

“eRx Express creates loyalty with customers helping them return to us rather than have scripts dispensed elsewhere”

Steve Speirs – Exhibition Pharmacy



## Aspirin cancer study

A five year study will investigate whether aspirin can reduce the recurrence of bowel cancer, and its effect on survival after surgery.

Co-funded by Bowel Cancer Australia and Cancer Australia, the study has had more than \$550,000 approved through the Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme and will involve approximately 1200 patients, with 200 from Australia, co-ordinated locally by the Australasian Gastro-Intestinal Trials Group (AGITG).

CA said aspirin was helpful in preventing and treating heart and blood vessel diseases and that there was growing evidence that aspirin had anticancer properties.

Principal investigator Eva Segelov said if the study proved aspirin could prevent bowel cancer recurring, it would provide a global, cost effective treatment.

## Supermarket ‘hypocrisy’

THE Guild has stepped up the war on supermarkets creeping into pharmacy space as they attempt to provide customers with basic health checks and health advice under a new ‘health & wellness’ banner, while still promoting cigarettes and alcohol.

Drawing the contrast between the focus of pharmacists and supermarkets, Pharmacy Guild of Australia ceo David Quilty highlighted the two dramatically different business models.

“One of the primary reasons why Australia’s medicine system has such high levels of integrity and public trust is that the community pharmacies that responsibly dispense these medicines must be owned by pharmacists ... and only pharmacists.

“Pharmacists are, first and foremost, health care providers,” he emphasised.

“One of the hallmarks of Australia’s community pharmacies is their long-standing reputation for putting patients before profits,” he added.

“True health professionals don’t

compromise when it comes to health outcomes.

“They don’t pursue profits at the expense or to the detriment of good health outcomes.

“They certainly don’t retail products like tobacco and alcohol with such known damaging health impacts.

“The same cannot be said of Australia’s big supermarkets,” he remarked.

Grocery businesses have a massive reliance on cigarette sales to remain viable as well as being the largest sellers of alcohol with in excess of 60 per cent of the market.

Aztec Australia’s 2012 point-of-sale grocery data showed that tobacco is by far the largest product category sold by supermarkets at nearly seven billion a year - almost three times the value of the next largest category.

Woolworths ‘health & wellness’ banner and their “health checks” are “the height of hypocrisy,” said Quilty.

“A wolf is still a wolf, regardless of such crude attempts to dress it up in sheep’s clothing.”

Woolworths had not responded at time of writing.

## Manufacturing guides

IN consultation with industry, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has developed a series of technical guidance documents on the interpretation of manufacturing standards.

There are six different documents relating to specified groups of manufacturers.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view.

## EMA publishing data

COMMENTS on the European Medicines Agency’s draft policy on publication and access to clinical trial data showed large support for access to data as part of marketing authorisation applications but also that there was a need for further analysis and clarification.

## B12 deficiency-PPI link

PROTON pump inhibitors (PPI’s) have been linked to vitamin B12 deficiency in a minority of patients who have been on the therapy for more than two years continuously.

The finding emerged from a US study of 200,000 people in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

PPI’s and histamine-2 receptor antagonists (H<sub>2</sub>RA’s) reduce the production of gastric acid (HCl) which is necessary for absorption of vitamin B12 from sources such as meat, fish and dairy products.

Deficiency can cause lethargy and lead to neurological disorders.

The overall risk is “low” according to the Californian authors who recommend patients remain on therapy but possible risks should be weighed against benefits in long term users of the drugs.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the abstract.



### EVERYONE LOVES IT!

“In the time since we installed our robot, we’ve eliminated the “mosh pit” of sick and busy clients waiting for their scripts. I’ve fitted a large CCTV screen in the pharmacy so clients can see what’s going on inside the Rowa – kids love it! I love it!”

Guy Ewing  
Owner of Barossa  
Chemplus Pharmacy

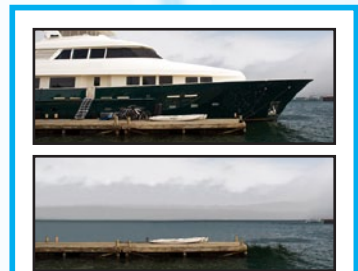


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Pharmacy DAILY

## Tarceva funded 2014

**ROCHE'S** cancer therapy Tarceva (erlotinib), will be PBS listed 01 Jan 2014, for first-line treatment of locally advanced (Stage IIIB) or metastatic (Stage IV) non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) activating mutations.

## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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## ADVENTURE-SEEKERS

can save 10% on motorbike expeditions in India and Tibet next year, with a special offer available from Extreme Bike Tours.

Discounts of up to \$555 are available for licensed riders and also pillion passengers on a choice of four guided motorcycle tours next year.

Trips include the signature 14-day Tibet tour through the Himalayas, past the Dalai Lama's Potala Palace and to the 5200m-high Everest Base camp.

Two departures will operate from Kathmandu on 07 and 21 Sep 2014, with the fare reduced to \$4995 per rider if booked before 05 Jan 2014 - details at [info@extremebiketours.com](mailto:info@extremebiketours.com).

**NORWEGIAN** Cruise Line is offering complimentary cabin upgrades and on-board e-coupons worth over US\$300 on cruises booked to depart on or before 31 Dec 2015.

Deals are valid for bookings made before 04 Apr 2014, on all of the line's ships and to all destinations.

For more information call eCruising on 1300 369 848.

## ASMI - Multivitamins OK

**THE** Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) has responded to a series of recent studies and the editorial summarising the papers in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* where the role of multivitamins was challenged.

The editorial summarised, "In conclusion,  $\beta$ -carotene, vitamin E and possibly high doses of vitamin A supplements are harmful.

Other antioxidants, folic acid and B vitamins, and multivitamin and mineral supplements are ineffective for preventing mortality or morbidity due to major chronic diseases."

According to ASMI Regulatory and Scientific Affairs Director, Steve Scarff, while vitamins and supplements were not a panacea for preventing chronic disease, they did have a legitimate place in the wider health system and remained important for many people.

"Ideally, most Australian adults would be getting their essential nutrients from a healthy diet, but the reality is that many people are not meeting the recommended daily nutrient requirements.

"For those people with vitamin and mineral deficiencies, multivitamins can play a key role in general health and wellbeing."

**MEANWHILE** the Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC) called the editorial 'misguided', saying it took a "closed-minded" approach that attempted to "dismiss even the proven benefits of vitamins and minerals."

Blackmores Institute director Neal Mercado said a daily multivitamin was an "insurance policy - a supplement, not a substitute, for a healthful diet."

Mercado said that taking a blanket approach that vitamins wasted money based on some of the findings of three studies flew in the face of research showing otherwise.

**CLICK HERE** to see the editorial.

## Hospira pump recall

**HOSPIRA** has recalled the Plum family, Gemstar and Lifecare infusion pumps in association with the TGA - **CLICK HERE**.

## UK methotrexate pull

**TEVA** UK Limited is recalling a batch of methotrexate because there have been a small number of reports of damaged vials and there are concerns, therefore, that there is potential for a lack of sterility assurance.

The Class 2 recall (within 48 hours) is being managed in conjunction with the UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and relates to batch #12J30KC.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**TACHYCARDIA** - origin unknown.

A 40 year old man whose heart was being monitored on continuous telemetry for decompensated idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy following removal of an infected implantable cardioverter defibrillator was noted to have abnormal tracing between 19:00 and 22:00 on 4 July 2012.

Delving into this timing it was revealed that according to the *Medical Journal of Australia*, the patient had been watching the State of Origin rugby league game on TV.

The telemetry device shows the onset of the tachycardia at the start of the match coverage at 19:00, with a second peak at kick-off (20:15).

The sinus tachycardia persisted throughout the first half until the half-time interlude, when normocardia resumed.

The tachycardia reoccurred at the start of the second half, reaching a peak in the dying minutes of the game, when the patient's home state, Queensland, scored a field goal at 75 minutes — followed by a missed long-range field goal by the NSW halfback in the final minute of the game — securing victory by one point for Queensland (21:55).

"Origin-induced tachycardia should be a differential diagnosis for asymptomatic sinus tachycardia" the authors concluded.

## WIN WITH MILKY FOOT

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Milky Foot** is giving two lucky readers the chance to win Milky Foot Intense Exfoliation Pads.

An effortless way to exfoliate your feet, it removes hardened rough skin with a 3D sock fit has also been designed for comfort. The new low irritant formula is also great for those with more sensitive skin, and only takes 45 minutes! Get ready to step out in confidence with beautiful soft feet!

To win the prize, simply be the first person to send through the correct answer to the question below.

**When does Milky Foot's intense peeling start?**

Congratulations to yesterday's winners, **Kylie Turner** from **Terry White Management** and **April Pearce** from **Ayr Health Service**.

Send your answer to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

