

Last week's winners

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of last week's 'Al'Chemy Masque' competition: Anna Silkeci, The Pharmacy Guild; Krystel Bird, Terry White Management; Cathy Campbell, Hunter New England Area Health Service; Jae Yeo, Medicare Australia and Samantha North.

Whooping outbreak

THE US state of California is facing the largest outbreak of whooping cough in more than 50 years.

So far this year around 1,500 of the state's citizens have been diagnosed with the condition, and six infants under three months of age have died following contagion.

In addition there are also 700 unconfirmed cases of whooping cough currently under investigation, with authorities saying that there may be many more cases who have flown under the radar.

"This has the potential to become very huge," said Gilberto Chavez, chief of the California Department of Public Health's Center for Infectious Disease.

"But we are at a point where we can contain it," he added.

Authorities have said that the best protection against the spread is vaccination and "herd immunity".

The news comes on the back of the recent Australian furore over the anti-vaccination group 'The Australian Vaccination Network', which saw the Health Care Complaints Commission in NSW rule that it provided "misleading" information.

"The AVN provides information that is misleading for the average reader by inaccurately representing information, selectively reporting information, and giving non-peer reviewed and anecdotal material the same authority as peer-reviewed literature," the HCCC said.

Recently the head of the AMA's WA branch said that "it is so frustrating to see groups purport to be giving information about immunisation continue to promote discredited theories.

"I can almost weep when I have young parents tell me in the Emergency Department they have made a choice to not immunise their child, where in the same department over many years I have comforted the parents of children who have either died or suffered irreversible damage due to these preventable infections," he added.

NZ pharmacy warfarin trial

THE Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand has welcomed the decision to fund a pilot warfarin scheme within community pharmacies.

Announced by the NZ Health Workforce, the funding will see the commencement of an in-pharmacy anticoagulation management service, which would give pharmacists a greater role in managing patients on long-term warfarin therapy.

As part of the scheme pharmacists at up to 15 pharmacies scattered throughout NZ will be able to modify warfarin prescriptions in collaboration with patient GPs.

"This project recognises the crucial role that community pharmacists play as members of the primary health care team," said Ian Johnson, NZ Guild President and pharmacy owner.

"The pilot will provide a significant improvement in health outcomes for patients.

"It will help patients better manage their condition and it also means they only need to go to one place to receive the care they need from the medicines experts," he

Stumping cancer

A NEW study has found that gamma-tocotrienol (GT) is effective in targeting prostate cancer stem cells and wiping them out.

Researchers at the Australian Prostate Cancer Research Centre, in conjunction with Davos Life Science and the University of Hong Kong found that gamma-tocotrienol (a member of the Vitamin E family which is derived from Palm Oil) found that low doses of GT killed prostate cancer stem cells, and also suppressed the cells colony formation capabilities.

The researchers also found that when orally administered to mice who had been implanted with hormonal refractory prostate cancer cells, GT decreased the incidence rate of tumor formation by 75% and was also effective in reducing the size of tumors that did form.

"The prospects of future studies on the cancer-fighting effects of gamma-tocotrienols are exciting indeed and we see increasing research interest by scientists in this area," said Mr. Arthur Ling, ceo of Davos Life Science Singapore.

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FIP wants feedback

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation is seeking input from pharmacists to help shape the program for its Centennial Congress which will take place in Amsterdam in Oct next year.

An 5 minute anonymous online survey can be completed at fipcentennial.questionpro.com.

Black market IUDs

THE US Food and Drug Administration has issued a warning regarding intrauterine devices sold over the internet via 'online pharmacies'.

According to reports, the FDA acted after it found evidence that patients were being fitted with unauthorised IUDs by healthcare practitioners who bought them online to save money.

The FDA has said that these devices may not be as safe or effective as their approved counterparts, and has advised healthcare practitioners to be extra vigilant against fake devices, and has urged women who may have been fitted with an unapproved device to seek urgent medical advice.

Sigma appoints CFO

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals today announced the appointment of a new chief financial officer, Jeff Sells.

Having previously served Sigma as its Group Treasurer, Sells comes to the position with a twenty-year background in corporate finance, accounting and taxation.

Sell has held the position of chief financial officer at Oxiana and most recently he was CFO at Citadel Resource Group, but has returned to his old stomping grounds to help rebuild and strengthen Sigma in the wake of its recent financial woes.

WIN A MINERAL STARTER KIT



Every day this week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers the chance to win Mineral Starter Kit courtesy of **Total Beauty Network**.

Exclusive to Designer Brands is a Mineral Starter Kit including the staple products need to help you get into the mineral faze.

Infused with minerals and vitamins which care for your skin, Designer Brands Mineral Starter Kit makes skin look healthy, natural and radiant all day long. Our talc & bismuth-free products mean NO IRRITATION or CLOGGING, just beautiful, flawless skin.

