



Propoxyphene axed

FOLLOWING a request by the US Food and Drug Administration, Xanodyne Pharmaceuticals has agreed to withdraw the brand version of the prescription pain medication propoxyphene from the US market.

The withdrawal follows the finding that propoxyphene puts patients at risk of potentially serious or even fatal heart rhythm abnormalities, meaning its benefits no longer outweigh its risks.

The FDA has also written withdrawal requests to generic manufacturers of propoxyphene, however as yet there have been no further withdrawals.

MEANWHILE the FDA has approved Xgeva (denosumab) for the prevention of skeletal-related events in patients with cancer that has spread and damaged the bone. A monoclonal antibody, Xgeva targets a protein involved in cancer-related bone destruction called human RANKL.

Xgeva is not approved for patients with multiple myeloma or other cancers of the blood.

Vaccine reassurance

THE European Medicines Agency's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use has released the findings of its review of unexpected DNA fragments from viral agents in some live attenuated rotavirus vaccines.

According to the EMA the DNA came from the porcine circovirus, and most likely entered the vaccines through porcine trypsin, a reagent used in the vaccine production process.

The EMA also reassured the EU that the presence of the DNA did not raise public health concerns.

TGA settles Pan court case

THE Pan Pharmaceuticals class action against the Commonwealth of Australia has reached a conditional settlement, according to a stock market update from IMF Australia, the company which was funding the court case.

The terms of the settlement are confidential to the parties, and the deal is also conditional on Court approval of the agreement.

"If Court approval is obtained it is currently estimated IMF will receive about \$24 million, which will generate a profit after capitalised overheads but before tax of about \$17 million," the company said.

A number of reports today have estimated that based on common litigation funding practice in which a firm such as IMF would receive a third of the proceeds, the total settlement must be around \$50m.

Stirling quits Halcion

HEALTHCARE group Stirling Products has terminated its interest in acquiring Halcion's pathology subsidiary, telling investors that the move follows proposed changes in the deal's structure by Halcion owners Global Trading Strategies.

Stirling said as a consequence it was now finalising other funding arrangements, with a US\$10m capital raising for its TeleMedCare interests currently "attracting a high level of interest in New York".

In response to an ASX query about its ongoing funding, Stirling said it expects to announce further details offinancing within 14 days, with cash flow expected to increase significantly as its pharmaceutical plant in Cape Breton, Canada commences operation in the coming months.

The class action was instigated by around 165 customers and creditors of Pan who claimed to have lost millions when the company collapsed in 2003.

The failure was precipitated by Therapeutic Goods Administration action which suspended Pan's manufacturing licence and recalled all of its products after a series of adverse reactions to its Travacalm travel sickness tablets.

Pan founder Jim Selim, who died earlier this year, already received a settlement of \$55 million and was acquitted of any criminal charges in relation to the collapse.

The class action claimed that there was no "rational foundation" for a TGA warning that any Pan product manufactured in 2002 was unsafe to consume, and could cause illness or even death.

The case was launched in 2008 after the Selim payout.

Huxhagen PSA fellow

MACKAY pharmacist Karalyn Huxhagen has been named a fellow of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, highlighting her a distinguished career in rural pharmacy over many years.

Diabetes register

THE Federal Government has announced the launch of the National Gestational Diabetes Register, which is aimed at providing longer term care for women with gestational diabetes (GD).

As part of its function, the register will enable Diabetes Australia to contact women with GD and remind them to go for regular type 2 diabetes screening.

"While gestational diabetes is short-term and usually disappears after the baby is born, it can recur in subsequent pregnancies and be a marker of increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life," said Health Minister Nicola Roxon.

The register will also provide a single source of data about GD.

Scheduling update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has updated its website to include a Fact Sheet on the revised scheduling arrangements from 1 July 2010, as well as the updated scheduling secretariat's email which has changed from NDPSC@health.gov.au to SMP@health.gov.au.

See www.tga.gov.au for details.

WIN AN EYE CANDY PALETTE



Every day this week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers the chance to win a Eye Candy Palette courtesy of **Total Beauty Network**.

