Pharmacy Friday 10 May 2013

TGA consultations

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has launched consultations on the draft compositional guidelines for Hesperidin and Quercetin dihydrate.

Both consultations are at the request of industry, with a number of parameters revised as well as tests, method references and acceptance criteria.

For both hesperidin and guercetin it's proposed that the definition of the ingredients be changed for consistency with pharmacopoeial nomenclature.

The consultation period for both substances is 20 Jun - for details see www.tga.gov.au.

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Research focus for CMs

THE inaugural Bioceuticals Research Symposium which kicked off today in Sydney has highlighted a range of advances in "nutritional and integrative medicine," with the aim of bringing evidence-based solutions to address chronic disease in Australia.

Themed 'Research, Innovation, Reality,' key presenters include Michael Holick who's a world leader in Vitamin D (see p2), as well as other world leaders in the sector.

Opening the event, symposium facilitator Dr Mark Donohoe told delegates that it aims to "bring research to practice," with the field now worth about \$1 billion a year

and growing at 7% per annum. The conference, launched by Marcus Blackmore, was developed following Blackmores' acquisition of Bioceuticals last year (PD 02 Jul).

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Training Modules

Takeda acquisition

JAPAN'S Takeda Pharmaceuticals has announced the acquisition of US vaccine developer Inviragen, a company specialising in innovative vaccines for emerging infectious diseases including dengue fever and hand, foot and mouth disease.

The purchase price is an upfront payment of \$35m and future payments of up to \$215m linked to the progress of clinical development and achievement of key commercial milestones.

End-of-life E-Health

HEALTH minister Tanya Plibersek yesterday announced a \$10m boost to e-Health funding, to enable 'Advance Care Directives' to be stored on the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record.

She said this means people will be able to share their end-of-life plans with any of their chosen doctors, hospitals, family or carers.

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Reform Apotex deal

THE Reform Management group has just announced a new exclusive five year deal with Apotex, extending the current 18 month partnership between the firms.

Founder Peter Nelson said the move "will see Reform's members guaranteed to have the best deal in the market for many years to come," with other developments including an extension of Reform's arrangements with Sigma, increasing the group's OTC and catalogue offering.

Reform's catalogues cost \$80 per thousand including printing, distribution, in-store point of sale and a buying guide of over 50 SKUs, and pharmacies are able to opt in or out as they see fit.

"In addition Reform Management has also furthered our unique vaccine pricing to the pharmacy market on May 1 2013, with a best price to market offering," Nelson added, with more than 600 pharmacies now using the Reform model in one form or another.

"Our growth has seen Reform become the fastest growing supply mechanism in the pharmacy industry and the only mechanism to really reward loyalty above and beyond the traditional wholesaler and generic deals," he said.

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We are currently recruiting for two roles to support our ongoing strong growth.

News Reporter

This is a permanent part-time role, working five mornings per week from our offices in Epping, NSW. The successful applicant will be an experienced writer with a good sense for news, preferably with knowledge of the pharmacy industry. As well as sourcing the latest pharmacy industry news you will be helping with the production of the newsletter so desktop publishing experience (Adobe Indesign) will be well regarded. On-the-job training will be provided.

Business Development Manager

Pharmacy Daily is seeking a Business Development Manager, to promote our popular newsletter to pharmacy suppliers. This is a part-time contract role with flexible hours, which would ideally suit someone with pharmaceutical or medical industry sales experience. Duties will involve sourcing new business from advertisers and developing relationships with clients with the aim of further growing the business.

Salary for both roles will be commensurate with experience. Join our fun friendly team working to keep the pharmacy industry informed. Applications due by Friday 10th May to jobs@traveldaily.com.au.



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.

- 10-11 May: Bioceuticals Research Symposium, Shangri-La Hotel Sydney - bioceuticals.com.au.
- 31 May-o2 Jun: PSA CPExpo, Hordern Pavilion Sydney - see www.psa.org.au/cpexpo.
- 7-9 June: AACP ConPharm'13, Hilton Hotel Adelaidewww.conpharm13.com.au.
- 8 June: Multidisciplinary Diabetes seminar, University Club of WA - more information at medpharm.uwa.edu.au/cpd.
- 11 June: CHC Effective Advertising Seminar, Rydges Hotel North Sydney NSW details at www.chc.org.au.
- 21-23 June: NSW Pharmacy-National Convention & Exhibition. For details see: www.nswpharmacy-nce.com.au
- 5-8 July: Australian College of Pharmacy's Conference and Exhibition, Brisbane - see www.acp.edu.au.
- 10-14 Aug: Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business 2013, Mt Buller Vic - medici.com.au.
- o4-o7 Sep: Navigating the Future - Pharmacy 2013: The Pharmacy Management Conference; Sheraton Mirage, Port Douglas; More details at: pharmacyconference.com.au.

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D deficiency "epidemic"

BOSTON University's Professor of Medicine, Physiology and Biophysics, Michael Holick, has called for routine supplementation with vitamin D, saying that in many cases people do not get sufficient sun exposure to achieve ongoing healthy levels of the compound.

Speaking at the Bioceuticals Research Symposium in Sydney this morning, the energetic Prof Holick cited research indicating that increasing vitamin D levels may improve immune function and reduce disease risk as well as supporting healthy bones. Holick co-authored the study

Herbalist regulation

AN open letter to British prime minister David Cameron has called for him to "keep his promise" on statutory regulation of herbalists in the United Kingdom.

The development of a legislative framework was announced early in 2011, and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency website continues to indicate an intention for regulation of herbal medicine practitioners.

However according to a group called the Alliance for Natural Health, there's concern about the repeal of part of The Human Medicines Regulations which, in the absence of herbalist regulation "would result in a disastrous situation for herbal medicine practitioners, their suppliers and most importantly - the millions of British citizens who rely on these products for their health".



STOP TYPING



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which found that improving vitamin D levels could positively impact the genes associated with cancer, cardiovascular disease, infectious diseases and autoimmune diseases.

"For the first time, this study shows direct evidence that improving vitamin D levels plays a large role in improving immunity," he said, with the double-blind randomised pilot trial finding impacts from supplementation on genes related to "80 biologic pathways" linked to diseases.

"While a larger study is necessary to confirm our observations, the data demonstrates that improving vitamin D status can have a dramatic effect on gene expression in our immune cells," he said.

MEANWHILE also at the Symposium, Dr Nigel Plummer from the UK cited research which found women and newborns who consume probiotics during pregnancy and infancy may reduce the risk of allergies by up to 50%.

The Swansea University study found that for mother-infant pairs who took a daily dose of probiotics, there was a lower risk of allergy when the child was aged two to pollen, cat hair, cow's milk and eggs.

DISPENSARY CORNER

HERE'S yet another example of healthy ageing.

START SCANNING

106-year-old "single lady" Marjorie Hemmerde from Melbourne has finally found the love of her life.

Hemmerde, who's never been married, could even be called a cougar, after taking up with her new toy-boy - Gavin Crawford, who at 73 is 33 years her junior.

They met three years ago at their Victorian aged care facility and the attraction was instant.

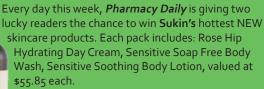
"We just sort of melted into each other," she said, adding: "we get along like old friends, the age gap doesn't seem to matter."

Mr Crawford said his elderly amour is "very outgoing and has a good outlook on life...we laugh all the time.

"I think we both have learned that life is far too short not to enjoy it," he added.

However it appears unlikely that he's going to make an honest woman of Marjorie, who said "I'm too irresponsible...I quite like living in sin".

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