

EMA register of studies

THE The European Medicines Agency and the European Network of Centres for Pharmacoeconomics and Pharmacovigilance have jointly launched a new electronic register of studies.

Assessable to the public, the e-register will feature pharmacoeconomic and pharmacovigilance studies conducted by academic centres and other research organisations, and is designed to increase the availability of information on the utilisation, safety and effectiveness of medicines used in clinical practice.

To view the register **CLICK HERE**.

EMA election

THE European Medicines Agency has announced the election of Werner Knöss as the new chair of the Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products, whilst Ioanna Chinou has also been re-elected as its vice-chair.

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.

28 Nov: PSA NSW Branch, Family Health Seminar, Cooma Ex-Services Club, 02 94311125

28 Nov: PSA, Parkinson's Disease: Diagnosis, Treatment and Life, University of Tasmania, 6231 2636

05 Dec: Senior First Aid Level 2, University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay, 6231 2636

09 Dec: PSA Canberra Branch, CPD 'What's on Offer', Canberra Business Event Centre, 02 6201 5897

20-29 Jan 2011: Pharmacy Study Tour, Mammoth Mountain California and Las Vegas - www.medic.com.au/events.

06 Mar 2011: Drug Interaction Seminar, The Sebel Albert Park, Melbourne, 0418 772 877.

01-10 May 2011: The PSA's 2011 Offshore Conference in Venice, Italy and Salzburg - www.psa.org.au.

Osteoporosis in Australia

ARTHRITIS and osteoporosis are the most common cause of disability in Australians, according to the latest AIHW report on the use of health services for arthritis and osteoporosis.

The report, based on treatment figures in a variety of settings (including general practice, allied health establishments, specialist surgeries and hospitals) between 2007-08, revealed that across the nation, arthritis and osteoporosis are "highly prevalent long-term conditions", particularly among older Australians.

Between 2007-08 the report found figures showing 3.3m Aussies sought treatment for arthritis, whilst 692,000 sought treatment for osteoporosis.

In terms of the break-down of arthritis sufferers, almost one-half (1.6 million) had osteoarthritis; whilst rheumatoid arthritis affected the other 428,000 sufferers.

Females were found to have higher rates of osteoarthritis than males, clocking 62.6% of total cases, with overall majority of sufferers being over the age of 45 years.

On average the report's authors noted that osteoarthritis sufferers consulted their GP five times a year, tallying to an estimated eight million consultations per annum with 85.8 per 100 of osteoarthritis problems managed via medications.

Paracetamol came out at the top of the 10 most popular medication

Cancer approval

THIS month, the US FDA has approved Halaven (eribulin mesylate) for the treatment of patients with metastatic breast cancer who have received at least two prior chemotherapy regimens for late-stage disease.

A synthetic form of a chemotherapeutically active compound derived from the sea sponge *Halichondria okadai*, Halaven works by inhibiting cancer cell growth.

New AusPARs

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has released new Australian Public Assessment Reports (AusPARs) for Dapoxetine, Hib and group C Meningococcal conjugate vaccine, and Liraglutide (ryls), see www.tga.gov.au for details.

APP2011
17-20 March
Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Queensland

"Community Pharmacy: Innovation in Healthcare"

 The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
www.appconference.com

Second hand killers

SECOND hand smoke is responsible for the deaths of around 603,000 people worldwide per annum, 28% of which are children, according to a new report from the World Health Organization.

The report is based on "disease-specific relative risk estimates and area-specific estimates of the proportion of people exposed to second-hand smoke" with data collected from 194 countries during 2004.

Findings of the report showed that in 2004 40% of children worldwide as well as 33% of male non-smokers and 35% of female non-smokers were exposed to second hand smoke.

The period also saw 603,000 deaths attributable to second hand smoke, (379 000 deaths from ischaemic heart disease, 165 000 from respiratory infections, 36 900 from asthma, and 21 400 from lung cancer).

Female non-smokers accounted for the lion's share of second-hand smoke deaths at 47%.

Blackmore's "Most Trusted" pharmacy



THIS month Blackmores awarded \$21,206.15 to Cinnotta Chemist at Merrylands in Sydney, as a reward for winning its trade promotion titled 'Win Back the Value of Your Order'.

The promotion was launched in celebration of Blackmores being named Australia's Most Trusted Vitamin and Supplement Brand in the 2010 Readers Digest Australia's Most Trusted Survey.

"We wanted to share this win with our pharmacy partners, as they have played an important role in

helping us to achieve this title again," said Blackmores Head of Sales Kerry Cunningham.

The competition, which ran throughout the month of October, gave pharmacies the chance to enter any order over \$2,000 into a draw for the chance to win back the value of the order.

Pictured above from left is Blackmores Customer Business Manager, Jayleanne Nowak; with Cinnotta Chemist's Mario Capanna; and Blackmores NSW State Manager, Brian Coles.

