

## Snoreben availability

**TODAY'S Pharmacy Daily** includes a full page promoting Benson Medical's Snoreben, with the anti-snoring product now available through state distributors across the country. For details see **page three**.

## Hep-B vax rethink

**HEPATITIS** Australia has used World Hepatitis Day (July 28th) to call for the Immunise Australia Program to be extended to make hepatitis B vaccination available at no cost to adults who remain vulnerable but unprotected against a virus that is up to 100 times more infectious than HIV.

Children are currently immunised against hep-B, but not all adults, with estimates that over 218,000 people are living with chronic hepatitis B in Australia.

## Aspen splits from Gold X

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced a major new partnership for its Gold Cross brand, with a new range of products set to appear in pharmacies across the country produced by Probiotec Limited.

The move follows a decision by the current Gold Cross logo partner, Aspen Australia, to "change strategy and not renew their current endorsement agreement," according to a Guild update late yesterday afternoon.

The move will see the Gold Cross removed from Aspen's Chemists' Own brand products, with the new Probiotec range to include cold and flu, analgesic and other medicinal products from January 2014.

Guild National President, Kos Slavos, said the new partnership was a milestone for Gold Cross.

"Our partnership with Probiotec marks the launch of the first exclusive Gold Cross-branded range of products, as they will be the only products in the cold, flu and

analgesic categories to be endorsed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

"The Guild's Gold Cross logo has long been valued as an endorsement for the products on which it appears, and we believe the brand will continue to be a trusted choice for both pharmacists and consumers alike," Slavos said.

He said that the income received by the Guild for the use of the Gold Cross branding will continue to be used to support community pharmacy, particularly in developing new initiatives and expanding the role of pharmacists.

Slavos said the Guild had enjoyed a long-standing relationship with Aspen, which would be maintained into the future on a range of other projects.

He said the Guild is "very optimistic about the partnership with Probiotec and the new opportunities it presents for the Gold Cross brand".

## More EMA updates

**THE** European Medicines Agency has recommended changes to the use of metoclopramide, including restricting the dosage and duration of use of the medicine (for short term use up to five days) to minimise "known risks of serious neurological side effects".

The EMA has also finalised a review on GLP-1 (gliptin) therapies, and concluded that presently available data "do not confirm recent concerns over an increased risk of pancreatic adverse events with these medicines".

## STOP TYPING

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## Saxagliptin AusPAR

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has released a new Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines, covering the evaluation process for saxagliptin (as hydrochloride).

See [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

## Perrigo to buy Elan

**US** pharmaceutical company Perrigo has announced a US\$8.6 billion agreement to purchase Irish biotech firm Elan Corporation.

Perrigo manufactures a range of private label products for retailers including US pharmacy giant Walgreen's, with the *Wall Street Journal* saying the deal will help the company reduce its tax rate as well as establish a presence in Ireland.

## Pharmacy for Sale

Sunshine Coast pharmacy available for partial or full sale.

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## Remifemin paper

**THE** world's first differentiated review of clinical studies covering the efficacy and safety of Cimicifuga racemosa (black cohosh) for menopausal complaints has been accepted for publication in the Cairo-based peer reviewed journal, *Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine* (eCAM).

The study covers the extract exclusively used in the Remifemin black cohosh product - see the full paper by **CLICKING HERE**.

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## RGH E-Bulletin

**THIS** week's edition of the Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy E-Bulletin gives an overview of Protos, after an EMA analysis which linked strontium use to increased cardiovascular events. **CLICK HERE** to access the update.

### Guild Update

## Changes to the Fair Work Act

The Federal Government has legislated what it calls family friendly changes to the Fair Work Act 2009. These changes started on 1 July 2013.

