

Get the power to access every off-patent product on maximum discount.

Call 03 9860 3300 and we'll do the same for you.

 pharmacy alliance
Your formula for independent strength

US Xeljanz approval

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Xeljanz (tofacitinib) to treat adults with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis who have had an inadequate response to, or who are intolerant of, methotrexate.

The safety and effectiveness of Xeljanz was evaluated in seven clinical trials in adult patients with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis.

In all of the trials, patients treated with Xeljanz experienced improvement in clinical response and physical functioning compared to patients treated with placebo.

The drug will however carry a warning on its box about its association with an increased risk of serious infections, including opportunistic infections.

SOUTH COAST-NSW Pharmacy for Sale

- New Listing in large Beachside Town
- Large Strip Pharmacy
- Low Overheads
- Open 5.5 Days
- 200 scripts per day
- \$2.8m T/O
- Price \$2.96m plus Stock

For further information contact:

Graham Wriggles
CPB Aus Pty Ltd

0403 374 301

wriggles.g@bigpond.net.au

Exercise for grey matter

EXPERTS at Edinburgh University are celebrating the benefits of exercise for the elderly, saying it may stop the brain from shrinking and showing signs of dementia.

The study, undertaken by experts at University of Edinburgh's Centre for Cognitive Ageing and Epidemiology, and published in *Neurology*, looked at whether increased participation in leisure and physical activities may be cognitively protective.

As part of the methodology, researchers looked at participants self-reported leisure and physical activity at 70 years of age and structural brain biomarkers at 73 years of age.

"For white matter integrity, principal components analysis of 12 major tracts produced general factors for fractional anisotropy (FA) and mean diffusivity," the researchers said.

"Atrophy, gray and normal-appearing white matter (NAWM) volumes, and white matter lesion load were assessed using computational image processing methods; atrophy and WML were also assessed visually," the researchers added.

According to their findings, a higher level of physical activity was associated with higher fractional anisotropy, larger gray and normal-appearing white matter volumes, less atrophy, and lower white matter lesion load.

The physical activity associations with atrophy, gray matter, and white matter lesion remained significant after adjustment for

covariates, including age, social class, and health status.

Meanwhile, leisure activity was associated with NAWM volume, but was nonsignificant after including covariates.

As such, researchers concluded that physical activity was associated with less atrophy and white matter lesion, and has the potential to be neuroprotective.

Di-Gesic saga continues

THE TGA has issued a statement on the status of dextropropoxyphene-containing medicines, saying proceedings regarding the cancellation of Di-Gesic and Doloxene have resumed before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) and the matter has been set down for a final hearing on 27 and 28 February 2013.

The news follows the ongoing cancellation saga of the medicines, which began in Dec 2011, and which most recently, on 12 Sep saw the TGA affirm the decision to cancel Di-Gesic and Doloxene after it found that the safety of those medicines was unacceptable.

"Consistent with the intentions of the AAT in remitting the matter for reconsideration, the TGA considered various proposals put forward by the sponsor of the medicines that would allow the medicines to stay on the ARTG," the TGA said.

"The TGA was not satisfied that the proposals would address the safety issues identified," the TGA added.

Events 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.

11 Nov: Apply First Aid; Bathurst, NSW; phone 02 9966 9750.

11 Nov: Penola: Country Seminar 4: Geriatric and Palliative Care; 10am-4pm; Chardonnay Lodge Resort, Riddoch Highway, Coonawarra; email sa.branch@psa.org.au.

20 Nov: Advancing Your Practice Seminar: Advancing practice in general medicine; 7-8pm; Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Building 404, foyer, ground floor, Monash University; email zoe.wall@monash.edu.

21 Nov: Business Bites & Masterclass; Guild Building, St Leonards, NSW; phone 02 9966 9750.

1-3 Mar 2013: PSA NSW 2013 Annual Therapeutic Update March Weekend; Crowne Plaza, Terrigal NSW; email nsw.branch@psa.org.au.

31 May-02 Jun 2013: PSA NSW CPExpo, Hordern Pavilion Sydney; email cpexpo@psa.org.au.

Is this the year? Will your team step up?

Join the honours list!

Enter NOW!

Entries close



 **PHARMACY**
OF THE YEAR **2013**



Quality Care
Pharmacy Program
An initiative of The Pharmacy Guild of Australia



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

www.pharmacyoftheyear.com.au

- Cost Effective
- Targeted
- Easy

TGA adopts orphans

THE Therapeutic Goods

Administration has added Asfotase alfa, Decitabine (DACOGEN), Pomalidomide and Riociguat to the list of designated orphan drugs.

EMA transparency

THE European Medicines Agency has embarked on a new level of transparency by publishing information on ongoing applications for extensions of indication of human medicines in the minutes of the Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC).

This new transparency involves the publication of information on applications for changes to the authorised use of medicines where a change to the risk-management plan (RMP) is needed.

