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## Community applications

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is calling for applications from individuals with "strong links to their community" for appointment as a member of the Community Reference Group.

Set to be established by AHPRA for the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, the Community Reference Group will complement the role of community members of the National Boards which regulate health practitioners in Australia.

The Group will meet up to four times a year, and will have a number of roles, including providing information and advice on strategies for building better knowledge in the community about health practitioner regulation.

The Community Reference Group will consist of members from the community who are not health practitioners or current/past members of a National Board or committee in the National Scheme.

For more information, see [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

## Old test provides new tricks

THE tried and true Pap Test may show up more than cervical cancer, with researchers finding it may contain cells from ovarian and endometrial cancer also.

The research, published in *Science Translational Medicine*, was based on a small study which analysed liquid-based pap tests and the routinely collected DNA the tests collect.

"We reasoned that this routinely collected DNA could be exploited to detect somatic mutations present in rare tumor cells that accumulate in the cervix once shed from endometrial or ovarian cancers," the researchers said.

As such, a panel of genes that are commonly mutated in endometrial and ovarian cancers was assembled with new whole-exome sequencing data from 22 endometrial cancers and previously published data on other tumor types.

This panel was then used to search for mutations in 24 endometrial and 22 ovarian cancers and identified mutations in all 46

samples.

The researchers then used a sensitive massively parallel sequencing method, which enabled them to identify the same mutations in the DNA from liquid Pap smear specimens in 100% of endometrial cancers (24 of 24) and in 41% of ovarian cancers (9 of 22).

"Prompted by these findings, we developed a sequence-based method to query mutations in 12 genes in a single liquid pap smear specimen without previous knowledge of the tumor's genotype," the researchers said.

"When applied to 14 samples selected from the positive cases described above, the expected tumor-specific mutations were identified," the researchers added.

As a result, the researchers concluded that DNA from most endometrial and a fraction of ovarian cancers can be detected in a standard liquid-based pap smear specimens obtained during routine pelvic examinations.

"Although improvements need to be made before applying this test in a routine clinical manner, it represents a promising step toward a broadly applicable screening methodology for the early detection of gynecologic malignancies," the researchers said.

## Canagliflozin green-lit

THE FDA advisory committee has recommended the approval of Canagliflozin for the treatment of adults with type 2 diabetes.



## Pharmacy Practice Incentives (PPI)

## DAAs/Clinical Interventions claim form **DUE NOW**

The DAAs/Clinical Interventions claim form MUST be lodged with Medicare between 1- 14 January 2013

**Click to access Claim form**

IMPORTANT: Claims received by Medicare after 14 January 2013 will be rejected.



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.

## 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](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**19-26 Jan:** Medici Capital Pharmacy Study Tour; Val d'Isere, France; see - [www.medicicom.au/event/pharmacy-study-tour-2013](http://www.medicicom.au/event/pharmacy-study-tour-2013).

**30 Jan:** First Aid Level 2 Workshop; Cossar Hall Tutorial Room Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, VIC; [tina.liu@psa.org.au](mailto:tina.liu@psa.org.au).

**22-24 Feb:** NSW Guild Convention 'CPD by the Sea' at Novotel Manly Pacific; for details see [www.cpdbythesea.com.au](http://www.cpdbythesea.com.au).

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

**16 Mar:** Think Arthritis and Osteoporosis - A Clinical Update Day; Kolling Institute, Royal North Shore Hospital, St Leonards; 9am-4pm; call 02 9857 3300, or view [www.arthritisnsw.org.au](http://www.arthritisnsw.org.au).

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## Skyla approval

THE FDA has approved Skyla (levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system) 13.5 mg, a new hormone-releasing system that is placed in the uterus for the prevention of pregnancy for up to three years.

## Undoit cancellation

WEIGHTLOSS supplement, Undoit Plus, has been removed from the ARTG following a compliance review.

The product, which claimed to 'undo' the effects of eating poorly by binding fat and carbs and stopping the body from absorbing them, was removed from the ARTG after the review found that there was insufficient evidence to support the indications for the product.

