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## Melanoma shrinkage

**TRIALS** of a new advanced melanoma drug PLX4032 have found that it may help to shrink and control tumours.

The results were found in 81% of trial participants whose tumours had a BRAF gene mutation, with PLX4032 causing it to shrink, and then keeping the melanoma in check a median of seven months.

"This is the most important breakthrough in melanoma, ever," said study author, Lynn Schuchter of the University of Pennsylvania.

Two patients involved in the trial also saw their tumours completely disappear, however patients without the gene mutation reaped no benefit from the drug therapy.

The drug is a targeted treatment, which aims to block specific mutations found only in melanoma cells.

Executive director of the Melanoma Research Foundation, Timothy Turnham, responded to the results saying "[the drug] gives us something that we've never had before, which is to reverse the disease for a period of time and give people a respite".

"But our goals are much loftier than that...we're not just aiming to buy patients nine months.

We hope this marks the beginning of an era," he added.

## Ask your pharmacist next week

**THE** Pharmacy Guild will next week launch a new community service video announcement as part of its participation in Ask your Pharmacist Week, which takes place 29 August-4 September.

The promotion will focus on the Guild push for pharmacist treatment of minor ailments, with the video featuring the tagline *For advice about medicines or minor ailments, ask your pharmacist - best*

## Clear Blue in Australia

**AUSTRALIAN** provider of interactive self-service technology for pharmacies and health professionals, Healthpoint Technologies, in conjunction with Crossmark, has been selected to manage Swiss Precision Diagnostics' pregnancy screening Clearblue and Crystal Clear brands in Australia.

"With our broad network of pharmacy customers and recent integration of screening tests (CV, vision and hearing) into the Healthpoint touchscreens, managing SPD's new innovative pregnancy tests is a logical extension of our business," said Craig Simmonds, General Manager of Healthpoint Technologies.

to be sure.

"Numerous surveys have shown that the Australian public put their trust and confidence in Australia's unique community pharmacist model," said Guild National President Kos Slavos.

"Community pharmacies are a great and valued national health asset, and under the latest five-year Community Pharmacy Agreement signed this year, they are changing and evolving to provide an even broader range of professional services," he added.

To view the video click below.

**View the new Ask Your Pharmacist video**

## NZ intruder drama

**A 68-YEAR-OLD** pharmacist in Auckland is still recovering after the unexpected death of a robber who tried to hold up his pharmacy

Grant Gillard confronted the thief during the early morning burglary, with reports that the intruder suffered a cardiac arrest after a brief struggle with the pharmacist.

## Australian withdrawal of Panvax H1N1 Junior

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised that stability testing of Panvax H1N1 Junior has revealed a decline in potency of the product which is supplied in 0.25ml pre-filled syringes.

As such the TGA has advised CSL that its 12 month shelf life registration can no longer be supported, and that the shelf life has been reduced to six months.

As a result of this development the TGA says that all existing Panvax H1N1 Junior vaccine 0.25ml pre-filled syringe stores should now be considered expired.

The decline in potency, according to the TGA, seems to be linked to the characteristics of the H1N1 virus itself.

The agency has however stressed that the safety of the vaccine is not affected.

Currently CSL is in the process of retrieving all stock from immunisation providers and vaccination distribution points.

For more information see [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

## MS meeting

**HEALTH** professionals specialising in multiple sclerosis will this weekend gather in Bali to discuss the latest developments in treatment for the condition.

Topics will include established and emerging therapies, including the promise of oral therapies, as well as genetic and environmental risk factors including smoking.

Of particular interest is Cladribine tablets, which are currently under TGA review as the first ever oral short course treatment for MS.

## HIV test warning

**THE** TGA says it's aware that some consumers may have bought the CORE HIV Rapid Test over the internet or from retailers in Australia, and advises that it has not been registered or included in the Register of Therapeutic Goods.

## 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.

**TEMPO Holidays** is offering a three day Dubai package from just \$311 for travel until 01 Sep 2011.

The deal includes two nights accommodation at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, daily brekkie, return airport transfers and a City of the Merchants half day tour, see [www.tempoholidays.com](http://www.tempoholidays.com).

VALID for sale and travel from now until 14 Feb 2011 **Cox and Kings** are offering a 13-day *Splendours of Chile* tour from \$5,021 pp twin share.

The price includes small group sightseeing, transport, a tour guide, local guides, entrance fees for sites included in itinerary and 12-nights accommodation, see [www.coxandkings.com.au](http://www.coxandkings.com.au).

**STA Travel** has discounted its Asian Group Trips by \$100 until 26 Sep - call 134 782 for details.

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## WIN AN EXPRESS KIT



Every day this week, *Pharmacy Daily* is giving readers the chance to win a Designer Brands Express Kit courtesy of **Total Beauty Network**.

Designer Brands are delighted to launch the LIMITED EDITION Cosmetic Kits for 2010. Just in

time for Christmas shopping, last year the demand was so high stock ran out within a month!

Don't miss out, great quality cosmetics is what Designer Brands is all about taking all the ingredients, colour and quality from design label cosmetics and make them available at a more affordable price.

## What are the 3 hues that are used in the Glamour Kit?

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

The first correct entry received will win!

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

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: Meagan Hocking from Mannum Rd Better Health.

## Pharmacist error leads to suspension

A **FORMAL** anti-doping enquiry into Australian swimmer Ryan Napoleon's positive banned drug test has found a pharmacist was actually responsible for the mishap.

