

Abbott's generosity

ABBOTT has been named as the fifth most generous company in America, after handing out more than US\$580 million in grants and product donations last year.

Abbott's philanthropic arm, the Abbott Fund, beat out 158 companies in the survey to take the spot, and it looks set to up the ante this year, recording a 78% year on year increase in the its employee giving programs.

Erlotinib approval

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved Tarceva (erlotinib) for first-line maintenance treatment in non-small cell lung cancer.

The approval is for patients who have not progressed on first-line chemotherapy.

Tarceva is an oral epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) tyrosine-kinase inhibitor.

It blocks tumour cell growth by inhibiting the tyrosine kinase activity of the HER1 signalling pathway inside the cells.

Tarceva is also approved for the treatment of lung cancer patients who have failed chemotherapy, as well as for locally advanced, unresectable or metastatic pancreatic cancer.

Submissions closed

THE submission date for comments on the Statement of Issues regarding the proposed acquisition of Sigma Pharmaceuticals has now closed.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has now begun the process of reviewing the submissions, and all queries regarding the ACCC's review may be addressed to Wendy Thian at mergers@acc.gov.au.

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Towards a healthier nation

THE Australian healthcare system works well because stakeholders are prepared to work constructively and in partnership to negotiate arrangements that suit all parties, according to Medicines Australia ceo, Will Delaat.

Speaking today at the National Press Club, Delaat stressed the importance of the PBS Memorandum of Understanding, and the passing of the National Health Amendment Bill legislation currently before the Senate, in order to secure a sustainable and mutually beneficial outcome for the health of Australians, the government and the medicines industry.

The MoU is the first time that the collaborative relationship between stakeholders and the government has been formalised; and includes agreements that the medicines industry will reduce the price of medicines on the PBS saving the govt around \$1.9b over five years.

The MoU also stipulates that the govt. will introduce improvements to the PBS which will quicken the medicines approval rate; and that the govt and industry establish a jointly-managed horizon-scanning mechanism to ensure a sustainable, efficient and effective PBS.

Under the agreement the govt. also must not undertake any price saving measures for four years.

The MoU, Delaat stressed, is "an arrangement that would put to bed once and for all any lingering questions there may have been about the sustainability of the PBS".

"It will ensure that Australians pay less for hundreds of commonly used medicines," he added.

In terms of the National Health Amendment Bill legislation currently before the Senate, Delaat said that although Australia pays around 20% less than other OECD countries for new medicines, we pay more for older, off patient drugs.

The sustainability of the PBS, he said, rests in driving savings through competition in the older, off patent market.

Supported by the 50 member companies of Medicines Australia (which account for 86% of the PBS), the Bill is, according to Delaat, "a common-sense arrangement that benefits taxpayers, consumers and the medicines industry".

Delaat also outlined a four point plan which would improve Australia's healthcare system and includes: the implementation of a new R&D tax credit system to encourage biopharmaceutical companies to invest in Australia; the introduction of a more efficient regulatory environment for clinical trials; the improvement of an intellectual property regime by bringing data protection provisions for innovation in line with international standards; and lastly, more debate and discussion between the govt, industry stakeholders, academia and healthcare professionals into the current delivery of healthcare reform in Australia and its ageing population.

"There needs to be a debate about health delivery in Australia and how we meet the healthcare needs of an ageing population, whose expectations for ever-increasing technological advancement are also increasing," Delaat said.

New SHPA president

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists has elected Sue Kirska, Director of Pharmacy at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Victoria since 2005, as its new president.

Kirska comes to the position having worked in both community and hospital practice

Sue will be supported by incoming executive members: Sharon Goldsworthy (vice president); Tony Hall (treasurer) and Rebekah Moles (4th executive member).

TGA process review

THE Federal Government has announced a review of the way that the Therapeutic Goods Administration communicates its regulatory processes and decisions, with a view to improving transparency.

Chaired by Professor Dennis Pearce (former Commonwealth Ombudsman), the review panel will also be looking at input from consumers, health practitioners, industry and the public.

See www.health.gov.au for details.

WIN AN EMU SPIRIT PACK



This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers the chance to win one of five gorgeous Emu Spirit Gift Packs, courtesy of **Emu Spirit**.

The products inside the gift pack are valued at over \$150 and contains: Moisturising soap bar, Arthritic and Muscular Rub, Day

Crème Refresh and Renew, Night Crème Repair and Restore, Advanced Hand and Body Lotion, Oil of Emu, and an Emu Egg.

