

New TGA AusPARs

THE TGA has published five new AusPARs on its website including budesonide/eformoterol (Symbicort Rapihaler), linagliptin (Trajenta), pneumococcal polysaccharide conjugate vaccine 13 valent (Prevenar 13), rituximab (MabThera) and tocilizumab (Actemra).

For details see www.tga.gov.au.

Somatropin review

SOMATROPIN containing medicines have been green lit by the European Medicines Agency after a review confirmed their positive benefit-risk profile.

Somatropin is a human growth hormone, and the EMA has urged prescribers to strictly follow the approved indications and doses and to carefully consider the warnings and precautions of the drugs.

PSA social media guidance

IN light of the ever expanding grip that social media has on the general population, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has created a *Guidance for Pharmacists on Contributing to and Using the Internet or Social Media*.

Developed in consultation with key stakeholders including health experts and social media gurus, the guide highlights the responsibilities of healthcare professionals using social media sites to ensure accuracy, relevance of information and confidentiality of patient details.

"Pharmacists using the internet and social media for professional

purposes need to create and maintain an environment of trusted relationships to assure high-quality information and services," said National President of the PSA, Grant Kardachi.

"They also need to protect confidentiality and enhance the value of the internet and social media for both consumers and providers of health information, products, and services," he added.

According to the Guild the guidance document ensures that pharmacists and consumers can confidently, with an understanding of the risks, use social media in disseminating and receiving information about health and health-care issues.

"Pharmacists providing health information on the internet or via social media have obligations to adhere to standards of best practice for online professional services in health care," said Kardachi.

To view the guide [CLICK HERE](#).

Apotex restraint

AN interlocutory injunction granted by an Australian Duty Judge is now in place restraining Apotex from further marketing of its rosuvastatin products.

According to Apotex, the interlocutory rosuvastatin injunction is in place until "further order of the court" and prevents the company from selling, supplying, offering to sell or supply, soliciting or take orders for, or advertising or promoting its rosuvastatin products.

"The imposition of an interlocutory injunction is extremely disappointing," an Apotex statement said.

"The hearing was listed on short notice and the injunction was imposed on the basis of the limited evidence that was before the court at the hearing.

"Apotex remains confident that the patents are invalid and not infringed and that it will ultimately prevail in this litigation," the statement added.

API looks to future

FOR the financial year ending 31 August, Australian Pharmaceutical Industries reported a net loss of \$23.3m, including a financial guarantee and impairment charge of \$50m and an expected timing loss of \$3.6m after accounting for the material damage suffered to its Qld distribution centre.

The company's underlying net profit was \$20.8 million, compared to \$22.6m year-on-year, with revenue also down by 7.6% on last year's results, due in part to the impact of PBS reforms, Pfizer's direct distribution system and the Queensland floods.

"This has been a challenging year for API with market conditions and significant non-recurring items impacting our results," a company statement said.

"While we started the year knowing we faced a tough retail environment and that major PBS reforms would continue a deflationary cut to API's revenue base from February 2011 we did not expect to be confronted with Pfizer Australia withdrawing from wholesale distribution in Australia or the material damage following the Queensland floods which closed our Brisbane distribution centre.

Moving forward the company said it was "cautiously optimistic that the current financial year will deliver an improvement" in its net profit.

All I want for Christmas is new golf balls!



Click here to view our massive Christmas catalogue.



ESSENTIALLY INNOXA GIFT GIVING

This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win 2 body packs, valued at \$44.80, courtesy of **Innox**.

Essentially Innox provides 3 mini collections of essential home pamper products for every occasion. Enrich is a luxurious range with scents of Cocoa & Shea Butter. Restore is a calm soothing range with scents of Bora Bora & Sweet Almond Oil. Exhilarate is a revitalising range with scents of Moroccan tangerine, melon & bamboo.

The prize Includes:

- **Nourish pack:** including Exhilarate mini hand cream 50ml, Restore mini hand cream 50ml, Enrich hand mini hand cream 50ml & Wooden nail brush. All packaged in a complimentary cylinder.

- **Enrich & Nourish pack:** including Enrich Shower Crème 350ml, Enrich Hand Cream 150ml & Shower Cap. All packaged in a reusable mesh bag.

To win, simply be the first person to send the correct answer to the daily

question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Which Essentially Innox Range is revitalising?

Hint! Visit www.innox.com.au.

Congratulations to **Stephanie Loui** from **Youngs Pharmacy Rozelle, NSW** who is yesterday's lucky winner.

Medicines review

THE latest Veteran Brochure launched by the Department of Veterans Affairs is titled '8 Reasons for Having a Home Medicines Review', and provides older Australians with reasons to have a review as well as how the reviews work - see www.veteransmates.net.au.

Indigenous health

THE Department of Health has invested \$644,950 in nine new postgraduate scholarships to help health and medical researchers work towards improving the health of indigenous Australians.

