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Arthritis stem cell study

SCIENTISTS from the Keele University in the UK are set to commence a year-long trial of stem cell therapy for osteoarthritis.

Seventy participants with osteoarthritis of the knee will take place in the trial which will see them undergo keyhole surgery to remove cartilage cells and bone marrow stem cells.

The removed cells will then be grown in a lab for three weeks before being reimplanted into patients legs, either separately, or in some patients mixed together.

The aim of the trial is to gauge whether combining cartilage cells with bone marrow stem cells is more effective than the current procedure of reinjecting just cartilage cells into damaged knees.

Results of the trial will be based on the quality of patient cartilage formed over a period of 12 months.

Board updates new policies

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has clarified its policy regarding the responsibilities of proprietor pharmacists, with an update from its most recent meeting stating that proprietors must 'maintain an awareness of the manner in which their pharmacy is being conducted and where necessary, intervention to ensure that the pharmacy is properly conducted'.

The updated guidelines also stipulate that 'that proprietors must have an understanding of the range of pharmacy and non-pharmacy goods sold, and services provided at the pharmacy (and the liability associated with providing such services), e.g. teeth whitening products and pathology collection services'.

MEANWHILE the Board also

provided further definition of its standard regarding pharmacists' Registry of Practice registration requirement, stipulating that to comply, pharmacists must have practiced for at least 450 hours within the past three years

Where an applicant wishes to return to practice, the Board will determine a period of supervised practice, education program and assessment and/or examination to be undertaken by the applicant on an individual basis depending on: when the applicant last practiced in Australia; the nature of their practice as a pharmacist in another jurisdiction and activities undertaken during the period since the applicant last practiced as a pharmacist in Australia.

See www.pharmacyboard.gov.au.

Summary of new drugs

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's PAC10 is set to feature a session titled 'New Drugs – A Summary of Recent Releases' as one of its last sessions on Oct 31.

Presented by Associate professor Luis Roller from the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at Monash University, the session will look at modes of action, evidence for efficacy, indications, contraindications, adverse reactions, drug interactions, dose forms, doses, place in therapy and counselling points of eight recently released or about-to-be-released medicines.

Medicines canvassed will include agomelatine (Valdoxan); dapoxetine (Priligy); a fixed-dose combination of an opioid agonist and an opioid antagonist, oxycodone + naloxone (Targin); paracetamol + caffeine (Panadol Extra) as an enhanced analgesic; nivibolol (Nebilet); lacosamide (Vimpat); melatonin (Circadin) and low-dose doxepin (Silenor).

Visit www.pac10.com.au.

Patient access

LAW authorities in the US state of North Carolina are pushing for access to the records of patients prescribed controlled substances including OxyContin (oxycodone) and Ambien (zolpidem tartrate).

The state sheriff's association went before a healthcare committee on state legislature this week, successfully arguing that gaining access to confidential patient files would better enable law enforcement to combat the misuse of prescription medications and stop overdoses.

As a result the committee will now present a detailed plan on patient access to the General Assembly for consideration in 2011.

The committee was however quick to quell "big brother" concerns saying officers would not have free access to records, but would most likely have to go through a series of channels to gain access.

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.

- 11-12 Sep:** Australasian Conference for Compounding Pharmacists - www.accp.net.au.
- 23-23 Sep:** Australian Asthma & Respiratory Educators Assn Symposium, Canberra - 02 4340 8822.
- 15-18 Sep:** Pharmacy 2010, the Pharmacy Management Conference on Hamilton Island - www.pharmacyconference.com.au.
- 05 Oct:** Monash University, Pharmacy Postgraduate coursework information evening, 6 -7.30pm - 03 9903 9635
- 28-31 Oct:** PSA's Pharmacy Australia Congress in Melbourne - details www.pac10.com.au.

WIN A MINERAL EYESHADOW



Every day this week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers the chance to win a Mineral Eyeshadow from the Love Candy range courtesy of **Total Beauty Network**.

Fall in love with colour! Hearts will be broken everywhere with the release of Designer Brands Love Candy, sweet inspired products to tantalise your desire for colour.

The Love Candy range consists of nine vibrant eyeshadows, three tempting shades of nail polish and three opaque glosses.

For a chance to win your very own Mineral Eyeshadow, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

The eyeshadow has a long lasting formula that does not, or

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: **Courtney Challinor** from **University of Sydney**.

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FDA warns on e-cigs

THE US FDA has issued warning letters to five electronic cigarette distributors for various violations of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, as well as unsubstantiated claims and poor manufacturing practices.

The FDA has said that it intends to regulate electronic cigarettes, and its warning letter outlines the regulatory pathway for marketing drug products incl. demonstrations of the products' safety and efficacy profile, as well as manufacturing standards.

"FDA invites electronic cigarette firms to work in cooperation with the agency toward the goal of assuring that electronic cigarettes sold in the United States are lawfully marketed," the agency said.

