

MA backs R&D move

MEDICINES Australia says a legislation covering a new research and development tax incentive which was introduced into Parliament yesterday "has the potential to make Australia a more competitive pharmaceutical R&D investment location".

The new program offers tax credits to companies, decoupled from the corporate tax rate and thus "creates certainty in the level of assistance to be provided" because unlike the previous 150% R&D tax concession it's not directly linked to profits or losses reported by a business.

MA ceo Brendan Shaw said the bill "could be a massive opportunity for the pharmaceutical and biotech industries in this country" by giving both local and international companies more incentive to invest.

"All indications are that the new program will help bring global investment in pharmaceuticals R&D to Australia, in large part by reducing the cost of eligible R&D in this country," Shaw said.

He said the new program would reduce the net cost of undertaking R&D in Australia and make the country more globally competitive.

Speedy printer

PHARMACY IT supplier ChemIT has launched a new point of sale receipt printer which is twice as fast as previous models.

The Epson TM-T88V is claimed to speed up pharmacy operations, with ChemIT's David Porter saying it's "not only faster but comes with a four year warranty and a 35% increase in reliability.

"It's an invaluable aid to reducing checkout queues in busy pharmacies," he said.

See www.chemit.com.au.

Visit remote Arnhem Land

2-3 month position available commencing soon in Gove, Northern Territory.

Wages negotiable, accommodation and flights included.

Contact Darryl 08 8987 1155 or Gove.pharmacy@nUNET.com.au

Gove PHARMACY



Guild, PSA at loggerheads

THE Pharmacy Guild has reacted strongly to claims by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia that the PSA was responsible for the increased funding for professional programs in the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

The war of words follows a story in *Pharmacy Daily* earlier this week (PD Wed) in which the PSA said the allocation of \$660m in budget funding for professional services "is a direct result of representations made by PSA" to Health Minister Nicola Roxon.

Last night the Guild took the unprecedented step of circulating a robust rebuttal to its members, alleging that the PSA statement was "false and misleading".

"Such statements do a disservice to the dedicated Guild staff and elected officials who spent hundreds of hours negotiating the agreement," the Guild said.

"In order to set the record straight the Guild wishes to inform Members that the extra money added into the Agreement for professional services was negotiated by the Guild prior to 24 December. It was part of a formula negotiated by the Guild with the Government in recognition of the likely flow-on impact to pharmacy of further PBS reforms," the special member newsletter said.

Healthscope bid

PRIVATE hospital operator Healthscope Limited today confirmed that it had received a private equity takeover proposal.

The unnamed bidder is offering \$5.50 per share for the company, with the Healthscope board saying it's not yet formed a view with respect to the proposal.

"...sales have increased markedly"

Read what Natalie Willis has to say, click here.



New NAPSA site

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association has announced the launch of its newly redesigned website.

The site includes a news feature, info on member benefits and a full outline of NAPSA educational courses - see www.napsa.org.au.

STOCK EXCHANGE

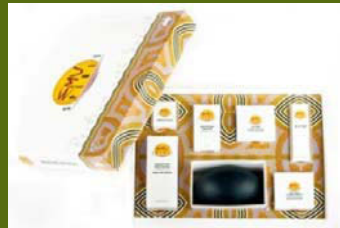
WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* Stock Exchange column, where the industry is able to promote close to expiry or surplus items.

Today Minmi Pharmacy in NSW is offering 50 boxes of Cautionary Labels No. 1 priced at around \$9-\$10 each depending on purchase quantity.

For more information contact pharmacist Munaver Gulamali munavergulamali@gmail.com.

If you have items you'd like to offer through PD's Stock Exchange column please email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

WIN AN EMU SPIRIT PACK



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is again giving readers the chance to win a gorgeous Emu Spirit pack, courtesy of Emu Spirit.

Valued at \$125, the Emu Spirit pack contains a Moisturising Soap, Arthritic and Muscular Rub, Oil of Emu, Day Crème

Refresh & Renew, Night Crème Repair & Restore, Advanced Hand & Body Crème and a genuine Emu Egg!

Emu Spirit is an all Australian company established in 1993 which strives to offer natural products for inflammatory conditions with their Emu Spirit therapeutic and skincare range.

Emu Spirit's patented rendering process, OilTek™, devised by one of the world's leading oil chemists, Mr Andy Baker, is exclusive to Emu Spirit and Emu Spirit's products.

For your chance to win an Emu Spirit pack, answer the daily question below:

How many sizes does the Oil of Emu come in?

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

The first correct entry of the day wins!

Hint! Visit Emu Spirit website at: www.emuspirit.com

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: Allira Svensen from Amcal Max Yeppoon Central Pharmacy. The correct answer was: Omega.

Accounting

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Stay across it all with advice that matters.