The projects being funded include scholarships to find the cause and preventative measures for bronchiectasis (which destroys muscle and tissue in the lungs' bronchial tree causing chronic coughing, hospitalisation and lung deterioration).

Other projects being funded include research around Hepatitis B, as well as the health impacts of food affordability, chronic kidney disease and the effect on infants of mothers who have diabetes during pregnancy.

Events 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.

22 Jan: Brisbane Senior First Aid and CPR Course; PSA Qld Branch Office, Dutton Park, Brisbane; email - educationqld@psa.org.au.

02 Feb: Anaphylaxis Training for Pharmacists, Charles Darwin University, email - sa.branch@psa.org.au.

24-26 Feb: Guild Pharmacy Academy, NSW Convention; Novotel Manly Pacific- for info call Rob 02 9467 7100.

UTS: Pharmacy now open

SYDNEY'S newest school of pharmacy, UTS: Pharmacy, was recently launched at an on campus event hosted by Head of the UTS Graduate School of Health, Professor Charlie Benrimoj.

In his official launch address Vice Chancellor Ross Milbourne said that the Graduate Entry Master of Pharmacy program had experienced strong demand.

"Applications for the Master of Pharmacy program have outnumbered places available by 3 to 1," he said.

"It is a testament to the quality of the UTS offering and the market need for practice-based education in pharmacy," he added.

Also addressing attendees Professor Benrimoj attributed the early success of the school to its focus on the future of pharmacy.

"When we've spoken to the applicants, they tell us that they like that we're practical and that we're looking to the future of pharmacy and the expanded roles that are emerging," he said.

"Our positioning as practice-based and producing graduates who are fit for purpose and service provision was the thing that really attracted them," he added.

MEANWHILE the launch followed the inaugural meeting of the UTS: Pharmacy National Academic

Advisory Committee which is Chaired by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Past President, Warwick Plunkett.

The Advisory Committee has been established to provide high level strategic advice on the needs of industry, government, the profession and the community.

Members on the Committee come from a variety of disciplines and include: Catherine Bronger, General Manager, ChemistWorks; Stephen Greenwood, Principal Consultant, Greenwood Government Relations and Political Correspondent, Australian Journal of Pharmacy; Martin Cross, CEO, Alphapharm and Chairman of the Generics Medicines Industry Association; Margaret Duguid, Pharmaceutical Advisor, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care; Mark Fladrich, Managing Director, Astra Zeneca Australia and New Zealand; Brendan O'Loughlin, Owner, O'Loughlin's Medical Pharmacy; and George Savvides, CEO, Medibank.

The UTS: Pharmacy team are pictured at the launch from left: Dr Maria Sukkar, Assoc. Prof. Kylie Williams, Jim Woulfe, Nicole Scott, Prof. Charlie Benrimoj, Dr Julie Funnell, Assoc. Prof. Beata Bajorek, and Assoc. Prof. Mary Bebawy.



Comvita gets NPA

COMVITA'S new Olive White Brightening Skincare Range has been awarded the esteemed Natural Products Association certification.

The certification is awarded after an intensive process to determine if all ingredients from each product are natural, safe, environmentally responsible and sustainable.

EMAs orphans

THE EMA's Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products has recommended granting orphan designation for nine substances including the 'human monoclonal antibody against FAS ligand' for the treatment of pemphigus, a group of autoimmune diseases that cause blistering of the skin and mucous membranes.

DISPENSARY CORNER

THIRD time is a charm.

A carpenter from the Hubei Province in China has finally had a nail removed from his body after he swallowed it three times.

The strange tale begins with Li Xiangyang accidentally swallowing the nail after coughing whilst holding it between his teeth.

Li was rushed to hospital where the nail was revealed to be sitting in his right lung.

Doctors immediately went to remove it with the use of a fibre optic bronchoscope down Li's throat.

Unfortunately just as doctors were about to pull the nail out, Li coughed again and the nail went into his left lung.

Again doctors were on the verge of removing it when Li swallowed and the nail went into his stomach, at which point doctors removed it using a gastroscope clamp.

GET the digestive system going and you have an obedient cat.

Cats will learn to perform tricks and be obedient only if there is food in it for them, whereas dogs will learn simply to please their owners, according to Aussie vet, Nicole Hoskin.

Hoskin made the comments after announcing her newest servic, kitten training.

The vet claims she is able to teach kittens to sit, stay, high five and fetch.

Speaking of her 'pupils' Hoskin says her most challenging to date has been a 10 week old deaf kitten named Buzz who was dumped by its previous owner and whom she has had to teach to pay attention to her rather than just vocal commands.

"Already he's sitting on command and high-fiving with one paw and he can high-10 with both paws over his head," she said.

Unlike puppies however, the kittens cannot be taught in classes as "if you get more than one cat in a room, the claws come out," she said.