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GSK Boronia closure

GLAXOSMITHKLINE yesterday announced its intention to close the tablet packaging part of its Melbourne site in Boronia, with 120 jobs to be lost in the process.

GSK Boronia also makes Rotacaps and Blow Fill Seal containers for sterile liquid medicines.

PBS Diabetes review open

PUBLIC submissions are now being sought on medicines used in the management of type 2 diabetes, with the move being the next stage of the Post-Market Review of the condition.

A six-week consultation period will conclude on 02 Jul, with info sought relating to the "utilisation and patterns of treatment of PBS listed T2DM medicines in current clinical practice".

The Dept of Health wants details of any information, research and/or experiences on the efficacy and safety of current treatments in contrast to alternative options, and "whether prescribers and consumers consider these medicines are used effectively".

Any information about preferred medicines for specific sub-populations of patients with type 2 diabetes is also being sought.

The overall review aims to systematically evaluate clinical evidence on diabetes to ensure the most appropriate management of the condition in clinical practice.

More info at www.pbs.gov.au.

Ranbaxy announces improved standards

RANBAXY Laboratories Ltd, which is now a subsidiary of Japanese pharmaceutical manufacturer Daiichi Sankyo Company Ltd, has announced "improved business standards and quality assurance initiatives" as it addresses "past conduct under prior management".

The move follows a settlement by the company last week, when it agreed to pay US\$500 million in penalties for manufacturing deficiencies and falsification of data and test results in drug applications.

Daiichi said it wants to correct the conduct of the past, which led to investigations by the US Department of Justice and the US Food and Drug Administration.

"These efforts include significant changes to Ranbaxy's management, culture, operations and compliance," the company said.

"Daiichi Sankyo believes that certain former shareholders of Ranbaxy concealed and misrepresented critical information concerning the US DoJ and FDA investigations," it added, with Daiichi currently pursuing its available legal remedies.

Ranbaxy ceo and md, Arun Sawhney, said "Ranbaxy is a different company today. "All Ranbaxy products currently in the global market are safe and effective...Ranbaxy has successfully launched several new generic equivalents across the world recently, and remains a robust pipeline of important new products," Sawhney said.

Morphine shortage

HOSPIRA has issued an update on the shortage of DBL Morphine Sulfate Injection presentations, with stock beginning to become available via wholesalers this week.

However the company warned that supply will continue to remain constrained, with Hospira to continue to supply the alternative Wockhardt Morphine Sulphate 10mg/1mL injection under S19A until the end of 2013.

"Over the next month, Hospira will continue to work closely with our wholesalers to release stock accordingly and maintain in-market supply," the company said.

The shortage of the DBL product is due to a recent upgrade of its European manufacturing plant, which has resulted in significant delays to the packaging and supply of product from the site.

Unlike the DBL product, the Wockhardt alternative is only available in a single strength, contains preservative and cannot be used for epidural or intrathecal administration.

Souvenaid complaint

HEALTH activist Ken Harvey has lodged a complaint to the TGA's Complaints Resolution Panel about the promotion of the Souvenaid "medical food" for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Writing in an article on website theconversation.com, Harvey argues that the promotion of Souvenaid breaches the advertising code because although it appears to be a therapeutic good and claimed to be used for the treatment of a serious condition, it is not listed on the ARTG but is instead a "Food for Special Medical Purposes".

The TGA has passed the complaint on to the NSW Food Authority, with Harvey calling on food advertising standards to be harmonised with the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code.



Find out what shape you're in as a result of the April PBS changes with our Health Check calculator.

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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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GET your motor running - Eastern Europe travel specialists Beyond Travel have packages for the Formula One Grand Prix race in Budapest, Hungary in Jul from just \$465 per person twin share.

The weekend of racing takes place 25-27 July, with the deal including access to all three days of racing, three nights' accommodation and daily breakfast - ideal for travellers in Europe for winter.

More information 1300 363 554.

FOR something a little closer to home, the Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens Hotel in Melbourne is offering a "Melbourne Winter Escape" package from \$170 per night including a full buffet breakfast for two, an in-house movie, two drink vouchers for HQ's Restaurant and Bar, plus complimentary internet access.

