

Got questions of law?

TODAY the University of Sydney has launched a new website, designed to help health professionals deal with ethical and legal issues.

The Clinical Ethics Resource includes guidelines, tools, legislation, policy, reports, articles, books and examples of legal cases, as well as links to over 500 resources.

Topics covered by the website include genetics, mental illness, end of life, organ and tissue donation, consent, reproductive health, confidentiality, negligence and standards of care and communication.

To make use of the website, or to learn more, visit Clinical Ethics at - www.clinicalethics.info.

New genetic patent reform

THE Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) has joined the chorus of industry calls for gene patent reform (**PD** 23 Sep).

"Having a patent system which allows us to carry out our work, while protecting the public's interest from gene monopolies and maintaining a good level of research investment, is paramount," said Dr Graeme Suthers, Chair of the RCPA's Genetics Advisory Committee.

"We want to ensure that useful medical testing of high quality is available to all Australians.

"Our concerns remains that gene patents have compromised the ability of medical labs to meet this goal," he added.

As such, the College has thrown

its support behind a proposal put forth by the Cancer Council, for a roundtable meeting with all relevant parties and stakeholders which would redevelop a legislative approach to the issue.

Key issues to discuss at the roundtable would include research investments and the potential risks of commercial monopolisation of human biological material.

"We recognise that patents are an essential and welcome component of contemporary medical care," Suthers said.

"However, patents should not restrict equitable access to a medical genetic test," Suthers added.

Nurofen investigation

A BRITISH man has been busted for contaminating UK Nurofen Plus packs with Seroquel XL 50mg and Neurontin 100mg tablets.

At present the company's entire Nurofen Plus production line is being examined by authorities.

Breast breakthrough

A NEW study published in *PNAS Early Edition* has identified that common forms of breast cancer originate from luminal epithelial cells while rarer forms of breast cancer (metaplastic carcinomas) originate from basal epithelial cells.

"By understanding more about the cellular beginnings of cancer, we can direct our research toward investigating preventive methods and possibly even developing new therapies," said research head, Charlotte Kuperwasser.

Remicade approval

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Remicade (infliximab) to treat moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis (UC) in children older than six years who have had inadequate response to conventional therapy.

Prostate cancer cause comes to Canberra



LAST week politicians teamed together to raise funds for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA), by hosting a Big Aussie Barbie at Parliament House.

"With thanks to organisations like PCFA we are now aware of the major impact this disease has on not only Australian men, but the

entire Australian community," said Mr Steve Georganas MP.

"Now it is our turn to offer PCFA support so we can continue the fight against prostate cancer".

Pictured above enjoying the BBQ is The Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Russell Broadbent MP and Dr Anthony Lowe CE of PCFA

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Weekly Comment

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

This week's contributor is **Kos Sclavos, President, Pharmacy Guild of Australia.**



One Carton Call

SYMBION and **API**, together with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, are urging pharmacies to support Blue September's 'Facing up to cancer in men' campaign, which aims to raise awareness and promote action on cancers affecting men.

With more than 22,000 Australian men dying of cancer each year, this is a really important campaign and we are calling on all pharmacies to get involved.

The good news is supporting the campaign couldn't be easier – purchasing just one carton of a Blue September Quilton toilet tissue pack will go a long way to making a difference, with \$2 from every pack sold to be donated to the cause.

The limited edition, pharmacy-only tissue pack will be available for the entire month of September.

The campaign has already had fantastic support from a number of pharmacy groups but we're still hoping to raise a lot more for the cause before the end of September.

What's more, there's an additional incentive for getting involved with a great prize up for grabs – a Californian holiday for two, including return flights, three nights at the Roosevelt Hotel in the heart of Hollywood and five nights at the Villagio Spa and Inn in the beautiful Nappa Valley.

For further information about the campaign and how to get involved please contact your wholesaler or visit the Blue September website- www.blueseptember.com.au.

SHPA 2011 young achiever

YOUNG Australian pharmacist, Megan Middleton, has been awarded the 2011 William Mercer Young Achiever Award, by the Victorian Branch of The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia.

"Megan is a great example of a young pharmacist who has demonstrated leadership in the hospital pharmacy profession – in the past, present, and I'm sure will continue in the future," said Helen Matthews, Chair of SHPA Victorian Branch Committee.

The award was conferred upon Middleton for her "substantial contribution to hospital pharmacy".

Middleton is currently undertaking her Masters of Health Services Management at Monash University, and is the Project Pharmacist for HealthSMART Clinical Systems Project at Eastern Health, as well as a SHPA Federal Councillor.

Past positions held by Middleton include Deputy Director of Pharmacy – Medicines Evaluation, Eastern Health.

"The pharmacy profession and

SHPA are fortunate to have people of Megan's calibre; her passion and commitment to pharmacy practice and safe use of medicines benefits us all," said SHPA Federal President, Sue Kirsas.

"She has shown initiative and leadership beyond her years," she added."

Lyme disease appeal

THE Karl McManus Foundation is asking pharmacists to keep collection tins on the counter until they are full, in order to maximise funds raised.

"This extended appeal will also give pharmacists the opportunity to continue educating the public about Lyme disease prevention at this crucial time of year - the beginning of tick season in Australia," said the Foundation's Director, Dr Mualla Akinci McManus.

Participating pharmacists are also reminded that if they have run out of Lyme disease prevention leaflets, they can download extra copies from the Foundation's website, karlmcmanusfoundation.org.au.

WIN A BOTANI SKIN CARE PACK



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with **Botani** this week and is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a Botani Smart Travel Hydration Pack, valued at \$65.

The prize includes three luxurious face products: an Olive Skin Serum, a Healing Lip Balm and a Soothing Facial Mist.

Travelling is no excuse for neglecting your skin. This simple, three step, petrochemical free treatment will protect, hydrate and repair your skin while you travel, so you can arrive at your destination with a healthy glow. Ideal for men and women, the pack works to optimise skin hydration and reduce damage caused by the effects of air travel and sudden changes in climatic conditions.

To win this fabulous skin care pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below:

What is the name of main active ingredient in the olive skin serum?

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Hint: Visit www.botani.com.au

DISPENSARY CORNER

HEART of gold.

Heart attack patients may soon be able to enjoy their own heart of gold, following the creation of a cardiac patch involving gold wires.

According to the research in *Nature Nanotechnology*, the patch was created using nanotechnology and wires made with gold which meant that wires were more electrically conductive and made cells beat in time.

"If you don't have the gold nanowires, and you stimulate the cardiac patch with an electrode, the cells will beat only right where you're stimulating," said head researcher Dr Daniel Kohane.

"With the nanowires, you see a lot of cells contracting together, even when the stimulation is far away," he added.

After incubation, the patches studded with the gold nanowires were also thicker and their heart muscle cells better organized (testing has so far been done only in cell cultures).

IN the event of resurrection...

A Greek morgue located in Anatolia has installed motion sensors inside its refrigerators, in case people placed inside are not actually dead.

The fridges also contain internal door handles, to avoid hours of banging and begging before anyone notices the "deceased" is not in fact dead.

"If the patient, proclaimed dead by doctors, awakens from a state of unconsciousness, then we consider each and every possibility," said mortuary official Akif Kayadurmus.

IF only Blue September could get its hands on this one.

A roll of toilet paper rejected by the Beatles for being "too hard and shiny", has received offers of up to £1,000 per sheet.

The roll was in the EMI studio loos whilst the Beatles were recording Abbey Road, and was bought at auction in 1980 for £85, with the owner having recently received the £1,000 offer.