The changes mean that:

- more groups of employees now have the right to request flexible working arrangements, including:
  - employees with caring responsibilities
  - parents or guardians of children that are school age or younger
  - employees with disability
  - employees who are 55 years or older
  - employees who are experiencing family violence or who are caring or supporting a family or household member who is experiencing family violence.
- there is a non-exhaustive list of 'reasonable business grounds' for an employer to refuse a request for flexible working arrangements
- pregnant women can transfer to a safe job even if they haven't worked for their employer for 12 months
- employees can take special maternity leave without it reducing the amount of unpaid parental leave they can take
- employee couples can take up to 8 weeks unpaid parental leave at the same time (increasing from 3 weeks)



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

## PSA drug conf postponed

**THE** Fourth Global Drug Safety Conference and Exposition, which was set to be hosted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia in Brisbane later this year (14-16 Oct), has been officially postponed.

Registrations for the event opened earlier this year (PD 02 May), and the international conference was set to take place in conjunction with the PSA's annual Pharmacy Australia Congress

which is also scheduled for the Queensland capital from 10-13 Oct.

The GDS was set to feature speakers incl "leading international pharmacy figure" Zubin Austin from Canada's University of Toronto.

However in an update this morning, the organising committee has now decided not to go ahead.

The GDS Conference is an initiative of the Hong Kong Academy of Pharmacy, and has been held in Hong Kong for the last three years.

"When the decision was made to hold the conference in Brisbane, the Hong Kong Academy of Pharmacy was confident that the international economic situation was favourable to international delegates making the trip to Australia to attend...unfortunately that economic situation has changed and given the current climate, a decision has been made to postpone," the update says.

PSA says it's disappointed, but recognises that factors beyond anyone's control have prompted the decision.

## Rego fees to rise

**THE** Pharmacy Board of Australia has announced the registration and renewal fees for pharmacists for 2013/14, with a 2.3% increase in registration fees to \$317.

Board Chair, Stephen Marty, said the modest rise, which is under the national consumer price index (CPI), would allow the Board to continue its work regulating the profession while not putting undue financial pressure on practitioners.

A full fee schedule will be published on the National Board's website on 01 Aug.

## Guild Super move

**THE** Guild Retirement Fund is planning to launch a new MySuper solution later this year, after being named as one of the first 50 funds to be granted a MySuper licence.

MySuper is a government initiative to simplify superannuation, with MySuper products offering a simple set of features irrespective of who provides them, and replacing existing "default" super products.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**THE** United Nations has given a massive boost to the World Toilet Organisation by officially designating 19 November as "World Toilet Day".

Celebrations on the day aim to highlight the plight of the over 2.5 billion people around the world who don't have basic toilets.

Amazingly, that's more than the number of people who have mobile phones.

A General Assembly resolution which was approved this week urges the UN's 193 member countries to "promote behavioural changes and adopt policies to increase access to sanitation and end open defecation," which is a major cause of the spread of disease.

**IT'S** not just werewolves - the phases of the moon can have a significant influence on human behaviour - including sleeping, according to a study published in *Current Biology* this month.

A study of 33 volunteers sleeping in "tightly controlled laboratory conditions" found that they took much longer to doze off and had poorer quality sleep when there was a full moon.

It was nothing to do with the brightness - they were shut inside a darkened room - and the report also confirms their melatonin levels dropped.

The volunteers were unaware of the purpose of the study and couldn't see the moon from their beds, with each spending two nights under close observation.

## WIN KING KRILL FROM Caruso's natural health



This week **Pharmacy Daily** has teamed up with **Caruso's Natural Health** and is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a King Krill 500mg 120s, valued at \$64.95 each.

In 1979 Frank Caruso's life changed forever. He discovered that good bowel management, good nutrition and regular exercise were the secrets to maintaining vibrant health. In 1982 Frank opened his first health food shop. In 1995 Frank decided to start his own range of supplements, Totally Natural Products (now Caruso's Natural Health). Today Frank has a team of passionate experts helping him. Because of their dedication Frank stands

behind his products with a 100% money back guarantee (see website for more details - [www.carusosnaturalhealth.com.au](http://www.carusosnaturalhealth.com.au)).

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

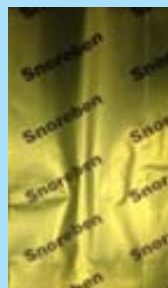
### When did Frank start his own supplement range?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **David Zivkovic** from Instigo.



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