The offer is valid seven days a week until 30 August - more info www.radisson.com/melbourneau

UPMARKET Celebrity Cruises is offering free flights from Brisbane, Melbourne or Sydney to join a range of New Zealand voyages aboard its *Celebrity Solstice* over the summer season.

The special offer is also available with a small supplement for flights from Adelaide or Perth, with ports of call including Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin plus the magnificent Milford, Doubtful and Dusky Sounds - all from the comfort of a balcony cabin.

For details see your travel agent.

CSIRO Janssen-Cilag deal

THE CSIRO has announced a new collaborative research project on Alzheimer's disease, in partnership with Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd.

According to the CSIRO's Dr Tim O'Meara, the project will focus on "validating and developing novel composite end-points for use in Alzheimer's clinical research".

It will also aim to understand cognitive and clinical models of disease progression for subjects with amyloid burden.

Initially a two-year collaboration, the move will see scientists from Janssen-Cilag and CSIRO jointly supervising a research fellow in a mathematics and statistics project "that aims to turn mountains of data into clinically useful information that will be used to help stop or delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease".

The CSIRO says the work is vital given the strong pharmaceutical pipeline of a new generation of therapies for Alzheimer's disease which aim to modify the course of the condition.

Although industry is actively designing trials targeting the earliest stages of the disease for these therapies, there's currently a lack of "appropriate outcome measures for assessing the success of therapeutic interventions".

O'Meara said the collaboration with Janssen-Cilag will study the trajectories of disease progression of various markers of the disease, in order to develop "cognitive and clinical markers of progression that sensitively capture change".

Ageing populations in developed countries are predicted to see more than 115 million people with dementia worldwide by 2050, and each week there are 1700 new Alzheimer's cases diagnosed in Australia.

\$1m for MS research

HEALTH minister Tanya Plibersek yesterday announced a further \$1m in funding for Multiple Sclerosis Research Australia, which is the research arm of MS Australia.

WIN A MOOGOO PRIZE PACK



Every day this week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a MooGoo prize pack (pictured left), valued at \$40.40 each.

MooGoo Cover-Up Butter Cup is a gentle, non-whitening moisturiser made up of natural, edible ingredients and is designed for everyday use. It does not contain any chemical UV filters. The natural physical UV barriers Zinc and Raspberry Seed Oil have been added to help protect the skin from UV ageing and it is suitable for use on both babies and adults.

The SPF 15 Lip Balm is a soothing edible lip balm designed to moisturise and condition the lips. Zinc Oxide has been combined with natural moisturising oils to help keep the lips soft and protected from UV ageing.

To win this great prize, simply be the first person to email the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What are the natural physical UV barriers used in the Cover-Up ButterCup?

Congratulations to **Kate McCarthy-Rule** of **Discount Drug Stores** who is yesterday's lucky winner.

DISPENSARY CORNER



MORE healthy ageing - a 99-year-old great-great-grandmother in the UK has celebrated her birthday by abseiling down the side of a local building.

Doris Long's stunt helped raise money for charity - and extended her existing world record for being the oldest person to abseil.

She took up the sport at the age of 65, preferring outdoor activity to knitting or crosswords.

The *BBC* quoted 'Darling Doris' after the descent as saying she was "looking forward to her birthday party".

EXERCISE is very good for your health - but it can't make you into a superhero, at least according to the Australian Federal Court.

A judgement handed down yesterday has blocked the granting of a trademark by a Sydney gym, which wanted to call its routine a "Superman Workout".

Last year the Registrar of Trade Marks allowed a company called Cheout Pty Ltd to register the name, despite opposition from US firm DC Comics which owns the man of steel's official brand.

However DC Comics appealed the decision, saying that the word Superman had been "utilised, adapted and popularised" so much that it would be the first connotation to come to Australian minds.

The judge agreed, finding that the gymnasium operator had also used a logo similar to the one on Superman's chest "in order to strengthen the allusion," setting aside the trademark registration.

THE average person's feet are home to more than 100 varieties of fungus, according to a study reported in the *Nature* journal.

In the first study of its kind, researchers from Bethesda in the US catalogued the different varieties of fungi living on the bodies of healthy adults.

They found their favourite spot was on the heel, between the toes and under toenails.