

Emerging health star

PRIYA Sumithran from the University of Melbourne has won the Bupa Health Foundation Emerging Health Researcher Award this year for her research into obesity and weight management.

Sunithran's research saw her discover that the difficulty in maintaining weight loss is most likely caused by lasting changes in the "set point" of the satiety/appetite mechanisms in the brain.

This more or less determines the weight to which dieters will return to after losing weight.

Tasmania gives organs

TASMANIANS are donating their organs at the highest rates ever, thanks to the Royal Hobart Hospital.

According to the figures, the year to date has seen 55 organs donated.

The Tasmanian Minister for health, Michelle O'Byrne, is lauding the Royal Hobart Hospital and DonateLife TAS network staff for their "continued and committed effort to increase family consent rates through the delivery of a professional clinical and medical program".

MEANWHILE, discussing national organ donation, the Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing Catherine King, said that the message is getting out, with 77% of Australians having now discussed their donation wishes with family members.

Despite this, around 40% of families say no to organ donation, in part because they don't know if their loved one wants to be a donor.

Collaboration is the key

THE key to tackling the pipeline slowage for antibiotic development lies in collaboration between worldwide industry bodies and governments, according to Medicines Australia.

"The problem of anti-microbial resistance requires a collaborative response, bringing together leaders in government, science, economics, public policy and industry," said Medicines Australia Chief Executive Dr Brendan Shaw.

"The medicines industry shares the concerns of the World Health Organisation about the global spread of anti-microbial resistance.

"Without new effective antibiotics, many complex medical interventions like chemotherapy, joint replacements and organ transplants would be very difficult or impossible," Shaw added.

Speaking about the issue, Shaw urged governments around the world to work with the medicines industry and other parties to create a policy environment "that will prevent and counter the emergence of highly resistant infections".

"There is a desperate need for

greater incentives for research into new antibiotics," he said.

"Governments in the US and Europe are starting to realise that there are few new antibiotics available today because it has become too difficult for companies to develop new therapies over the last 20 years due to things like restrictive regulatory systems and low prices.

"The result is while the medicines industry has invested billions of dollars in developing new medicines over the last two decades, antibiotics are one area where companies have exited the market," he added.

Sigma debuts awards

NOVARTIS has been awarded the Inaugural 2012 Sigma Supplier of the Year.

Announced at a Gala Dinner this week, the award was one of 13 handed out during the evening, including: FMCG Supplier of the Year, Reckitt Benckiser; Medicinal Supplier of the Year, Sanofi; Health and Wellbeing Supplier of the Year, Swisse; Beauty/Gifting Supplier of the Year, McPhersons; Operational Support Supplier of the Year, Crosier Scott & Associates; and Wholesale Supplier of the Year, GSK.

Other awards included Consumer Ethics/PBS Supplier of the Year, Novartis; Branded Supplier of the Year, Novartis; Generics Supplier of the Year, Aspen; Services Supplier of the Year, CAEM Shelving; and Sigma 100 Year Centenary Award, Ego Pharmaceuticals.

Speaking at the Gala Dinner Sigma's Chief Operating Officer, Gary Dunne said "These awards recognise that in order to achieve our goal of building better partnerships, Sigma has to invest in our business and value and reward excellence in our supplier network".

"Tonight is the start of establishing a unique bond between Sigma and our suppliers, which we know will grow into the future," he added.

Renovation roulette

THE Asbestos Diseases Research Institute is urging Aussies not to play renovation roulette with houses built or renovated before 1987.

To learn more about the education current asbestos renovation campaign, visit

www.abestosawareness.com.au.

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.

17 Nov: MMR Stage 1 Accreditation- Brisbane Two Day Workshop; Diana Plaza Hotel, Woolloongabba; email educationqld@psa.org.au.

19 Nov: Don't Panic! An Update on Anxiety Disorders; Griffith University, Southport, Qld; call 07 3896 1900 or email educationqld@psa.org.au.

19 Nov: MMR Stage 1 Accreditation- Brisbane Two Day Workshop; Diana Plaza Hotel, Woolloongabba; email educationqld@psa.org.au.

20 Nov: Evening Lecture: Ticagrelor- The PLATO Trial; Pharmacy Practice Rooms, James Cook University, Qld; 07 3896 1900 or email educationqld@psa.org.au.