Emu Spirit is an Australian company dedicated to producing Emu oil that is simply and naturally the best quality available. Emu Spirit's Oil of Emu is a natural anti-inflammatory that can be used to treat all aches and pains to skin conditions such as psoriasis and eczema. Best of all, Oil of Emu can also be used to promote general health and wellbeing and is a wonderful source of 'skin food' to assist dry itchy skin, scars, and fine lines.

For your chance to win this great pack, simply send in your answer to the daily question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What is the name of Emu Spirit's unique patented rendering process?

Email your answer 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, **Rebecca Singh** from **Harrisons Pharmacy Rhodes**.



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.

Bump free for Christmas

Caron Laboratories Bump eRaiser range features three products which work to prevent and treat ingrown hairs before and after waxing. The salon quality unisex range includes a 'Concentrated Serum' for use prior to waxing, which contains exfoliating fruit acids to help prevent the build up of dead cells which cause ingrown hairs, as well as skin conditioning aloe vera and chamomile. The range also includes a 'Medi Paste' infused with tea tree oil, triclosan and Vitamin A for use after waxing to reduce inflammation and prevent hair follicle infection; as well as an after wax 'Triple Action Lotion' which is designed to slow hair regrowth, prevent ingrown hairs and ease the discomfort of waxing.

RRP: \$15.95 each

Stockist: 1800 245 412



Get Christmas nailed with Revitanail

Revitanail has launched a Christmas nail care gift pack which features three of its most popular products as well as an offering from Dr LeWinn. Packaged in an on-trend nautically inspired striped tote bag, the products include a 14ml Nail Strengthener, a 14ml Nourishing Oil, an 85g Dr LeWinn Revitalising Hand and Foot Polish, and a 100g daily Hand and Nail Cream.

RRP: \$49.95 each

Stockist: 1800 630 056



Natural relief from fungal infections

TGA approved, Botáni's Phytoseptic cream is a natural anti fungal cream which also has anti bacterial properties. Phytoseptic's active ingredient is hydrastis canadensis (known as Golden Seal), and it also contains Potassium Sorbate 3mg/g and Benzyl Alcohol 15mg/g. Whilst the majority of antifungal creams currently on the market work to inhibit fungal growth, the combination of Phytoseptic's antibacterial and antifungal properties kills the bacteria, meaning that repeat and secondary infections are less likely to occur.

RRP: \$17.95 each

Stockist: 03 9380 8529



Guess' seductive new scent



Guess has released a new fragrance for women, Guess Seductive. The scent features top notes of bergamot, blackberry and pear; as well as a heart of orange flower, jasmine, and Florentine Orris. The base of Guess Seductive is made up of vanilla, spicy olibanum, and cashmere wood. Overall the scent has a woody feminine feel.

RRP: \$55.00 (30ml), \$80 (50ml), \$120 (75ml)

Stockist: 1800 812 663

Lipgloss and a light to apply it

BYS Lipgloss with Light is available in a range of trendy colours including: Mulberry, Spiced Rose, Pink Secret and Forbidden Red. A good value lipgloss, the product is relatively long lasting, and provides a nice glossy finish. As an added bonus the gloss wand has a light in the handle for easy application on nights out, as well as a mirror on the back for touch ups on the go.

RRP: \$8.95

Stockist: 03 9551 4666



DISPENSARY CORNER

I'LL eat my beard!

The common "I'll eat my beard" expression became a reality for one Kentucky resident, Harvey Westmoreland, whose former friends forced him to eat his own beard, after a fight over a lawnmower.

According to reports, the two drunk friends invited Harvey over for a beverage, and at some point throughout the afternoon offered to buy his lawnmower.

The gathering soon turned sour over the price of the lawnmower, and according to Harvey, knives and guns were produced, before the two gents shaved off Harvey's beard and made him eat it.

The two men are now up on charges, whilst Harvey has, no doubt, had to deal with a slight case of indigestion.

HEADS, shoulders, toes and fingers.

Doctors at Zhengzhou Hospital, in the Chinese Henan Province, have managed to save a nine-year old girl's hand, by grafting it onto her shin.

Ming Li was walking to school three months ago when she was run over by a tractor, an event which left her with a severed arm.

On arrival at the hospital doctors determined that with the arm in the condition that it was, it would have been impossible to reattach it in the right spot.

As such they grafted it onto her right calf, and let it heal for three months, before detaching it again, and reattaching it in its original location.

According to doctors Li's recovery is going well, with colour returning to the limb.

Not out of the woods just yet, Li still needs two more operations, one to improve the functionality of her hand, and the other to improve the look of her scars.



Li before and after