

# Pharmacy DAILY

Friday 23 Sep 2011

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## Thalgo's sun care range

**THALGO** has launched a new Sun Care range, in the lead up to summer. The range includes a Self Tanning Cream, Sun Repair Cream Mask and Hydra Soothing Lotion.

## 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](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

- 24 Sep:** Renal Masterclass; Amora Hotel Jamison Sydney, NSW; call 02 9431 1125.
- 24 Sep:** PSA NITP 2011 First Intake Workshop 2; Wagga Wagga, NSW; visit [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au).
- 25 Sep:** Practical Diabetes Management For Pharmacy; Sydney CBD, NSW; call 02 9431 1125 for more information.
- 25 Sep:** First Aid Certificate Course; North Sydney Leagues Club, NSW; call 02 9431 1125.
- 06-09 Oct:** PAC11, Melbourne Convention Centre [pac11.com.au](http://pac11.com.au)
- 13-15 Oct:** Pharmacy Assistant National Conference, Gold Coast - [pharmacyassistants.com.au](http://pharmacyassistants.com.au).
- 10-13 Nov:** SHPA's Medicines Management 2011 conference in Hobart - [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au).
- 24-26 Feb:** Guild Pharmacy Academy, NSW Convention; Novotel Manly Pacific- for info call Rob 02 9467 7100.

## Genetic patent controversy

**THERE** is no case for banning patents on biological materials, according to Medicines Australia.

Commenting on the release of a report by the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee which rejected a Private Members Bill that argued for a ban on patents of biologicals (including genetic materials), Medicines Australia CEO Dr Brendan Shaw said, "It is now time to put this matter to bed once and for all".

"Patents on biological materials are important because they guarantee ongoing investment in developing cutting-edge medicines and therapies," he argued.

"They ensure Australians have access to these medicines as soon as they become available," he added.

At present there are more than 400 biological medicines under development worldwide, including medicines for cancer, arthritis and Alzheimer's disease.

The patenting of genetic material has however been met with fierce opposition worldwide, with many consumer groups, governments, members of the scientific community and NGOs arguing that companies do not have the right to patent something that exists in nature, and that doing so would restrict research and genetic testing.

"Naturally occurring human genes are not invented in the laboratory and as such should not be subject to a patent," said Liberal Senator Bill Heffernan at the introduction of the Bill.

"We seek to give Australian

scientists free and unfettered access to naturally occurring biological materials for use in medical and scientific research," he added.

Shaw however said that patents drive innovation in a field which "represents the cutting edge of medicine".

"Had this Bill proceeded it would have put Australia at odds with global trends in IP protection," he said.

"It would have threatened access to the latest medicines and diagnostics, and violated our international trade obligations under the Australia US Free Trade Agreement," he added.

## Free Prevenar 13

**FROM** 01 October children aged 12 to 35 months who are fully immunised with Prevenar (pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, 7-valent), will be eligible for a free dose of Prevenar 13 (until 30 September 2012).

The supplemental dose is part of a government funded program, and provides infants with protection against an additional six *Streptococcus pneumoniae* serotypes including the emerging serotype 19A.

"Immunisers should act without delay and reach out to the parents of eligible children so these potentially at risk children have the opportunity to be vaccinated with the updated version offering them broader protection against this devastating and sometimes fatal disease," said Professor Robert Booy, Paediatrician, Children's Hospital Westmead Sydney.

## PBAC Agenda

The Department of Health has released the agenda for the November 2011 PBAC meeting.

Comments on new drug submissions, changes to listings and re-submissions can be made until 05 October, see [www.pbs.gov.au](http://www.pbs.gov.au).

## WIN A NUDE BY NATURE PACK

This week **PD** is giving three lucky readers the chance to win a skin care pack (pictured below), valued at \$122.70, courtesy of **Nude By Nature**.

Australia's favourite natural mineral makeup range has extended into skin care and this range of natural and effective products from Nude by Nature will allow you to achieve maximum results towards beautiful skin without harsh chemicals.

For your chance to win, email your answer to the question below by COB on Friday to:

[nudebynature@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:nudebynature@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Three most creative entries will win this fantastic prize pack and their names will be announced in **PD** on Tuesday 27th Sep.

**In 25 words or less tell us why using natural skincare and make-up is important to you**



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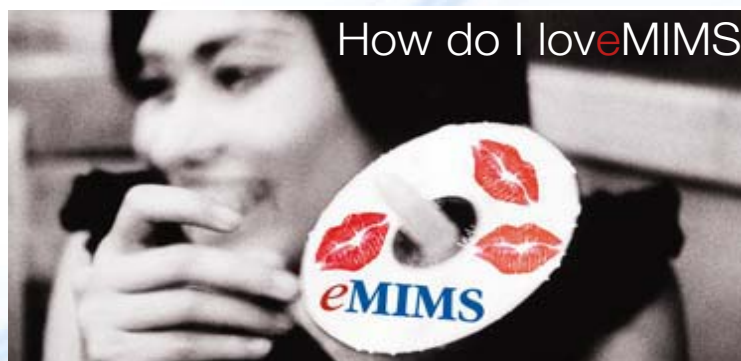
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## Australia ups quit bid

**THE** Australian Government has announced \$700,000 in funding will be given to WHO to help aid the global fight against smoking.

