

Troubled Minds

SANE Australia has announced *Understanding Troubled Minds: a guide to mental illness and its treatment* as its 2012 Book of the Year, saying the book is an excellent resource on mental illness for the general public.

WIN A NUDE BY NATURE PACK



PD has teamed up with **Nude by Nature** this week and is giving

six lucky readers the chance to win a *Summer Lovin'* pack, valued at \$41.85 each!

Each *Summer Lovin'* pack includes: Mineral Bronzer 4g, Natural Tinted Moisturiser 30ml & Half Moon Brush.

For your chance to win, email your answer to the question below by COB on Friday to: nudebynature@pharmacydaily.com.au

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

Three most creative entries will win this fantastic prize pack and their names will be announced in **PD** next week.

EMA's better public health

THE European Medicines agency is currently preparing for fundamental changes to pharmaceutical legislation due to come into effect this year, aimed at improving public health protection across the 27 EU Member States.

The new pharmacovigilance legislation will come into effect in July this year and will include the formation of the new Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee, as well as a revision of the mandate of the existing Coordination Group for Mutual Recognition and Decentralised Procedures –

Kids seasonal vaccines

THIS year there are four different influenza vaccines registered for use in children from the age of 6 months: Agrippal (Novartis), Fluarix (GSK), Influvac (Abbott) and Vaxigrip (Sanofi Pasteur).

According to a safety update, in 2011 the TGA recommended against the use of Agrippal and Fluarix, in children under the age of 9 years because these vaccines had not been supplied in Australia in 2010 and the sponsors had been unable to establish active surveillance to monitor the safety of their vaccines in this age group.

The sponsors have since submitted additional data to the TGA to support the safety of their vaccines in children and the TGA now considers that Agrippal and Fluarix may be used in children from the age of 6 months.

See www.tga.gov.au.

Human, to strengthen its role in pharmacovigilance.

As part of the shake-up the Agency will increase its transparency by publishing the agendas, recommendations, opinions and minutes from its scientific committees, and will also organise public hearings allowing the public to engage with the Agency on safety issues.

In addition any patient in European Member States will be able to report suspected adverse drug reactions to his or her national medicines authority, whilst the Agency will also begin to operate a new urgent Union procedure for safety issues concerning nationally and centrally authorised medicines.

The Agency will also this year implement the procedure for protocol approval of post-marketing safety studies and results management initially only for centrally authorised drugs, and will develop a revised process for the coordination of pharmacovigilance inspections during the year.

The revised process for signal detection for centrally authorised medicines will start as of July 2012, with additional data support being provided to the European Member States for nationally authorised products.

PSA March weekend

THE PSA is hosting an immunology workshop titled Treatment options for immunological disorders at its March Weekend- **CLICK HERE**.

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Emergency growth

THE growth in demand for emergency department services is outstripping population growth, according to the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine.

The comments are based on a recent study published in the latest issue of *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, which found that demand for public emergency department (ED) care increased by 37% over the decade ending at the beginning of 2010.

"This growth in demand exceeds general population growth, and the variability between states both in utilisation rates and overall trends defies immediate explanation," said study author Professor Gerry FitzGerald from the School of Public Health at the Queensland University of Technology.

According to the study the ED utilisation rate in Australia, which is currently 331 per 1000 persons, has been growing at an average of 1.8% per annum over the past decade.

As for explaining the increase, the FitzGerald said Australia's ageing population may not be the full story, citing ACT as an example, as although it had the highest growth of 7.65% in the number of persons aged 85 and over, its ED presentation rates did not change significantly.

"Also, in a separate analysis of ED presentations at Queensland public hospitals, we found that the presentations per 1000 persons decreased for the over 60 age group in the 5 years between 2003–2004 and 2008–2009, but increased among the 0- to 14-year-old group," he said.



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Guild Update

This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild Plain English Guide

The Plain English Guide has been developed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia to help Guild members understand the Pharmacy Industry Award 2010 (PIA), as well as the terms and conditions of employment provided by the National Employment Standards (NES). This is a member-only resource, and cannot be purchased by non-members or employees. It provides:

- best practice tips to comply with the PIA;
- calculations and examples to apply the transitional arrangements; and
- Identification of further sources of information.

Updates to this guide will be provided to member purchasers as and when the PIA is amended, and as case law is established.

Normally \$165, order your copy now at the special rate of \$99.00 (including GST). This promotional rate is available until 29 Feb 2012.

A free update will be provided following the 2012 wage decision.

Please note: The PIA (and therefore the Plain English Guide) now applies to most community pharmacy employers in Australia, unless you are an unincorporated entity in WA (such as a sole trader or in a partnership) or you have a registered Agreement (collective, multi-business, enterprise etc.) in place.

To order the guide **CLICK HERE**.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Apotex fails rosuvastatin bid

APOTEX has been unsuccessful in its bid this week, to have the interlocutory injunction removed from it regarding the marketing of its rosuvastatin products.

In December Apotex was restrained by the interlocutory injunction from rosuvastatin products brought about by AstraZeneca, meaning that it cannot sell, supply, offer to sell or supply, solicit or take orders for, or advertise or promote its rosuvastatin products.

"The continuation of the interlocutory injunction means that the Apotex rosuvastatin products will not be PBS listed on 1 April 2012 and Apotex will not be able to fulfil orders placed by customers prior to the injunction on 14 December 2011," the company said in a letter to its customers.

As a result of the decision, the injunction will now remain in place until the trial.

As yet a trial date has not been set, but the court has suggested October 2012 as a possibility.

"Apotex will have an opportunity at trial (estimated to be of 3 weeks duration) to fully ventilate its arguments," the company said.

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

MEANWHILE, AstraZeneca has also commenced legal proceedings against Watson Pharm Pty Ltd. (Watson) and Actavis Australia Pty



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Two Swiss painters have escaped a horror smash without a scratch, in what some are calling a miracle escape.

The pair, teenage decorator Vanessa Kastner, and her 28-year old boss, Admir Kaiser, were travelling in a van when it was struck suddenly by a tram.

The van was dragged by the tram for 50 metres before being crushed against an electricity pylon.

"When we crawled out and I saw what was left of the van I couldn't believe that we'd survived," said Kastner.

The accident may have been caused when Kaiser hit the accelerator into the trams path instead of the brakes.



Edarbyclor approval

THE US Food and Drug Authority has approved Takeda Pharmaceuticals' Edarbyclor (azilsartan medoxomil and chlorthalidone) for the treatment of hypertension to lower blood pressure in adults.

It is the only fixed-dose therapy in the U.S. to combine an angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB) with chlorthalidone in a once-daily, single tablet.



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