

ADHD brain signals

A **NEW** study has linked attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) with alterations in specific genes.

The study, published in *Nature Genetics*, undertook whole-genome analyses of 1,000 children with ADHD recruited at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and compared it to whole-genome analyses 4,100 children without ADHD.

During the comparison, researchers looked for copy number variations (CNVs), which are deletions or duplications of DNA sequences.

Researchers then evaluated these initial findings in multiple independent cohorts that included nearly 2,500 cases with ADHD and 9,200 control subjects.

The cohorts revealed four genes with a significantly higher number of CNVs in children with ADHD.

The four genes are members of the neurotransmitting glutamate receptor gene family and affect nerve transmission, the formation of neurons and interconnections in the brain.

"The fact that children with ADHD are more likely to have alterations in these genes reinforces previous evidence that the GRM pathway is important in ADHD," said study head Dr Hakon Hakonarson, who is director of the Center for Applied Genomics at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

"Our findings get to the cause of the ADHD symptoms in a subset of children with the disease," he added.

Pharmacist becomes a Local

PROFESSOR Gabrielle Cooper has been elected to the first ACT Medicare Local Board.

Cooper, a Professor of Pharmacy, is the ACT Branch President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and is Associate Dean Clinical Engagement at the University of Canberra.

Professor Cooper's election sees her installed in one of two primary health-care clinician positions on the Board, and will see her add pharmacy expertise and

knowledge to the mix of other health professions represented on the board.

"All too often in the past the expertise that pharmacists have in the provision of primary health care has been overlooked but the Medicare Local system means that contribution can now be integrated more consistently in team-based care," said Cooper.

"Pharmacists are one of the most accessible of all health-care professionals in Australia which means they have some unique face-to-face interactions with patients and consumers.

"I am delighted to be able to add this knowledge and experience to the workings of the ACT Medicare Local to improve the health outcomes of everyone in the ACT Medicare Local region," she added.

NASA atherosclerosis

NASA has signed a patent license agreement with a US company, Meridian Health Systems, which allows the latter to use NASA technology which could potentially treat hardened heart arteries.

The technology focuses around an electromagnetic spectrum which involves the use of millimeter wave radiation (otherwise known as W band), and could potentially be miniaturised into a directional antenna attached to a catheter.

According to the US company, in the directional antenna format millimeter wave transmissions could penetrate the artery wall and restore elasticity to the artery without damaging healthy tissue and cells.

Moving forward Meridian will conduct clinical trials with a prototype built by NASA scientists and engineers, working toward Food and Drug Administration approval of its use.

Sydney disability forum

MORE than one billion people worldwide (or 15% of global population) have a disability, according to the first *World Report on Disability* by the World Health Organization and the World Bank.

"For the first time the *World report on disability* provides a realistic picture of disability based on both scientific evidence and the real life experiences of people worldwide," said Prof Gwynneth Llewellyn from Sydney University.

"With this new understanding comes a responsibility for us all – nation states, communities, organisations and individuals – to act," she added.

The report also found that nearly 200 million people experience significant difficulties in everyday life, whilst rates of disability are increasing due to population ageing and increases in chronic health conditions.

As a result of the release, Sydney University is this week hosting a Symposium to stimulate discussion and foster international collaborations towards the attainment of human rights and participation in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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Generic Cyklokapron

THE US FDA has approved Mylan's application for Tranexamic Acid Injection, 100mg/mL, packaged in 1,000mg/10mL single-dose vials.

The drug is a generic version of the Cyklokapron Injection, which is indicated for short-term use in patients with haemophilia to reduce or prevent hemorrhage during and following oral surgery.

MEANWHILE Mylan has also received tentative FDA approval for its Atazanavir Sulfate and Ritonavir Tablets, 300mg/100mg.

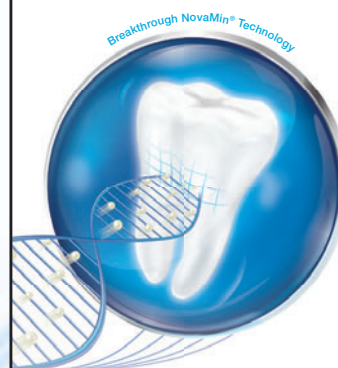
The drug is the first heat-stable, fixed-dose combination of Atazanavir Sulfate and Ritonavir, an antiretroviral used to treat HIV/AIDS.

It's also been "prequalified" by the World Health Organization as a second-line treatment option, and it can also be used in combination with other ARVs for the treatment of HIV/AIDS.

new

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to *Pharmacy Daily's* weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Richard Moore** on behalf of **Nurofen**.