\$400,000 of the money will fund an intergovernmental working group, covering tax and pricing measures to reduce demand for tobacco and \$200,000 will be funneled into work to adapt existing graphic health warnings and social marketing materials for use by low resource countries.

The remaining \$100,000 will be split in half, and will fund an international database of best practices to support the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) guidelines, whilst the other \$50,000 will help improve periodic reporting on FCTC implementation.

"Tobacco is one of the deadliest products in the world and it is in the interest of all nations to act to minimise the harm from tobacco on their population," said Health Minister Roxon.

## US phase-out of inhalers

**US ASTHMA** sufferers who rely on epinephrine inhalers containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are being warned to find alternative means of asthma management, with the news that the Food and Drug Authority has placed a ban on their sale after 31 December 2011.

The inhalers, sold over the counter without prescription in pharmacies across the US, are being phased out to comply with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, of which the US was a signatory.

Under the agreement America agreed to phase-out substances

that deplete the ozone layer, including CFCs, after certain dates.

In light of the impending cut-off date, many manufacturers switched from CFC use to a propellant called hydrofluoroalkane, however these medications are only available via prescription.

"If you rely on an over-the-counter inhaler to relieve your asthma symptoms, it is important that you contact a health care professional to talk about switching to a different medicine to treat your asthma," the FDA said in a statement.

## ARTG update

**THE** TGA has updated the contact details for the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

To view the new contacts visit [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

## Osteoporosis update

**THE** Department of Veterans' Affairs has released a new veteran brochure on osteoporosis.

The brochure provides steps to keep healthy bones, including information about the condition, what can be done, medicines, and how to prevent falls.

The brochure can be downloaded at [www.veteransmates.net.au](http://www.veteransmates.net.au).

## EU first stem cell test

**THE** first European clinical trial involving human embryonic stem cells has been given the go ahead, at Moorfields Eye hospital in London.

The trial will see 12 patients suffering from the degenerative eye disease, Stargardt's macular dystrophy, injected with retinal pigment epithelial cells derived from human embryonic stem cells.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**SOME** smells last a lifetime.

A study published in the journal *PLoS ONE*, has found that Humboldt penguins can track the odour of their lifelong mates within colonies of thousands.

The research is the first to show that penguins use odour to recognise genetic differences.

"Seafaring birds that travel long distances in the ocean use odours to find food and use odours to recognise nests but we didn't know what odours or the extent to which they could use odours to recognise kin," said study head and biopsychologist at the University of Chicago, Jill Mateo.

"Their sense of smell can help them find their mates and perhaps choose their mates," she added.

**POLITICIAN** now claims the moon!

A moon rock collected during the Apollo 17 mission in 1972, which went mysteriously missing, has reappeared in the most unlikely of places, the paperwork of former US President Bill Clinton.

The rock was gifted to the state of Arkansas more than 30 years ago, and was discovered after a period of absence by a processor who was going through some of the 2000 boxes of material from Clinton's time as Arkansas governor.

No one has any idea how the rock got into the boxes, but it did solve a state wide mystery.

## Blackmores backs Aussie community pharmacy



**THIS** week Blackmores unveiled its pharmacy only range of Blackmores Companions (**PD** yesterday), at an industry lunch held in style at its spectacular Warriewood Campus.

The range goes on sale from 01 October, and is designed to work alongside key classes of prescription drugs to help prevent the depletion of nutrients in the body.

Branded with the Gold Cross logo and backed by the Guild, the range includes a Biotic Companion, Stat Companion, PPI Companion and Anti-HT Companion.

"As the most readily available health professionals, pharmacists

are ideally placed to assist consumers to make informed decisions about complementary medicines and nutritional supplements," said Kos Sclavos, Guild President.

"The Guild supports and applauds the work of Blackmores in contributing to pharmacist education in this area," he added.

Pictured above at the launch (from left) are Pam Stone, Blackmores' Director of Education; Kos Sclavos, National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Christine Holgate, CEO Blackmores and Marcus Blackmore, Chairman, Blackmores.



## PHARMACY FOR SALE

**TWC Charlestown Pty Limited (Receivers & Managers Appointed) T/A Terry White Chemists Charlestown is being offered to the market for sale.**

**For a copy of the information memorandum please contact Sean Roffey (PBS Pharmacy Brokers) on email [pbs@healthbusinesssales.com.au](mailto:pbs@healthbusinesssales.com.au) or call 0408 882 111.**