

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

Pharmaxis knockback

LISTED medical research firm Pharmaxis saw its shares plummet 45% yesterday after a US Food and Drug Administration advisory panel issued a negative review of its Bronchitol treatment for cystic fibrosis, which is likely to see it not given US marketing approval.

HMR moratorium backlash

THERE'S been a rapid response to the Guild's request for a suspension of the Home Medicines Review program (**PD** yesterday), with the PSA, NPS and other stakeholders stressing the importance of the program.

NPS MedicineWise ceo Dr Lynn Weekes said that "patient safety needs to remain at the centre of discussions about whether to cap or change funding" to the HMR scheme, with good evidence that the reviews reduce hospitalisation for some patient groups.

"Home Medicines Reviews are an important patient-centred service, and the short- and long-term impact of a moratorium would be putting patient safety at risk.

"If there is a problem with over-servicing then an audit of HMRs would be a more direct way of addressing this issue," she said.

The PSA also reacted swiftly, rejecting calls for a moratorium and saying that improvements to

business rules would be a better means of ensuring the program remains viable and sustainable.

PSA national president, Grant Kardachi, said the HMR program was "producing major benefits for consumers and is improving health outcomes across the nation".

He said the PSA had last year identified some areas which could be improved, with talks expected shortly with the Dept of Health.

"Because of the very positive results for consumers, the HMR program has experienced a very high level of uptake," he said, with a moratorium likely to be a "long-term disservice to our profession".

FDA BI injunction

THE US Food and Drug Administration has obtained a permanent injunction against Boehringer Ingelheim's Ben Venue Laboratories, restraining the firm from manufacturing and distributing drugs from its Bedford, Ohio facility until a range of issues are addressed.

The FDA found that Ben Venue and three of its staff failed to comply with good manufacturing practices, with recent inspections citing several quality problems including particles in some sterile products, and "basic facility cleaning and maintenance issues".

The company repeatedly failed to comply with issues which had been raised by inspectors, with Ben Venue unable to operate until the FDA determines that the facility complies with regulations.

Check lunch money

UNION group APESMA is urging Australian pharmacists to ensure that they are adequately remunerated if they regularly work through lunch.

APESMA ceo Chris Walton said that working through every lunchtime was an "unacceptable practice that could cause dangerous levels of fatigue".

He said this was illegal unless strict requirements are met, "including being fully financially compensated for it".

Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

06 Feb: How to conduct a MedsCheck, Guild St Leonards www.guild.org.au.

10 Feb: One day drug interaction seminar by Dr Geraldine Moses and Debbie Rigby in Brisbane. Other events will take place on 17 Mar in Sydney; 11 Aug in Melbourne; and in Hobart on 25 Aug 2013 - for details see www.pharmeducation.com.au

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

1-3 Mar: PSA NSW 2013 Annual Therapeutic Update, Terrigal NSW - nsw.branch@psa.org.au.

21-24 Mar: Guild APP2013 national conference, Gold Coast Convention Centre - more info www.appconference.com.

02-09 May: PSA Offshore Refresher Conference, London - more info 1300 139 293.

31 May-02 Jun: PSA CPEXpo, Hordern Pavilion Sydney - see www.psa.org.au/cpeXpo.

11-13 Oct: Pharmacy Australia Congress in Brisbane - details www.psa.org.au/pac.

14-16 Oct: Global Drug Safety Conference and Exposition, Brisbane - for more details email qldadmin@psa.org.au.

Unbelievable SPECIAL OFFERS

OFFER 1

GET UP TO 132, 2 FOR 1 MOVIE PASSES VALUED AT \$2508

FREE!

OFFER 2

ODOURLESS FISH OIL 1000MG 200 FROM JUST

\$3!

OFFER 3

ODOURLESS FISH OIL 1000MG 400 FROM JUST

\$5!

CLICK HERE FOR FULL DETAILS AND ORDER FORMS!

Everest™



Advertise with us

- Cost Effective
- Targeted
- Easy

Pharmacy
DAILY

For details call us today: 1300 799 220

AMA seeking ceo

THE Australian Medical Association has today advertised in the *Australian Financial Review* for a new Secretary General/CEO.