In addition the review found that the presentation of the product was unacceptable, the certifications made by the applicant under s.26A(2)(c) and (j) were incorrect, and that it failed to comply with a condition of listing under s.28(5)(ab) of the Act.

## Changing US sleep patterns

THE manufacturers of Ambien, Ambien CR, Edluar and Zolpimist, widely used sleep drugs that contain the active ingredient zolpidem, are being forced to lower the current recommended doses in the US.

The move by the US Food and Drug Administration will see changes in both branded and generic sleep aids containing zolpidem, with the agency informing manufacturers that the recommended dosage of zolpidem for women should be lowered from 10 milligrams (mg) to 5 mg for immediate-release products (Ambien, Edluar, and Zolpimist) and from 12.5 mg to 6.25 mg for extended-release products (Ambien CR).

For men, the FDA has informed the manufacturers that the labeling should recommend that health care professionals consider prescribing these lower doses (5 mg for immediate-release products and 6.25 mg for extended-release products).

"These products are currently available on the market in both the higher and lower dosages.

The change in dosage recommendations follows the release of new data which shows that zolpidem blood levels in some patients may be high enough the morning after use to impair activities that require alertness, including driving.

Using lower doses of zolpidem means less of the drug will remain in the blood in the morning hours.

"Since women eliminate zolpidem from their bodies more slowly than men, the FDA has notified the manufacturers that the recommended dose should be lowered for women and that the labeling should recommend that health care professionals consider a lower dose for men," the FDA said.

"Data show the risk for next-morning impairment is highest for patients taking the extended-release forms of these drugs.

"The FDA urges health care professionals to caution all patients (men and women) who use these products about the risks of next-morning impairment for activities that require complete mental alertness, including driving," the FDA added.

Meanwhile, for those already taking higher doses (10 mg or 12.5 mg) of zolpidem-containing insomnia medicines, the FDA has advised them to keep with their prescribed dose, until they discuss how they can safely continue to take their medicine with their GP.



### DISPENSARY CORNER

LOOKING for a career change?

If you are looking to leave the pharmacy in 2013 in lieu of a new adventure, then First Choice's offer of 'the funnest job in the world' may be of interest.

The company is offering a six-month contract for a water-slide tester to travel the world and test its slides at its SplashWorld resorts.

The in addition to free travel and waterslide fun successful applicant will be paid £20,000.

Applications are being accepted at [www.facebook.com/firstchoiceholidays](http://www.facebook.com/firstchoiceholidays).

## NY prostate resolution

AUSTRALIAN men should make it a new year's resolution to be more proactive about prostate cancer management and prevention, according to the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA).

"We want to see men take a more holistic approach to prostate health and prostate cancer awareness and management," according to Dr Anthony Lowe, Chief Executive of PCFA.

"In the New Year we encourage younger men to talk to their elders about family history, encourage men in the testing age bracket to speak to their doctors about their personal risk, and encourage men who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer to look into the available support services and resources," he added.

## WIN A QR HEALTH™ PRIZE PACK



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving ten lucky readers the chance to win a Quick Response Health™ prize pack, valued at \$92 each.

Quick Response Health™ is a new brand from the Hydration Pharmaceuticals Trust – the makers of Hydralyte™.

Q.R Health™ is a range of high potency, premium quality

effervescent vitamins and supplements. The 6 unique products in the Q.R Health™ range have been specifically formulated to maximise efficacy through a pleasant taste and delivery format.

Each prize pack includes all 6 products in the range: QR Defence; QR Her; QR Him; QR Strength; QR Energy & QR Immunity.

For more information go to [www.quickreponsehealth.com](http://www.quickreponsehealth.com).

For your chance to win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**True or False: The QR Health range is a range of 6 effervescent vitamins and supplements**

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners, Michelle Jensen from Airlie Beach Day & Night Chemist and Alice Tucker of Cooee Bay Pharmacy.