 Guild

CPD Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* Continuing Professional Development Calendar, featuring upcoming events and opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

- 07-22 May:** PSA/Janssen Cilag pain management program Brisbane Sydney Melbourne Adelaide and Perth - more information at psa.org.au.
- 16 May:** 'Wound Care Seminar - the Diabetic Patient' in Ballarat, Vic - details 03 9389 4013.
- 16 May:** Chronic Kidney Disease Workshop in Townsville, Qld - details 07 3896 1900.
- 17 May:** Medicines Update on Analgesics - Kareela Golf Club NSW, details 02 9431 1120.
- 18 May:** PSA Vic 'Effective Communication with Staff and Customers' in Bendigo - details Grace Blake 03 9389 4007.
- 19 May:** PSA ACT 'Male Sexual Dysfunction'; University of Canberra, 7pm - 8.30pm - lillian.lesueur@psa.org.au.
- 19 May:** PSA NSW 'Short Course - Chronic Kidney Disease'; AMA Conference Centre, St Leonards - moyatang@psansw.org.au.
- 26 May:** PSA ACT 'Pharmacy Horizons: Career Options for Pharmacists'; 7pm - 10pm - lillian.lesueur@psa.org.au.
- 26-28 May:** The NPS's National Medicines Symposium 2010, Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre - www.nms2010.org.au.
- 29-31 May:** The AACP's annual ConPharm clinical seminar at The Grand Chancellor Hotel in Hobart - details www.aacp.com.au.
- 04-06 Jun:** Pharmacy Expo in Sydney - earn up to 20 CPD points in 3 days. More info www.pharmacyexpo.com.au.
- 15-18 Sep:** Pharmacy 2010, the Pharmacy Management Conference on Hamilton Island - www.pharmacyconference.com.au.
- 11-14 Nov:** The 36th National SHPA Conference, Medicines Management 2010 in Melbourne - mm2010shpa.com.

Disease state coordination

THE Pharmacy Guild says the demise of the Diabetes Medication Assistance Service (DMAS) and the Pharmacy Asthma Medication Service (PAMS) in the Fifth Agreement funding (*PD* yesterday) reflects a change in the way that the Government wants to handle funding for particular conditions.

Responding to yesterday's *PD* story, Guild President Kos Slavos said that the govt wants to take a "whole of disease state" approach by funding treatment in a "much more systemised way."

"The Government no longer wants to have buckets of money in different areas without a coordinated strategy and outcomes set," he told *PD* last night.

Slavos said this means that with the government taking responsibility for primary care, pharmacy will have to compete with other groups such as doctors or nurses.

Sonic contraceptive

SCIENTISTS at the US University of North Carolina are working on a hypothesis that blasts of ultrasound could work as an effective contraceptive for men.

The team have received a US\$100,000 grant from software billionaire Bill Gates to further the work, which could provide a new low-cost birth control option for couples across the globe.

A single blast of ultrasound to the testes could potentially provide men with up to six months of "reliable low-cost non-hormonal contraception," said lead researcher Dr James Tsuruta.

"Funding for programs will be there, but not in the Agreement," he said, giving the example of the \$449.2m budget commitment to deliver coordinated primary health care for people with diabetes.

Under this scheme patients will enrol with a GP who will help organise access to additional services as set out in a personalised care plan - and be paid, in part, on the basis of their performance in keeping their patients healthier.

The government estimates that 260,000 patients will be part of the scheme by 2013, providing more personalised flexible care resulting in better managed diabetes and fewer avoidable hospital admissions.

This program starts in July 2012 and payments under the scheme to allied health such as pharmacists will amount to up to \$120.

Slavos said that the Medicines Use Reviews under the Fifth Agreement will "pick up the slack" left by the demise of DMAS and PAMS.

"The key learnings in diabetes and asthma by pharmacists involved in the DMAS and PAMS programs will not be lost - obviously these pharmacists have a real interest in these key areas of practice so I imagine that when it comes to selecting their patients for an MUR they will be biased towards those where their interests and additional skills lie," he said.

Ranbaxy UK recall

GENERICS manufacturer Ranbaxy is the subject of a Class 2 Drug Alert by the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency over the product information included in batches of its Mirtazapine 15mg tablets.

All unused stock of the product is being recalled because the Patient Information Leaflets have not been updated to include safety warnings mandated by the European Medicines Agency.

The company has already recalled all stock of Setraline tablets for the same reason and other products are currently under review.

The missing safety warnings relate to thoughts of suicide and worsening of a patient's depression or anxiety disorder.



DISPENSARY CORNER

SCIENTISTS in China have found a use for the highly toxic chemicals in cigarettes.

A paper published in the *Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research* journal this week details the breakthrough, in which the researchers soaked cigarette butts in water and then extracted nine chemicals from the mixture.

They applied the extracts to a type of steel used in oil pipes and found that the substances protected the metal from rusting.

Apparently corrosion of the pipes costs the oil industry millions of dollars a year - not to mention the toxins in cigarette butts which kill fish once they find their way into the environment.

"Recycling could solve these problems, but finding practical uses for cigarette butts has been difficult," the scientists from Xian Jiaotong University said.

About 60% of men in China smoke, with the nation consuming a third of the world's cigarettes.

THE latest quirky Japanese support garment is a bra that can also grow rice (pictured below).

Instead of cups, the Triumph brassiere features two pots, along with a plastic water hose - doubling as a strap - to ensure that the seedlings don't dry out.

The bra also comes with a pair of "detachable farming gloves," with the manufacturer saying it designed the underwear "to raise awareness of food self-sufficiency" by allowing wearers to cultivate rice any place, any time.

"Over the last year, young Japanese women have taken a tremendous interest in agriculture," said Triumph spokesman Yoshiko Masuda.

"We wanted other women to experience farming as well - that's what inspired this bra," he said.



One cup of rice, or two?

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