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Ecstasy heart attacks

USERS of the illegal drug ecstasy face the possibility of heart attack, according to a new report in *Emergency Medicine Australia*.

In the report, the authors argue that whilst cocaine and speed are most often associated with heart issues, the mechanism of cardiovascular toxicity of MDMA (ecstasy) is not well understood.

Penned by Dr Kerry Hoggett, Dr David McCoubrie, and Professor Daniel Fatovich of the Royal Perth Hospital, the report found that whilst 25% of patients with chest pain after methamphetamine use develop acute coronary syndrome within the first few hours, there were three cases of delayed onset after ecstasy use.

"Although acute coronary syndrome is recognised after cocaine and methamphetamine use, association with ecstasy use has rarely been reported," the report's authors said.

According to the report, all three patients who suffered heart attacks following ecstasy usage were otherwise young well adults, a fact which has led the report's authors to urge people to be aware "of the potential for significantly delayed heart symptoms following ingestion of ecstasy".

Honours for Delaat, Frost

WILL Delaat and Elizabeth Frost were both named in yesterday's Queen's Birthday honours list, with each cited for their service to the pharmaceutical industry.

Former Medicines Australia Chairman Delaat was named a Member (AM) in the General Division, with his citation stating "for services to the pharmaceutical industry through roles with professional organisations, to the development of medicines policy and reform, and to the community".

He's had an extensive pharmaceutical industry career including a variety of roles in Europe and Australia, working with a range of manufacturers including AstraZeneca and Merck Sharp & Dohme, where he was MD of its Australian operation for 11 years.

Delaat was on the Medicines Australia board for 15 years after stepping down as chairman in Feb this year, and is also a director of Pharmaxis, EnGenelC and the Fragile X Association of Australia.

MEANWHILE Elizabeth Frost was awarded a Medal (OAM) in the General Division "for service to the pharmaceutical industry through a range of roles with professional

organisations".

Frost, who was registered in 1964 after completing her pharmacy degree at the University of Sydney, has worked as a hospital and community pharmacist on the NSW Central Coast together with her husband Barry, also a pharmacist.

She was the first female President of the NSW Pharmacy Board, and has held many other key roles on advisory boards and been President of the Australian Pharmacy Council.

AND Brisbane pharmacist Ian Brusasco was named a Companion (AC) in the General Division "for distinguished service to the community of Queensland through leadership roles with a range of public administration, sporting and charitable organisations, particularly Foodbank Queensland".

Brusasco has had an extensive career in public life, including roles with Brisbane City Council.

Watch out for COPD

AUSTRALIAN pharmacists need to be on the lookout for people with the symptoms of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) this winter, according to the Australia Lung Foundation.

It is expected that this year 21,000 Australians will be hospitalised by COPD over the coming months, whilst many more will visit their GP as a result of the condition.

"Pharmacists play a vital role in identifying people who may be at risk of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and are ideally placed to recommend that people with symptoms see their doctor," said Lung Foundation National Council member Professor Christine Jenkins.

Pharmacists who would like a pack of resources, incl information about COPD screening in pharmacy should call 1800 654 301.

PD MOR winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Tracy Lim of Pharmore Pharmacies who was the lucky winner of last Friday's MOR Competition.

For more chances to win, see today's Australis comp on page 3.



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Melb: 5th Perth: 6th Syd (5th): 12th

Syd (Nth): 13th Bris: 14th



PHARMACY ALLIANCE



Lyme symposium

THE Karl McManus Foundation for Lyme Disease Research & Awareness is hosting a Lyme disease symposium for health professionals on 08 July in Sydney, see - www.karlmcmannusfoundation.org.au.

TGA Zytiga approval

AUSTRALIAN patients can now access Zytiga (abiraterone), the first oral therapy to prolong life and improve the quality of life of men with metastatic castrate-resistant prostate cancer whose disease has progressed after chemotherapy.

Following its TGA approval, the drug is now registered for use in combination with prednisone or prednisolone in patients with metastatic castrate-resistant prostate cancer who have received prior chemotherapy containing a taxane.

The drug belongs to a new class of treatment known as androgen biosynthesis inhibitors, and targets prostate cancer cell growth by inhibiting the production of androgens at all sites: in the prostate tumour; the testes; and adrenal glands.

The approval follows a study involving 1,195 men with metastatic (castrate-resistant) prostate cancer, where the combination of Zytiga and prednisone achieved a 35% reduction in the risk of death when compared to placebo plus prednisone ($P < 0.001$) and a median overall survival of almost four months compared to placebo (14.8 months compared to 10.9 months).

Antidepressant answers

AUSTRALIANS are asking more questions about antidepressant medications than any other drug, according to NPS.

The comments coincide with the launch of the NPS' new online knowledge hub for depression and antidepressant medicines, with NPS saying more calls answered by its Medicines Line pharmacists relate to antidepressant drugs than any other class of medicine.

"The use of antidepressants is continuing to rise in Australia, and calls to Medicines Line clearly show that people are being medicinally by asking questions about what they are taking," said NPS clinical adviser Dr Philippa Binns.

The most common questions fielded by NPS pharmacists to the Medicines Line related to the potential for interactions with other medicines when taking an antidepressant, such as possible interactions with cough and cold drugs and complementary medicines; as well as what side effects are likely to occur when using antidepressants.

Other common questions, according to NPS, related to whether problems antidepressant users were experiencing were related to their antidepressant medicines; as well as questions regarding the safety of these medicines when pregnant and breastfeeding.

"Responses to antidepressants are quite individual, so what works well for one person may not for

another," said Dr Binns.

