

## US\$3b GSK US deal

**GLAXOSMITHKLINE** and the US government have announced an in-principle agreement which will see the drug manufacturer pay US\$3 billion to settle investigations into GSK's sales and marketing.

The deal covers both criminal and civil liabilities, with ceo Andrew Witty saying the tentative deal is a "significant step toward resolving difficult, long-standing matters which do not reflect the company that we are today".

## Events Calendar

**WELCOME to Pharmacy Daily's** Events alendar, with upcoming events and CPD point-earning opportunities.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

- 05 Nov:** Workshop: Mental Health First Aid; Pharmacy House, St Leonards, NSW; call 02 9431 1125 for info.
- 07 Nov:** Mandatory Reporting - Would You Do It? - UTas School of Pharmacy; rego via [lorraine.norris@psa.org.au](mailto:lorraine.norris@psa.org.au).
- 09 Nov:** Insight into Eyes, Pharmacy Practice Room James Cook University Townsville - 07 3896 1900.
- 10-13 Nov:** SHPA's Medicines Management 2011 conference in Hobart - [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au).
- 20 Nov:** PSA Vic Sunday Learning Seminar on Rheumatology - 03 9389 4000.
- 20 Nov:** Port Lincoln Country Seminar - update on mental health - 08 8272 1211.
- 26-27 Nov:** Summer in the Snowys, Lake Crackenback Resort featuring Debbie Rigby and Geraldine Moses - details 02 6283 4726.
- 24-26 Feb:** Guild Pharmacy Academy, NSW Convention; Novotel Manly Pacific- for info call Rob 02 9467 7100.
- 18 Apr-12 May:** PSA Offshore Refresher Conference 2012, Turkey/Jordan/Greece; more info on 1300 139 293.

## Pharmacy nursing success

**PHARMACY**-based nurse practitioners have "great potential to ease the burden in primary care," according to the outcome of research conducted by Curtin and Griffith Universities recently.

The "independently funded" project, undertaken by Associate Professor Lynne Emmerton from Curtin's School of Pharmacy, and Sara McMillan from Griffith University, looked at the roles of nurse practitioners based in a number of Western Australian community pharmacies.

The pair interviewed pharmacists, pharmacy staff and the nurses themselves operating as a Revive Clinic, along with users of the service in both city and rural locations.

Consumers said they appreciated the convenience of a 'walk-in' service located at their local pharmacy, with the option particularly welcomed by parents of sick children, shift workers and those who needed routine repeats for medicines such as the pill.

The study also identified roles performed by pharmacists which were not impacted by the presence of the nurse practitioner, such as giving advice about medicines, recommending medicines for

conditions such as coughs and colds, and taking blood pressure.

"In fact, having another health professional in the pharmacy for a second opinion worked both ways," said the researchers.

"Pharmacists were able to ask the nurse practitioner to perform some tests and observations, while the nurse practitioner could ask the pharmacist for specific medicine-related information and to check a person's prescription record in the dispensary computer," according to the report.

Revive Clinic provides nurse practitioners under a franchise agreement to 10 WA pharmacies and one in NSW.

Nurse practitioners have a Masters (Nurse Practitioner) degree and are able to conduct Medicare-funded services such as ordering blood tests and X-rays, managing immunisations, wound dressings and suture and staple removals.

They're also able to write prescriptions for some medications.

## Pradaxa bleeding alert

**NEW** recommendations have been put in place for the use of Pradaxa (dabigatran) following further evaluation of international reports of bleeding in connection with use of the medication.

The TGA is now urging that kidney function be assessed in all patients prior to beginning the therapy, and that patients with severe kidney impairment should not take Pradaxa.

## Citalopram advisory

**THE** Therapeutic Goods

Administration has issued new advice that depression treatment citalopram should not be used at doses greater than 40mg per day.

The move follows a recent study by the Forest Research Institute in the USA has found that higher doses of the medication can cause abnormal changes in the electrical activity of the heart.

"In rare cases these changes can result in serious heart problems," the TGA said.

The new maximum daily recommended dose is now just 20mg for patients over 65 years of age, or who have reduced liver function or are taking medicines such as cimetidine or omeprazole which interfere with the metabolism of citalopram.

In addition, patients who have been diagnosed with a heart condition called "congenital long QT syndrome" should not take citalopram at all, the TGA said.

Users of the medication are advised to consult their doctor before discontinuing citalopram.

There are also new monitoring recommendations for patients on citalopram, including more frequent ECGs and monitoring of magnesium levels.

The Product Information for all citalopram products will be updated with the findings of the study and the recommendations, and health professionals are urged to report adverse citalopram reactions to help the TGA continue to monitor the situation.

## 92 complaints to Jun

**THE** Advertising Complaints Resolution Panel determined 93 advertising complaints during the first half of 2011, of which 92 were found to be justified, according to an update from the Complementary Medicine Group today.

The most frequent breaches included promotion of therapeutic goods not entered in the Register; ads containing unverified, incorrect and unbalanced statements and claims; advertisements which are misleading directly or by implication; those which abuse the trust or exploit the lack of knowledge of consumers or contain language which could bring about fear or distress; and advertising which contains representations that products are safe, harmless or free of side-effects.

## MOBILE MEDICATION REVIEWS



Keen to provide a medication review service but unable to consistently make time to provide HMRs and RMMRs in a timely fashion?

Interested in engaging services of a highly experienced clinical pharmacist who has provided hundreds of well-regarded medication reviews for clients in various settings?

Contact us by email at [healthcommunicators@gmail.com](mailto:healthcommunicators@gmail.com) for a consultation.