Giving the best OTC analgesics advice

Earlier this year, findings from the NPS MedicineWise survey revealed a large proportion of Australians (40 per cent) were unable to find the active ingredient on a medicine packet.

This can greatly increase the risk of mistakes including incorrect dosing or unintentional overdosing.

This survey finding, in particular, reconfirmed the need for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants to ask customers further questions about the medicines they are currently taking, whilst visiting their pharmacy for a solution to a certain ailment.

Throughout its operations, Reckitt Benckiser is committed to the Quality Use of Medicines and working closely with pharmacy to ensure the practice of evidence based decision making when recommending products, including the right dose for the right condition.

To continue to help pharmacists and pharmacy assistants give the best possible advice consistently, Reckitt Benckiser provides an interactive online training program called PainPod.

Developed in consultation with the PSA and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, PainPod contains specially designed training modules to help pharmacists and pharmacy assistants match customers' pain needs with pain solutions available in pharmacy.

There are currently two modules for pharmacists and six training modules available for pharmacy assistants, which all have attached CPD points and QCPP training hours.

PainPod can be found at www.painpod.com.au.

New and deleted PBS drugs

NEARLY ninety new items have been added to the PBS this month, including Asenapine, Sublingual wafer 5mg and 10mg (as maleate) (*Saphris*), as well as Losartan Tablet containing losartan potassium 25mg and 50mg.

Other additions include Oxycodone Hydrochloride with Naloxone Hydrochloride Tablet 5 mg-2.5 mg (controlled release) (*Targin* 5/2.5mg), and Pramipexole Hydrochloride Tablet 2.25 mg

(extended release) (*Sifrol* ER).

Meanwhile, the list of drugs deleted from Section 2 of the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits includes Arsenic Trioxide Injection concentrate 10 mg in 10 mL (*Phenasen*), Cisplatin, I.V. injection 10 mg in 10mL (Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd) and Docetaxel, Powder for I.V. infusion 20 mg with solvent (*Docetaxel* SUN).

For details see www.pbs.gov.au.

ACP presents concerns

TRENT Twomey of the Australian College of Pharmacy is taking concerns emailed to him from pharmacists on Friday to the table at today's Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum meeting.

The Forum is comprised of industry representatives including the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, SHPA and the Australian Pharmacy Council.

New NPS RADAR

THE latest edition of NPS RADAR features information on Buprenorphine with naxlozone (Suboxone Sublingual Film) for opiate dependence, drugs for Alzheimer's disease, generic losartan, budesonide with eformoterol (Symbicort Turbuhaler) for asthma and COPD, long-acting intramuscular injectable form of paliperidone for schizophrenia, and a Dabigatran (Pradaxa) safety update. See www.nps.org.au/radar.

WIN A PROTEC ANTI-AGING CREAM

Every day this week, *Pharmacy Daily* is giving three lucky readers the chance to win a **Protec Anti-Aging CoQ10 + E** cream.

Protec Anti-Aging CoQ10 + E cream is clinically proven to reduce fine lines and increase collagen synthesis to firm skin and improve suppleness.



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To win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What does the collagen in *Protec* Anti-Aging CoQ10 + E do for your skin?

Hint! Visit www.keysun.com.au

DISPENSARY CORNER

POLITICALLY incorrect diet?

Four of the world's most notorious dictators: Robert Mugabe, Colonel Gaddafi, Saddam Hussein and Chairman Mao, have been satirised in a controversial new ad for the fast food chain, Nando's.

The advertisement, which has become an internet sensation, shows Mugabe setting a dinner table for his "friends".

Whilst laying out the silver Mugabe daydreams that he is having a childlike waterfight with Gaddafi, making sand angels with Hussein and singing Karaoke with Mao.

The ad then comes back to Mugabe still setting the table with the tag line "This time of year, no one should have to eat alone".

To view the ad **CLICK HERE**.

OBESITY a problem?

Chefs at the Pudong Shangri-la Hotel in Shanghai have scoffed at obesity by crafting the world's longest Christmas Log.

Measuring in at an unhealthy 1,068 metres long, the cake took 80 chefs and eight days to create.

Outdoing the previous record holder which was five times smaller than the new monster, the Christmas log contained 904 eggs, 1045kg of flour, 204kg of sugar, 401kg of bitter chocolate and a tasty 34kg of vanilla.

STOP stockpiling, it's not the end.

Sven Gronemeyer of La Trobe University, has called into question the long held belief that the Mayans predicted the end of the earth in 2012.

According to Gronemeyer, a recent archeological finding of a second Mayan reference to 2012 at Tortuguero in Mexico, actually points to the end of a cycle of 5,125 years in 2012, and which will see the return of the Mayan god Bolon Yokte on 21 Dec 2012.

"It is the passage of a god and not necessarily a great leap for humanity," he said.