"Under guidance from their health professional, some people will need to try more than one antidepressant in order to find the one that suits them best," she added.

To help the Australian public find the answers they seek regarding depression and antidepressants, the new NPS knowledge hub provides tips for finding the right treatment and what to do about side effects from an antidepressant; as well as an A-Z listing of different antidepressants with information about effectiveness, side effects, interactions, and who needs to take extra care with them; info on how to avoid side effects and symptoms when making changes; and an overview of non-drug related depression treatments such as cognitive behavioural therapy.

To view the hub visit www.nps.org.au/conditions/depression.

Lantus and cancer

SANOFI'S Lantus diabetes drug (insulin glargine [rDNA origin] injection), does not increase the risk of cancer compared with other insulins, according to the results of a large-scale epidemiological study.

The study is the largest of its kind, and involved 447,821 patients using insulin and over 1.5 million person-years of observation.

According to the study there was no evidence of an increased risk of breast cancer in women (HR: 1.12; 95% CI: 0.99-1.27), prostate cancer in men (HR: 1.11; 95% CI: 1.00-1.24) and colorectal cancer in men and women (HR: 0.86, 95% CI: 0.76-0.98) in users of insulin glargine vs other insulins.

In addition, the study found that there was no evidence of an increased risk in users of insulin glargine vs other insulins relative to the pre-specified secondary hypothesis (risk of all forms of cancer combined) and the exploratory hypothesis (risk of lung or pancreatic cancer).

5th Community Pharmacy Agreement

Claiming

Pharmacy Practice Incentives (PPI)



DAA's/Clinical Interventions claim form DUE NOW.

The DAAs/Clinical Interventions claim form MUST be lodged with Medicare between 1 June -14 June 2012.

[Click to access Claim form](#)

IMPORTANT: Claims received by Medicare after 14 June 2012 for the 1 April - 31 May 2012 Claiming Period will be rejected.

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Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

This Project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.



Guild Update

Home Medicine Reviews

HMR accredited pharmacists are invited to attend a specialised HMR workshop featuring Consultant Pharmacist Alan Freedman in Melbourne later this month, 26 June, 10 am Guild Skills Centre, Hawthorn.

The course is aimed at supporting and educating HMR service providers.

Alan Freedman has been intimately involved in all aspects of the medication reviews program, as well as training and mentoring pharmacists undergoing accreditation.

He now works full time conducting HMRs and RMMRs and will share his tips and advice.

This course is offered exclusively through Guild Training, Victoria.

It is being held at 10am on Tuesday 26 June at the Guild Skills Centre, Hawthorn.

If you are a newly accredited or in need of a refresher this workshop will help you:

- Get started as a consultant pharmacist
- Improve your knowledge and skills, and gain confidence with patient and GP relationships
- Manage invoices and payments
- Create networks
- Meet colleagues also providing HMR services

Participation in this course can be used to gain CPD credits suitable for inclusion in a CPD record.

Official CPD accreditation is currently being finalised.

The workshop will cost \$190 for members (employees of member pharmacies are eligible for member price) and \$220 for non-members.

Contact Guild Training for more information or to register on 03 9810 9988.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Medicine can bridge gap

THE Australian medicines industry can help to set up a post mining-boom economy, according to Medicines Australia Chief Executive Dr Brendan Shaw.

The comments come in the lead-up to Shaw's address at the Prime Minister's Economic Forum in Brisbane tomorrow where he will address the issue.

"We can develop this industry even further into one of the key Australian high-tech industries to help set up a post mining-boom economy, but we do need the right policy settings to encourage innovation, research and manufacturing," said Shaw.

"At a time when Australia is debating the economic value of manufacturing in this country, we have an industry that already delivers so much to the community and economy through jobs, skills, wages, exports and R&D," he added.

According to Shaw, the Australian medicines industry is already making a significant contribution to the economy, as evidenced by GSK

Australia's announcement that it will invest \$60m in its Victorian manufacturing plant to supply markets in Asia; as well as AstraZeneca Australia's announcement that it will revitalise and upgrade its manufacturing plant in Sydney to supply the Chinese market with asthma medicines.

Shaw further illustrated his point by saying that at present Australia supplies a quarter of all poppies required to make medicinal opiates, and that IDT Limited, an Australian-owned company based in Melbourne, exports active ingredients for cancer medicines to companies all over the world.

"With some key reforms the medicines industry will be able to continue contributing substantially to sustainable economic growth, driving global investment and supporting high-wage jobs," he said.

"But we need to ensure Australia is more globally competitive, that we have a stable business environment, and that innovation is valued and supported," he added.

Win an Ultimate Australis Mascara All Sorts Prize!



This week **Pharmacy Daily** has teamed up with **Australis** and is giving four lucky readers the chance to win an Ultimate Australis Mascara All Sorts Prize.

Some like them thick, some prefer them groomed. Some flirt their curves, others stretch their luck. Some just need some TLC. Lashes come in ALL SORTS, That's why we've got a mascara for you.

Some mascara styles contain tubing formulation for easy warm water wash-off so you can say good-bye to panda eyes! Australis Mascara comes in 7 different styles for every sort of lash.

For your chance to win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below.

How many styles of mascara do Australis have?

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

Hint! Visit www.australiscosmetics.com.au

DISPENSARY CORNER

EXPERIMENT on the run?

Locals in China's Henan Province were convinced that an experiment from a nearby medical lab had escaped when they spotted the creature pictured below wandering the streets.

Authorities called in to investigate however, discovered that the animal was in fact a very rare and very expensive breed of dog, which they say must have run away from home.



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