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

25 Nov: Better Business with MedsCheck Workshop- Lismore; University Centre for Rural health; call 02 9431 1100 or email ryan.broom@psa.org.au.

22-24 Feb 2013: NSW Guild Convention 'CPD by the Sea' at Novotel Manly Pacific; for details see www.cpdbythesea.com.au.

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.



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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Newcastle, NSW (Job# 2009475)
Complete pharmacy management role, progressive group, December start.
- **New/Recent Reg Pharmacist** - Melbourne North, VIC (Job# 2009467)
Full-time hours, variable roster, you will be involved in new Professional Services.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Coral Coast, QLD (Job# 2009180)
Management duties, \$100K+ package.

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Milk bank opens

THE first public breastmilk bank has opened this week in Queensland.

The RBWH Milk Bank is the result of five years of development planning at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and is designed to provide mothers of premature babies with access to life-saving breastmilk.

"Breastmilk boosts the immune system and is highly effective in warding off infections and dangerous diseases including necrotizing enterocolitis and chronic lung disease which commonly affect premature babies - particularly those born at or before 28 weeks gestation, or under a 1.5 kilogram birth weight," said Dr Pieter Koorts, Deputy Director of RBWH Grantley Stable Neonatal Unit.

"RBWH breastmilk donors are rigorously screened and the milk itself is stringently tested and pasteurised through a specialist food laboratory service, making RBWH Milk Bank breast milk the gold standard for both safety and nutritional quality," he added.

The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital treats over 1,600 premature babies per annum.

Actavis pipeline is flowing

OVER the next 12 months Ascent and Willow Pharmaceuticals customers can expect a large number of new products, following the recent Watson acquisition of Actavis.

"As the world's third largest generic pharmaceutical business, the company to be known as Actavis, has an industry leading global product portfolio of over 750

molecules offered in more than 1,700 different combinations and dosage forms," the company said in a statement.

According to the company, its current pipeline includes more than 2,000 marketing authorisations pending approval and, globally, greater than 600 new development projects are underway covering multiple dosage forms.

Speaking in the wake of the acquisition, Karen McTavish, Managing Director of Watson Australia said "This year has been tough, and we have worked hard at keeping profits up for our Ascent Generic customers".

"This acquisition will allow us to increase our product portfolio in a short time frame, including first to markets with better margins.

"Beyond products and price we are even better placed to offer pharmacies unique programs and tools proven to work in other markets that will increase pharmacy customer engagement and in turn benefit the overall pharmacy offering," she added.

Diabetes resources

PALLIATIVE Care Australia has released two consumer resources for diabetics who are receiving palliative care, and their families, aimed at facilitating understanding around how to manage their condition.

"It is important that diabetes care is well managed during palliative care," said Dr Scott Blackwell, President of Palliative Care Australia.

"Complications associated with high and low blood glucose levels can compromise comfort and quality of life for people with diabetes," he added.

To access the free resources see: www.palliativecare.org.au.

DISPENSARY CORNER

STATISTICS and odds: eat your heart out!

A 91 year old American woman is counting her lucky stars after she won her second lottery.

The win had odds of one in 5.7 trillion, and saw the pensioner score US\$99,000 just three months after winning US\$300,000.

Incidentally the odds of her first win were one in 8.9 million and her second win, one in 646,000.

According to reports, the very, very, very lucky woman is now planning on using her winnings to fund some travel.

She also told reporters that it is a "pleasure" to help out each of her six children, as well as her 16 grandkids and 20 great grandchildren.



WIN A BATH & BODY PACK

This week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a Bath & Body Pack, courtesy of **Designer Brands**.

Each prize pack contains: Body Lotion, Body Wash, Body Scrub, Hand & Nail Cream, Body Butter Pump and Body Butter Tub. Designer Brands NEW Bath & Body range has your skincare needs covered!

Each scent in the range features a Body Butter Pump and Tub, hydrating Body Lotion, exfoliating Body Scrub, nourishing Body Wash, and moisturising

Hand & Nail Cream. No parabens and no animal testing – just pure, skin-loving ingredients to care for and protect your skin from top to toe, starting from just \$9.99.

For your chance to win this great prize pack, email your answer to the question below by COB on Friday.

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