For your chance to win your very own Mineral Starter Kit this week, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

What 3 ingredients are NOT included in the Mineral Foundation?

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

The first correct entry received will win!

Hint: Visit: www.tbn.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: **Sarah Ottery** from **Sigma Pharmaceuticals**.

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Guild

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.

New Nice'n Easy



Clairol's Nice'n Easy has launched a series of new shades in its at-home range of hair colour products. Formulated with 'Colour Blend' technology which combines three different colour pigments within the hair fibre to produce natural looking colour variation, the hair-dyes provide 100% grey coverage for up to 6 weeks. New colours in the range include: Natural Lighter Golden Brown, Natural Baby Blonde, Natural Medium Cool Brown, Natural Light Neutral Summer Blonde, Natural Medium Caramel Brown, Natural Light Cool Summer Blonde and Natural Golden Auburn.

RRP: \$12.99

Stockist: 1800 028 280

Healthy sun defence

Neutrogena's new **Healthy Defence Daily Moisturiser** is formulated with Helioplex technology, which creates photostabilised, long-lasting, broad spectrum (UVA & UVB) protection. Helioplex technology basically creates a barrier between the skin and the sun which absorbs UV rays. Because they are photostable, its sun filtering agents don't break down or diminish when exposed to light- meaning longer lasting SPF 30+ protection. As for the cream's moisturising properties, it contains antioxidant Vitamins A, C and E, and leaves the skin feeling soft. The texture is light-weight and non greasy, and it glides on the skin and is quickly absorbed. Two types available, one for normal/combination skin, and the other for combination/oily skin.

RRP: \$17.95 (50ml)

Stockist: 1800 678 380



Plump those thin lips

Designed to make thin lips appear bigger, Sally Hansen Thin Lip Collagen Boost contains small amounts of soluble collagen and soy oil to condition lips. Fairly sticky to apply, the product has a sweet smell, and is not offensive to taste. Although good for overnight moisturisation and added lip shine, the product does not produce vast lip plumping effects.

RRP: \$15.45

Stockist: 1800 812 663

Age-proof hands

Organic Essences' Age-Defying Hand Fix contains no petrolatum or artificial colours, and features a blend of 100% certified organic oils and botanical extracts. Non-greasy, the product absorbs quickly and contains an SPF of 15+ as well as nourishing oils to sooth dry hands. The Hand Fix, also softens cuticles, reduces nail splitting and strengthens brittle nails.

RRP: \$14.50 (75g)

Stockist: 1300 656 101



Protecting baby skin

Avado Baby Naturals Sunscreen, is formulated from 100% natural ingredients, selected to protect young skin from the damaging effects of sun exposure. Featuring broad spectrum 30+ SPF protection, the product is waterproof for two hours and because its active ingredient is zinc oxide, it creates physical block against UVA and VUB rays, rather than a chemical one. The consistency of the product is thick when it is first squeezed out of the tube, however it melts onto the skin quickly and is easily spread. Additionally, a little bit of this product goes a long way. The product is also preserved naturally, and as such may release some oils, so it is wise to give it a shake before use.

RRP: \$28.00 (200ml)

Stockist: Avado Organics 03 6225 4095



DISPENSARY CORNER

EXTRATERRESTRIALS have landed in the Blue Mountains.

Be prepared for swarms of Trekkies coming in-store to procure calming medications, in the wake of Jenolan Caves' operators announcement that it will begin to run tours in the fictional language of Klingon.

For those of you not versed in the Star Trek universe, the Klingons are a warrior race, sometimes at odds with humanity.

The self-guided Klingon cave tours came about after staffers decided to add an extra language to the audio tour, in recognition of an appearance of a starship named *USS Jenolan* in an episode of the Next Generation series.

The Jenolan Caves Klingon tour takes in the Nettle Cave and will commence from 22 Aug.

SMALLER fries, healthier heart?

A recent German heatwave may affect the size of French fries served up at fast-food joints across the country.

According to the German Farmers Association the hot weather has forced potatoes to grow smaller, with only a smattering growing to the ideal extra-large size required to create perfect French fries.

"The French fries industry and consumers will have to brace themselves for shorter fries," said a spokesperson for the Farmers Association.

DIRECT from space to you!

A UK cricket fan, Jan Marszel, has had quite the ordeal after claiming to be hit by a falling meteor whilst watching a County Championship match in Uxbridge.

The game between Sussex and Middlesex was interrupted when a 4.5 million year old three-inch space rock plummeted to earth, splitting in two.

One of the split pieces, according to onlookers, bounced back off the ground and straight into Marszel's chest.

"If it had hit me full on it could have been very interesting," Marszel told media.