Having tested positive to a FINA banned medication, formoterol, in April, Napoleon underwent a gruelling investigation process which turned up the fact that his pharmacist had accidentally wrongly labelled an asthma inhaler.

"It is clear that the swimmer had no intention of enhancing his sports performances," FINA said in a statement.

Napoleon was however slapped with a three-month ban for "a degree of negligence", which would see him miss out on the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi.

"The doping panel underlines the responsibility of the athlete to check his medicine," the FINA statement added.

## FDA warning

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration is warning consumers about the dangers of TimeOut Capsules, marketed as both a dietary supplement and sexual enhancement drug.

Although purported to be "100% natural" according to recent analysis conducted by the FDA TimeOut contains hydroxythiohomosildenafil, a chemical which can interact with prescription drugs such as nitrates, and cause dangerously low blood pressure.

The FDA is advising patients taking TimeOut to cease use immediately.

## Pharmacy Daily Pharmacy Job of the Day!

Jobs4Careers is Australia's leading source for pharmacy jobs ... click here to find out more and see the Pharmacy Daily Job of the Day ...

jobs4careers.com.au

## Praise for PSA's Self Care

**SOUTH** Australian PSA Pharmacist of the Year winner, Lewis Pounentis, has praised the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Pharmacy Self Care program, saying it has played an important role in his career.

With 15 years community pharmacy experience under his belt as well as having one of his pharmacies named the 2009 Australian Small Business Champion, Pounentis said that "It was an honour to be awarded the 2010 PSA South Australian Pharmacist of the Year.

"I have practised as a community pharmacist since 1991 – then owning my first pharmacy in 1997.

"From that first day, Self Care has been an integral part of my pharmacies," he added.

Last year, Pounentis added another string to his bow by completing a Graduate Diploma in

## Later than expected flu

**EXPERTS** from the Influenza Specialist Group are warning of a "later than expected" flu outbreak.

The warning comes on the back of data from the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System which suggests that rates of influenza in Australia may be on the rise, and that cases in NZ have in the past few weeks risen sharply (H1N1 being the main circulating strain).

"The timing of the flu season can vary somewhat each year, but current data now show that infections are on the increase in Australia and influenza is now at significant levels in New Zealand, which usually shortly precedes Australia," said Dr Alan Hampson, OAM, Chair of the Influenza Specialist Group.

"To us this means that outbreaks are imminent," he added.

As such the ISG is advising Aussies to get vaccinated, and for those that contract the virus to get prescribed an appropriate antiviral and take it within 48 hours of symptom onset.

Prof. Booy of The Children's Hospital at Westmead is also advising those that contract influenza to stay at home and not risk infecting others.

Diabetes and thus also becoming a Certified Diabetes Educator.

"I find the Self Care Fact Cards are extremely useful in my role as a Certified Diabetes Educator, especially when discussing the condition with customers who are newly diagnosed," he said.

"Self Care Fact Cards allow me to provide that extra support to my customers as part of an individualised health care plan."

He said the fact cards were an extremely useful resource," adding that he would highly recommend subscribing to the PSA Self Care program for those pharmacies that currently don't.

## US not happy on rule

**US STEM** cell researchers are loudly voicing their displeasure in the media over this week's supreme court ruling which effectively ceased all new funding for stem cell research.

"The ruling is terrible news, not only for scientists trying to find therapies using human embryo stem cells, but also for people who depend on us to move as quickly as possible to find those therapies," said head of the stem cell research program at the University of California San Diego, Larry Goldstein.

According to the director of the stem cell research program at The Scripps Research Institute, Jeanne Loring, the ruling itself is flawed because under the Obama stem cell funding policy no new lines of stem cells could be created (currently there are 75 embryonic-stem-cell lines created by excess IVF embryos that were donated by couples for research purposes).

As such rather than protecting embryos, the policy overturn may, according to Loring, prevent vital disease research.

"I don't understand how the judge got it that wrong," Loring told local US media.

"The court decision threatens to impede progress in regenerative medicine in our country," said Rockefeller University professor, and president of the International Society for Stem Cell research Dr Elaine Fuchs.

"It must be challenged as quickly as possible," she added.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**ROBOTIC** attachment.

A 30-year old Japanese, Yoshifumi Takabe, man has been found guilty of burning down his mother's home, in retaliation for her having thrown out some of his toys.

The furor erupted after his mother, having complained for some time about the clutter created by Takabe's 300 strong box collection of robot figures (from the animated TV series titled Gundam) took matters into her own hands and threw a few boxes full of figurines into the bin.

Takabe told members of the Kobe Court that because he thought of the figures as 'life partners' he had become so distraught after their loss that he saw torching the place to the ground as a reasonable option.

Although the two storey house was completely destroyed during the blaze, fortunately no-one was injured.

**AN** Apple a day keeps fat at bay?

The governing body for Japanese sumo wrestlers, aptly named The Sumo Association, has issued its 51 sumo clubs with Apple iPads so that wrestlers who can't use small phones due to their hand size can communicate.

Leaders of each club, called 'stablemasters' will be in charge of the iPads so that the "sumo stables [can] swiftly communicate what [they] need to".

**NEW** anger management methods.

Local Chinese media have reported an unusual new method of anger management, as invented by 41 year old Wen Jian.

According to reports, Jian has spent the last 13 years growing his fingernails, in a bid to curb his fighting ways.

The 14 inch nails stop Jian from forming a fist, and in his own words "make [him] think before throwing a punch"

