans@bigpond.com).



**12 FREE**  
Months  
Standard Membership!  
Offer ends March 31. ACT NOW!  
Click here for more information  
DAVID PATTON: 0432 515 717

**Chemsave**

**7.5% PBS  
DISCOUNT!**  
COST **-0.5%**

## New PBS schedule

THE Health Department has updated the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits, but the failure of the government's bid to introduce three new PBS therapeutic groups means that some of the prices are incorrect.

The changes are published in a separate erratum, and there's also a list of 12.5% price reductions including for clopidogrel and clopidogrel with aspirin which are effective today.

## Bisolvon promotion

BISOLVON has announced it will invest more than \$1 million in TV advertising this winter to "educate consumers on the benefits of removing excess mucus to relieve chesty coughs".

Two different ads will be broadcast, with a new 10-second tag-on to promote the innovative Bisolvon Chesty Soluble tablets.

Last year's Bisolvon TV promo saw consumer sales of the product up by 20% while on air.

## 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.

**VOYAGES** Brampton Island is offering a special four night accommodation package from \$524pp, including Palm Room accommodation; breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, and a number of island activities - call 1300 134 044.

**UNIWORLD** River Cruises is offering discounts of up to \$800 per couple off selected European river cruise departures, if booked and deposited on before 30 Apr.

The deal is available on a range of Uniworld's most popular 2010 European sailings, see -

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

Sponsored by Cruise Weekly  
your FREE weekly CRUISE  
newsletter  
Subscribe now

**CRUISE**  
WEEKLY

## PSA welcomes chronic plan

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild have both welcomed yesterday's announcement by the govt of a \$436m investment in how Australians with long-term illnesses are treated.

The first disease to be tackled is diabetes, with PSA president Warwick Plunkett saying the program will allow greater funding flexibility and coordination between health professionals.

"The current funding arrangements are structured in such a way that they do not support coordinated services between health professionals," he said.

"Clearly people with chronic diseases like diabetes need the services of a range of health professionals, particularly pharmacists who are the most highly skilled in the area of medication management."

He said PSA sees the initiative as an example of how the collaborative health care model can be utilised to benefit patients.

PSA is now awaiting further details of the new program and how pharmacists would be specifically utilised within it.

"PSA looks forward to working with the government to ensure the program meets the needs of chronic disease sufferers," he said.

The Guild said it would also be working with the government "to ensure that the \$250 allocated for allied health can be allocated to compliance programs in community pharmacy".

Guild President Kos Sclavos said community pharmacies "stand ready to play their part in the proposed new approach to care for patients with diabetes."

He said the Guild's *Meds/Index* system could highlight poor patient medicine compliance.

## Somac correction

NYCOMED has advised that the Somac (pantoprazole) 20mg and 40mg granules (PD yesterday) are not actually off patent. - only the 20mg and 40mg tablet versions.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**WAR** is no place for fast food!

Junk food outlets on all US military bases in Afghanistan have been ordered to close, after military leaders decreed the area was a war zone, not an amusement park.

According to reports General Stanley McChrystal, the man behind the healthy movement, also recently banned alcohol at NATO's Kabul headquarters after he discovered many of the troops were turning up to work worse for wear with a hangover.

The general himself, a big believer in healthy lifestyle options, is said to jog 13kms every morning and only eats one meal per day - and it's definitely not a Big Mac.

**MONEY** can buy a lot of things, but perhaps not what this patient really wants.

An Italian man who suffered the removal of his healthy testicle during a botched surgery has been awarded €180,000 Euros by the courts.

The 27 year old patient had originally gone under the knife to remove a tumorous left testicle, however his surgeons mistakenly cut out his right one.

Having quickly realised their mistake (albeit not before removing it in the first place) the surgeons also lopped out the offending testicle.

**HE** could turn into a prince, or he could save your life.

The latest findings from research undertaken by British scientists, has shown toads are able to predict earthquakes.

By looking at toads before and after earthquakes, the scientists found that the amphibians were able to sense subtle environmental changes that are imperceptible to humans, and usually vacate areas destined for earthquakes days before they strike.

"Toads are able to detect pre-seismic cues such as the release of gases and charged particles, and use these as a form of earthquake early warning system," they said.

## NEON BRIGHTS NAIL POLISH UP FOR GRABS



Every day this week, *Pharmacy Daily* is giving readers the chance to win 1 nail polish from the latest Neon Brights range, courtesy of Total Beauty Network.

Exclusive to the Designer Brands Nail Care range is Neon Brights, a kaleidoscope of the hottest neon colours that are chip & fade-proof, quick drying and long lasting! Get a professional finish with the exclusively designed brush for the perfect application.

For your chance to win a Neon Brights nail polish this week, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

**What are the two Neon Brights colours that have animal names?**

Send entry to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

The first correct entry received each day will win.

Hint! Visit [www.tbn.com.au](http://www.tbn.com.au).

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: **Shelley Jeans** from **Signet**. The correct answer was: 'Kaleidoscope'.