Designer Brands Eye Candy Palettes have a brilliant lustre and finish. Created for staying power and will not cake! The mineral formulation contains skin nurturing

ingredients like Aloe Vera and Vitamin E, and the long-lasting formulas provide a fabulous finish every time.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

ONE cow's trash is another's.....
The Huishan Dairy in China is set to become the first dairy/ electricity supplier in the world, with its plans to install the largest-ever excrement to electricity conversion system.

According to reports the system will take droppings from around 60,000 cows, process them in a fermentation compartment to generate methane gas, which will roughly convert into a whopping six megawatts of electricity (enough to power around 3,500 homes).

The move to eco-power has got many scientists excited with the expanded biogas and renewable energy possibilities it could conjure.

WORLD Intangible Heritage.

UNESCO, in a move a little left of field, has dubbed French cuisine as an official "World Intangible Heritage".

The organisation's Intangible list is designed to protect cultural heritages, and the addition of French cuisine marks the list's first gastronomical addition.

At present, including French food, the Intangible World Heritage list includes 178 cultural practices, including Mexico's Day of the Dead and Cambodia's Royal Ballet.

HOW far we've come!

One of the first-ever walking and talking human-style robots, George, is back on his game after 45 years of standing and gathering dust in the corner of his creator's garage.

Tony Sale was 19 when he created George in 1950, using spare metal from a Wellington Bomber Plane.

At the time his invention stunned his contemporaries, who had never seen a walking talking robot, however rudimentary technology stopped him from having a memory and his charm soon lost its effect, and he got stuffed into Tony's garage



Cetaphil's face of summer

Pharmacy favourite Cetaphil has launched into the facial moisturising market with its Cetaphil UVA/UVB Defense 30+ daily moisturiser release. The formula is non-comedogenic, non-greasy, hypo-allergenic and fragrance free, and has been tested and approved by the Skin & Cancer Foundation of Australia. Perfect for skin which is reactive to UV (including people with rosacea or melasma, or who are taking retinoids or antibiotics, have undergone IPL, lasers or a chemical peel), the moisturiser combines seven sun filters with UVA filters, as well as SPF 30+ to protect from UVB rays, to deliver the highest level of sun protection.

RRP: \$19.45 (50ml)

Stockist: 1800 800 765



Wet and dry wound care

Aspen Pharmacare's Flamigel is a new self regulated wound dressing which is designed to help heal wounds faster and reduce scarring.

A hydroactive colloid gel, Flamigel covers the wound and prevents infection, whilst also creating a moist healing environment.

The core of Flamigel's self regulation lies in the use of two polymers; one which hydrates the wound when its dry, and the other which absorbs

excess moisture from the area when it detects the wound is too wet.

The gel is recommended for the treatment of superficial cuts, burns and grazes; as well as sunburn and chickenpox (to reduce scarring).

RRP: \$14.00 - 17.00

Stockist: 02 9809 7196

Get an age proof boost

Trilogy's 100% natural Age Proof CoQ10 Booster Serum is designed to boost dull, dry and dehydrated skin which is beginning to show signs of premature aging and fatigue. Created using macadamia nut oil (leaves skin silky), jojoba oil (balances oil production and boosts skin moisture), blackseed oil (antioxidant), tamanu oil (rich in fatty acids, aids skin repair), Co-enzyme Q10 (antioxidant, boosts skin repair and regeneration), and Vitamin A (antioxidant and skin-cell regenerator), the serum boosts collagen production and helps skin to repair itself.

RRP: \$43.00

Stockist: 03 9533 1336



Colours explode into summer

BYS has expanded its range of Nail Art Lacquers to include another 21 colours, including : Aqua Blue, Pastel Purple, Cherry Red, Lilac Purple, Fluoro Yellow, Golden Bronze, Hot Pink, Metallic Light Purple, Metallic Fuchsia, Metallic Purple, Metallic Violet, Mirror Pink, Mirror Gold, Mirror Blue, Mirror Silver, Mirror Plum, Glitter Pink, Glitter Black, Glitter Gold, Glitter Silver & Glitter Purple.

RRP: \$4.95

Stockist: 03 9551 4666

Colours explode into summer

Lady Million by Paco Rabanne combines bitter orange, aspberry, neroli, orange blossom, Arabian jasmine and gardenia with subtle traces of patchouli honey and amber, to arrive at a fresh and floral feminine scent.

RRP: \$82.00 (30ml), \$120 (50ml) and \$156 (80ml)

Stockist: 02 663 4277