MA urges medicines focus

MEDICINES Australia has today urged the newly formed federal government to focus on key medicines and policy issues.

"The Australian medicines industry welcomes the at least in-principle expressions of support for the Memorandum of Understanding from the major political parties before the election and we hope for a speedy passage of the legislation to implement savings," said Medicines Australia ceo, Dr Brendan Shaw.

"The MoU provides a predictable policy environment for the Australian medicines industry, a fiscally sustainable PBS for the Government, and lower prices for medicines and improved access to new medicines for Australian patients," he added.

Shaw also threw his support behind the proposed R&D tax credit reforms and also called on the Gov to finalise the Clinical Trials Action Group report and to quickly process medicines currently awaiting PBS listing which were delayed by the election.

MEANWHILE Medicines

Australian has also welcomed three new directors to its Board: Mr Dean Phizacklea (Abbott), Mr Tim McCormick (Biogen Idec) and Mr Jim Cain (Bristol-Myers Squibb).

The appointments follow the departures to overseas positions of the incumbent directors Jeremy Morgan from Eli Lilly and Jez Moulding of sanofi-aventis, as well as the resignation of Dieter Torheiden from Solvay.



DISPENSARY CORNER

NO-Dose, guarana and a lot of heart.

A group of German street performers have taken out the title for the world's longest busking session, after performing for 24 hours straight.

To take the crown the three musicians were only allowed a five minute break every hour, no more than 30 seconds break between songs, and pieces could only be played once every four hours.

The world record attempt was performed in front of an ever changing crowd at the Popkomm Music Industry Trade Fair in the German capital of Berlin.

"I am totally exhausted but completely happy that this unique concert was a success," said Samuel Harfst, one of the performers, following the completion of the 24-hour marathon.

A WEIGHTY problem for a primate.

A orangutan, Oshine, living at Monkey World in Dorset in the UKI has been put on a strict diet after having arrived tipping the scales at a massive 100kgs.

The healthy weight range for a typical orangutan is between 31 and 76 kilos.

Orshine arrived at Monkey World recently after having been donated by her previous South African owner who raised her (and fed her a lot) for the past thirteen years.

Eventually it was decided that it was in Orshine's best interests to be looked after by a team of experts, so now on a strict diet of vegetables and fruits, and despite her age, Orshine has been placed in an orangutan crèche where she will learn to socialise with others of her kind.

It is hoped that following her weight loss (which will take a few months) Orshine will enter the park's breeding program.



J&J reveals its Institute and gives a helping Handshake



LAST week at its ONETOUCH Verio launch (**PD** yesterday) J&J Medical introduced the Australian industry to its own Johnson & Johnson Diabetes Institute, as well as the new and uplifting Global Diabetes Handprint project.

Addressing attendees over dinner, former US Acting Surgeon General and current Chairman of the Johnson & Johnson Diabetes Institute, Dr Kenneth P. Moritsugu said: "diabetes is a pandemic.

"The trends are alarming and the acute care model is not meeting the needs of those with diabetes.

"80% of practitioners agree that they don't get enough specialised training [to deal with diabetes patients] and 95% want better tools," he added.

Both a global online community where healthcare professionals can learn from each other, engage in up-to-date blogs and case

studies; as well as a collection of training centres where specific two-day diabetes (patient centric) training is provided, the institute's mandate is to "transform diabetes care through education".

Institute curriculum includes Guidelines and Standards of Diabetes Care, Decision Points in Therapy, Product Training, Chronic Care Model, Communication Techniques and Behavior Change and Reimbursement for Diabetes Care.

At present the Institute has four training centres located in the US, Tokyo, Paris and Beijing, however J&J plans to launch 15 new virtual training centres as well as a fully transportable curriculum next year.

Also revealed throughout the course of the evening was the Aussie launch of the Global Diabetes Handprint.

Founded by American diabetic Manny Hernandez, the Handprint is an online forum where diabetes patients can share their experiences and connect with other diabetics.

Australia is the first country in the Southern Hemisphere to join the global community, and to get involved participants need to write a word onto a photograph of their hand which expresses their feelings about diabetes and post it, along with the story behind the word, onto the forum.

For every handprint posted, Johnson & Johnson Medical has committed to donate \$5 to one of two leading Australian diabetes organisations: The Type 1 Diabetes Network or Diabetes Counselling Online.

To learn more about the Diabetes Institute visit www.jjdi.com, and to learn about the Handprint Project, visit www.diabeteshandprint.com.au.

Pictured top at the launch are, from left: Christoph Vonwiller, J&J Medical general manager, Aust and NZ; Namal Nawana, J&J Medical area vice president Aust and NZ and Dr Caroline West.

And at right are Nicole Bernard, J&J Medical assistant product manager; Amy Meikle J&J Medical product specialist and Xavier Laniol, country director, Lifescan.