The minutes from the PRAC's most recent meeting (1-3 October 2012), include info on applications for extensions of the indications for the medicines Simponi, Onglyza and Komboglyze.

Read the minutes at- ema.europa.eu.

Statins reduce cancer death

STATINS may reduce the rate of cancer-related mortality in patients who use the drug prior to diagnosis, according to Danish researchers.

The study, published in the *New England of Medicine*, looked at mortality among patients from the entire Danish population who had received a diagnosis of cancer between 1995 and 2007, with follow-up until December 31, 2009.

The researchers investigated the question of whether a reduction in the availability of cholesterol may limit the cellular proliferation required for cancer growth and metastasis.

Looking at the data, researchers found that among patients 40 years of age or older, 18,721 had used statins regularly before the cancer diagnosis and 277,204 had never used statins.

Of these patients, multivariable-adjusted hazard ratios for statin users, as compared with patients who had never used statins, were 0.85 for death from any cause and 0.85 for death from cancer.

Adjusted hazard ratios for death from any cause according to the defined daily statin dose (the assumed average maintenance dose per day) were 0.82 for a dose of 0.01 to 0.75, 0.87 for 0.76 to 1.50, and 0.87 for higher than 1.50 defined daily dose per day.

Meanwhile the corresponding hazard ratios for death from cancer were 0.83, 0.87, and 0.87.

During the study researchers noted the reduced cancer mortality rates amongst statin users for each of the 13 cancer types, compared to non-statin users.

"Statin use in patients with cancer is associated with reduced cancer-related mortality," the researchers said.

"This suggests a need for trials of statins in patients with cancer," the researchers added.

UK looks at men's meds

THE UK National Pharmacy Association (NPA) launched an 'Ask Your Pharmacist Week' this month, with a focus on encouraging more men to take an active interest in their medicines, by engaging with local pharmacies about medicines use and wellbeing.

The initiative will provide an opportunity for men to discuss with their pharmacists the possible side effects from their medicines.

"Pharmacists are uniquely placed to promote patient safety and have many opportunities to discuss, identify and report suspected adverse reactions," said MHRA self medication specialist Colette McCreedy.

DISPENSARY CORNER

BLOOD donations?

A self styled "vampire" in the US is calling on the public to donate blood to his food fund.

The 21-year old "vampire" posted the unusual request on the popular US notice board Craigslist, saying that he preferred blood types AB and O.

In his ad, the vampire describes himself as a "male sanguinarian, 21 years old age (on the exterior), with hazel gray eyes and auburn hair".

Interestingly, the call for blood comes on the 165th anniversary of the birth of Bram Stoker, the original author of *Dracula*.

NATURE vs nurture.

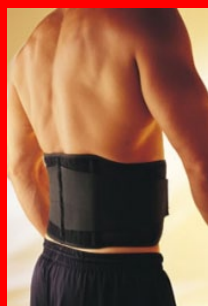
In an interesting twist on the natural order, a baboon at an Israeli zoo has adopted a stray kitten as its own, and can now be seen by visitors petting and protecting it.

The unusual pairing occurred when the kitten entered the baboons enclosure and settled in, refusing zoo keepers' entreaties to leave the cage.

Not long after the kitten made its home in the enclosure, the baboon adopted it, and begun caring for it as if the feline was its own infant, patting it, cuddling it, checking it for fleas and not letting it out of its sight.

Despite this maternal love, the baboon does tend to steal the kitten's food from time to time, a habit which zoo keepers say may force them to separate the pair.

WIN A BIOSPORTS PACK



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with **Lightning Brokers** this week and is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a BioMagnetic Sport products prize pack, valued at \$110 each.

Each prize pack includes a Magnetic Back Support Belt and Moulded Insole Pack.



BioMagnetic Sport products offer more than regular sport wraps and supports. Loaded with therapeutic magnets, they specifically target painful trouble spots. The Back Support is their number one seller and the New Moulded Insoles have been a popular favourite since joining the range. You've got nothing to lose but your pain!

To win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

How long is BioSports Money Back Guarantee?

Hint! Visit www.biosports.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Nigel Ng** from **Warringal Private Hospital Pharmacy**.



Your Pharmacy Recruitment Experts

FreeCall: 1800 429 829

Email: info@ravensrecruitment.com.au
Web: www.ravensrecruitment.com.au

Jobs of the Week

- **Part time Pharmacist in Charge** - Canberra, ACT (Job# 2009440)
Part-time role - Thursday & Sunday - Negotiable rate.
- **Pharmacist** - Capricornia Coast, QLD (Job# 2009458)
Pro-active Pharmacy Group - focus on customers/professional services.
- **Pharmacist** - Riverina Region, VIC (Job# 2009406)
2nd Pharmacist - fantastic opportunity for newly registered pharmacist.

Australia's largest and longest running specialist pharmacy employment agency