Available to supply high-quality for medication review services in any location throughout Australia, subject to negotiations regarding travel expenses and overheads.

We can also help with QUM services and contract provision of in-service education.



## Colgate Savacol recall

**ALL BATCHES** of Savacol Antiseptic Mouth & Throat Rinse alcohol-free mouthwash are being recalled, because some samples of the product have been found to contain bacterial contamination.

The recall applies to the alcohol-free chlorhexidine gluconate 2mg/mL products labelled AUST R: 159649, with the TGA advising that contaminated bottles can be identified by changed colours, the appearance of white flecks, altered smell and a different taste.

"All bottles should be returned to Colgate-Palmolive no matter how the product appears," the TGA said, adding that while the bacterial contamination is unlikely to harm healthy people, those with lowered immunity or lung conditions such as cystic fibrosis may be at risk of chest infection.

Supply of the product will now cease until the cause of the problem is resolved and steps taken to prevent a recurrence, with no other items in the Savacol range affected by the recall.

## UTS offers 6 pharmacy PhDs

**THE** fledgling faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Technology Sydney has announced that six doctoral research fellowships will be on offer for outstanding students looking to undertake a PhD in Pharmacy from 2012.

Professor Charlie Benrimoj, now head of the UTS Graduate School of Health, confirmed that the university's new graduate entry Master of Pharmacy by coursework program is already oversubscribed. "These scholarships demonstrate that we are committed to building an equally strong PhD program," Benrimoj said.

The scholarships will provide \$23,728 tax free for commencing doctoral students who can show a "track record of outstanding academic achievement", while there's also the opportunity for a top-up payment of up to \$7000 extra on the basis of merit.

The move is part of a five-year Research Strategy at UTS aimed at boosting capacity and productivity

to address some of Australia's biggest research challenges.

Health has been named as a key part of the strategy, and Benrimoj said providing support for doctoral students "is vital in this research-intensive environment".

"We want these students to have the freedom to engage with their research and produce work that has real impact," he said.

Scholarship applications are now open, with at least two to be awarded in the area of pharmacy practice, and a further two in the area of pharmaceutical science.

UTS is also offering two International Research Scholarships involving fee waivers for students from overseas.

For more information call Julie Funnell on 02 9514 8303 or email [pharmacy@uts.edu.au](mailto:pharmacy@uts.edu.au).

## 25,944 pharmacists

**THE** first ever national data on Australian pharmacy is now available, after the release of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency annual report.

The 2010-11 report covers all of the more than 530,000 health workers across the ten regulated professions, giving a unique profile of where pharmacy fits in the health landscape.

"The annual report provides comprehensive data about the first year of operation of the National Scheme, across all areas of operation of AHPRA and the National Boards," said Pharmacy Board of Australia chairman, Stephen Marty.

"There is now clear evidence that the National Scheme is sound, robust and a great asset for the Australian community," he said.

According to the report, the typical pharmacist is female, aged 25-29 and practises in NSW.

As well as demographic information the report details notifications and disciplinary action taken by the Board, with 419 notifications relating to pharmacy or a rate of 1.4%, which was consistent with other professions.

See [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**SCIENTISTS** in the UK have named 2000 dance-floor hit *Disco Science* as the best music to accompany cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

An odd study undertaken at Coventry University compared the effectiveness of CPR delivered to a dummy by 74 volunteers as they listened to either *Disco Science* by Mirwais or Billy Ray Cyrus' iconic *Achy Breaky Heart* country hit.

82% of those who listened to the dance music had an optimal compression rate - compared to 64% for Miley's dad and 65% for no music at all.

Previous studies have also suggested that first-aiders recall the Bee Gee's *Stayin' Alive* to help keep the beat going.

**A RECENT** publication in the *Urology* journal puts paid to the suggestion that cancer specialists don't have a sense of humour.

The report details the experience of doctors at a hospital in Ontario, Canada, who were treating a man admitted with severe pain and an extremely inflamed scrotum.

"While scrolling through the ultrasound images, the residents and staff alike were amazed to see the outline of a man's face... his mouth agape as if the face seen on the ultrasound scan itself was also experiencing severe pain," said the authors, Gregory Roberts and Naji Touma.

They said the consensus was that this was just a coincidence, with a benign growth subsequently removed from the testicle.

They published the images (below) under the heading *The Face of Testicular Pain: A Surprising Ultrasound Finding*.



## WIN A LE TAN PRIZE PACK



**Pharmacy Daily** has teamed up with **Le Tan** this week and is giving away **Colour by: Le Tan** prize packs to five lucky readers.

Introducing Australia's favourite artificial tan & original award winning formula- Le Tan Self Tan. The confidence of bronzed glowing skin is just a spray, pump

or squirt away with Le Tan's instant & wash-off formulas.

Le Tan's instant self-tanners are tinted and deliver a long-lasting, streak-free, natural looking tan in an instant. Keep your skin glowing through all seasons with this **Colour by: Le Tan** prize pack.

Each **Colour by: Le Tan** prize pack includes Le Tan in Le Can 150g in Deep Bronze, Mini Le Tan in Le Can 45g in Bronze, Flawless Legs 75g in Deep Bronze, Foaming Mousse 110ml in Deep Bronze and Instant Face Tan 75ml.

For your chance to win this exciting prize pack, simply be the first person to send through the correct answer to the question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Hint: Visit [www.letan.com.au](http://www.letan.com.au)

**What is Le Tan's new self-tan product?**

**Congratulations** to yesterday's lucky winner, **Ayesha Platis** from **The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, SA.**