Servier faces lawsuit

PHARMACEUTICAL giant Servier is facing a costly legal battle in France, over the sale of its weight loss drug Mediator (Benfluorex Hydrochloride).

Despite having been taken off the market in 2005 by Spain and Italy due to growing concerns over its ability to cause heart damage, as well as severe adverse reaction notices within France itself, Mediator, said to aid obese and diabetic patients lose weight, was sold in France from 1976, up until its withdrawal in 2009 - after the deaths of 500 patients and 3,500 patient hospital admissions.

Adverse reactions to the drug ranged from breathlessness to severe heart valve problems, resulting in open heart surgery.

The drug has never been approved for use in the US and UK.

In addition to looking down the barrel of a criminal lawsuit launched by hundreds of former Mediator users (with charges including negligence and involuntary manslaughter), Servier, is also facing the prospect of a full scale public inquiry, as is the French health regulatory body.

Qld winners are grinners

THE Queensland Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has announced the winner of its inaugural recipient of the Professor James Dare Graduate of the Year award as Joe Montieth from the University of Queensland.

The award, handed out at the

Vigor-25 warning

THE US Food and Drug Administration is warning consumers to avoid the so-called 'natural' dietary supplement Vigor-25, marketed as a male sexual stimulant.

Sold on internet sites, as well as in some retail stores, Vigor-25, according to the agency, contains sildenafil, the active ingredient in the prescription drug Viagra.

Sildenafil is known to interact with certain prescription drugs, and may also lower blood pressure to dangerous levels.

"Tainted products place consumers at risk of injury and death, especially those consumers with underlying health conditions," said an FDA spokesperson.

Society's glittering awards ceremony held this week, was previously known as the Graduate of the Year award, but was this year renamed to honour James Dare who's considered as one of the fathers of the pharmaceutical profession in Qld, and also to recognise his contribution to the development of the first school of pharmacy in Queensland in this the centennial year of the University of Qld School of Pharmacy.

Other 2010 Queensland PSA award recipients included Dr Danielle Stowasser who was awarded the Bowl of Hygeia for her leadership and innovation in the area of Quality Use of Medicines and Patient Safety; as well as Jessica Simpson from Narrabri, NSW, who picked up the Intern of the Year award (she studied in Queensland).

"Every year the quality seems to get higher and this year was no exception with the judges finding it a very difficult task to single out the eventual recipients of the award," said Queensland State President of PSA, Associate Professor Lisa Nissen.

"I think this highlights the very high standards of teaching and practice in this State," she added.

Weights for diabetes

A NEW study by researchers at the Pennington Biomedical Research Centre, has found that a combination of aerobic exercise and weight lifting delivers optimal results, as opposed to either one alone.

As part of the study patients exercised for 45 minutes three times a week over nine months, and the group which combined weights with aerobic exercise in each session lowered their blood sugar, lost weight and reduced their waist sizes.

Study participants in the combo group also were less likely to take up new diabetes drugs than members of the aerobics or weights only groups.

"It's clear that doing both aerobic and strength training is superior to either alone," said lead author Dr. Tim Church.

"It's almost like taking two different drugs," he added.



DISPENSARY CORNER

THAT'S the way the cookie crumbles!

Australian health administration advisor, Stephen Duckett, has reportedly left a highly paid position advising the Alberta Health System in Canada on how to reduce hospital waiting lists, after he chose to chew a cookie rather than enter probing questions from the media.

According to reports, Duckett, who arrived in Canada last year, was at home when journalists arrived on his doorstep and demanded answers to healthcare questions.

Instead Duckett, the former secretary of the Australian Health Department, told reporters that he would not answer questions and would "prefer to eat my cookie".

Video of the incident, where he continually refers to the cookie was posted on YouTube shortly thereafter.

The next day, Alberta authorities announced that due to a mutual agreement Duckett would leave his position.

A BEVVY for Buddy.

This festive season dog owners in Holland will be able to buy their four footed friends a beer, following the Dutch invention of the world's first Dog Beer.

Alcohol free, the beverage is crafted from beef extracts and malt, to create a beer taste.

"For large dogs we would recommend one bottle a day and for things like a chihuahua, well they prefer shorts," said a spokesperson for the brewery.

FOR art's sake!

A New York University professor, Wafaa Bilal, has had a camera surgically implanted into the back of his head as part of a new art installation titled 'The 3rd I'.

The shape and size of a man's watch, the camera installation is designed to "raise important social, aesthetic, political, technological, and artistic questions."

The exhibition is due to open on 15 Dec in Qatar.

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.

For your chance to win, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

What is the fantastic RRP of the Eye Candy Palette?

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

The first correct entry received will win!

Hint: Visit www.dbcosmetics.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Caitlyn**

Adsett from **Jadin Chemist Group**.