The search is being undertaken via recruitment firm Ian Hansen & Associates, with the successful applicant responsible to the AMA Federal Council for the provision of high level strategic advice and policy options, as well as managing the AMA's day-to-day operations.

Europe consults on biosimilar heparins

THE European Medicines Agency has announced a six month public consultation on a revised guideline covering the "non-clinical and clinical development of similar biological medicinal products containing low-molecular-weight heparins (LMWHs)".

The guideline describes a range of requirements for biosimilar LMWH's such as efficacy and safety studies, and has been updated to reflect the possibility that a "risk-based" approach can be followed, with in vivo studies not required.

MA hails coalition policies

MEDICINES Australia yesterday congratulated the federal opposition for its "commitment to restoring transparency, certainty and confidence" to the process for listing medicines on the PBS.

The move came as politicians kicked off a marathon election campaign, with the national poll set to be held in Sep this year.

MA cited the Coalition's 'Real Solutions for All Australians' document, which includes a promise to ensure medicines are listed on the basis of advice from the independent PBAC rather than "on the whim of Government".

"The listing process has suffered a loss of some confidence, with

Cabinet interference in PBAC decisions and difficulties in getting a number of new medicines listed," said MA ceo Brendan Shaw.

"Restoring confidence and certainty to that process is critical for patients and for industry".

The Coalition manifesto also includes commitments to maintain health and medical research funding, along with encouraging an innovative economy.

"The medicines industry in Australia makes a significant contribution to the health and wealth of the nation, but business certainty and stability is paramount," Shaw added.

He said the policy commitments will help the sector, which exports \$4b a year, to continue growing its contribution to the economy.

Two new AusPARs

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has released two new Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines, covering erlotinib (Tarceva) and strontium ranelate (Protos).

The AusPARs can be viewed online at www.tga.gov.au.

\$5m for mental health

HEALTH minister Tanya Plibersek yesterday announced the establishment of two new Centres of Research Excellence, based at the University of NSW.

\$2.5m is going to the UNSW Black Dog Institute to improve suicide prevention in Australia through better implementation of effective interventions, improved risk identification and "evidence informed policy".

And the same amount will fund the UNSW National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre to address mental health and substance abuse and examine innovative prevention and treatment.



DISPENSARY CORNER

OFFICIALS in regional Ireland have requested that the government create a new permit which will allow people to drive while intoxicated.

The councilmen from Kerry in southeast Ireland said the move is required to allow isolated farmers to go to the pub and then drive home in their car or tractor without fear of being busted.

It's required to combat an "epidemic of boredom and depression" which has apparently descended on the farming community since the imposition of new, lower blood-alcohol limits a couple of years ago.

However the idea doesn't look like getting up, with Irish Justice Minister, Alan Shatter, describing it as "grossly irresponsible".

A BRITISH beachcomber had a lucky find last week after his dog wouldn't leave a piece of "smelly rock" alone as he strolled along the sand.

Curiosity piqued, he broke a small piece of the rock off and took it home where he found that it was ambergris, a "waxy byproduct of sperm whale digestion" which has been used as a rare ingredient for perfumes, spices and medicines.

Returning to the beach he picked up the rest of the object, and say's he's now been offered €50,000 for the find.

WIN MICHEL MERCIER'S BRUSHES PACK

Every day this week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving one lucky reader the

chance to win **Michel Mercier's** Brushes Pack.

A normal brush design is a one level brushing surface, resulting in a high pressure while brushing the hair.

The Michel Mercier's Brush patent lies in a unique geometric



distribution of its 428 bristles of varying heights, which disperse the

pressure placed on hair during brushing. The result is a far more pleasant brushing experience.

To win one of the packs, simply be the first

person send in the correct answer to the daily question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

The Michel Mercier's Brush patent lies in a unique _____ of its 428 bristles of varying heights

Hint! Visit www.michelmercier.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **David Cheung** from **Blooms Kingaroy Pharmacy**.

FOR SALE!

- Secondhand Medisafe FKG 311 capacity 306L
- \$1500 plus gst or offer

Contact Hung Le:
(08) 8152 0157

