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GoPharm going off

RECENTLY launched pharmacy deals site GoPharm is celebrating two months of business after last week selling out one of its special offers in just two days.

Director Rob Beveridge told PD the deal, for a "well known front-of-store brand," was amongst a variety of offers prompting a high level of enquiries from across the industry, showing that the GoPharm model was clearly meeting the needs of pharmacies as an alternate source of supply for retail pharmacists and their buyers.

"We're very pleased that GoPharm is gaining momentum," he said, with more and more suppliers also placing products with the company - for more details see www.gopharm.com.au.

RGH E-Bulletin

THIS week's edition of the Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy E-Bulletin gives an overview of tapentadol, which is currently TGA approved for treatment of moderate-to-severe chronic pain unresponsive to non-opioid analgesics.

To view the bulletin [CLICK HERE](#).

Valeant to buy B&L

VALEANT Pharmaceuticals has overnight confirmed a definitive agreement to acquire Bausch & Lomb, in a deal worth US\$8.7 billion in cash.

Valeant ceo J. Michael Pearson said the deal would significantly strengthen the firm's capabilities in ophthalmic pharmaceuticals.

PBS "continues to grow"

FEDERAL health minister Tanya Plibersek has continued her criticism of the Medicines Australia report on slowing PBS growth (PD 21 May), saying that a government report released yesterday "reveals the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme continues to grow, with new drug listings and increased demand for existing drugs the main drivers of increased spending".

She said that many of the findings of the new "Trends in and Drivers of PBS Expenditure" report - ironically produced in partnership with Medicines Australia under its MoU with the government - are at odds with last week's MA study,

Chemmart fundraiser

CHEMMART Pharmacies across Australia have collectively this year already raised more than \$133,000 for Ovarian Cancer Australia, significantly outstripping the annual target of \$100,000.

During Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in Feb, participating ChemMart pharmacies held numerous events and activities such as morning teas, cake stalls, fun runs & more to raise the funds, which were acknowledged with thanks by Ovarian Cancer Australia ceo Alison Amos at the recent ChemMart Pharmacy Assistants' Conference in Melbourne.

She said the money would help expand support programs for women with ovarian cancer and their families and friends, raise awareness of the disease in the community and fund research.

which she said "contained errors, inaccuracies and selective use of statistics".

The new joint report found that PBS spending rose by \$500m a year, reaching \$8.9 billion in the 2010-11 financial year.

However it also confirmed that growth in PBS spending is lower than forecast, "as taxpayers reap the benefits of 2010 legislation which is bringing government subsidies for medicines into line with prices pharmacists pay their suppliers," Plibersek said.

The new report also found strong growth in the Highly Specialised Drugs program, due to the ageing population and increased incidence of chronic disease.

She said that in last week's report, as well as in the Medicines Australia's pre-election document (PD yesterday), the organisation chose to only identify drugs recommended for first-time PBS listing, "completely ignoring 85 new indications for treatment listed by the government in 2011-12".

Since 2007 the govt has added 780 new listings and indications for existing PBS medicines, at a cost of over \$5 billion, Plibersek added.

New orphan drug

THE TGA has designated Ilaris (canakinumab) from Novartis Pharmaceuticals as an orphan drug.

The powder for injection is indicated for the treatment of active Systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (sJIA) in patients aged two years and over.

CPEXpo this week

PSA NSW's Clinical and Practice Expo kicks off this Fri at Sydney's Hordern Pavilion, with a huge 80 sessions of CPD across three packed days, along with a trade exhibition, networking and much more.

For more details see [page three](#) of today's *Pharmacy Daily*.

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Guild Update

Pharmacy Business Network

A SIGNIFICANT pharmacy industry event is coming your way.

The Pharmacy Business Network 2013 will be held in Canberra on September 20-22.

The unique event offers an insight into business operations through a hands-on and practical approach.

The 2013 program will include practical workshops, high profile speakers, and networking opportunities that will be worthwhile for all pharmacy owners, managers, staff and students.

Special guest speakers include Steven Bradbury, a four time Olympian famously known for being "the last man standing" as he skated across the finish line at the 2002 winter Olympics. Steven will explore the important factors of a successful business and explain why success is more than just luck.

Julie McKay from UN Women Australia will deliver this year's Judy Liauw Foundation Address – Focus on Leadership. As the first full time staff member of UN Women Australia at the age of 23, Julie is a remarkable young leader. In her spare time, Julie mentors a number of young women to help them reach their full potential.

Other speakers include industry leaders across the areas of business planning, IT, marketing, purchasing, stock and people management who will mentor future and present pharmacy owners and managers on achieving strong, profitable businesses.

Click here to register online.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

DDS targets bowel health

BANNER group Discount Drug Stores is claiming to be the first pharmacy brand in Australia to implement a specific health awareness clinic targeting bowel cancer, with the launch next month of a "major national awareness campaign".

According to DDS Professional Services Manager, Casey Clark, bowel cancer testing kits sold at the group's pharmacies last year helped to diagnose 63 Aussies with bowel cancer or key risk factors such as polyps, and in response the company had been prompted to "do even more to identify those most at risk early".

"Bowel cancer kills more Australians than breast or prostate cancer, but it also has one of the best survival rates if it is caught early," she said.

"The results from the year round testing service showed that we can make a difference, and encouraged us to launch this clinic to help and hopefully save the lives of hundreds more Australians," she added.

The bowel health awareness

clinics involve a simple 15 minute in-store consultation with a qualified nurse who will assess the patient's lifestyle, determine if they have any risk factors and then advise them on the most appropriate testing for bowel cancer.

Bowel Cancer Australia ceo Julien Wiggins said anyone aged 50 and over with no symptoms should be screening for bowel cancer with a FOB test every one to two years.

The BowelScreen Australia test kits purchased via pharmacies can be easily used at home.

New Cialis indication

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved Eli Lilly's erectile dysfunction medication once-a-day Cialis 5mg (tadalafil) for the treatment of moderate to severe lower urinary tract symptoms associated with benign prostatic hyperplasia.

The PDE5 inhibitor works by relaxing the smooth muscle in the bladder and prostate.

It's not listed on the PBS.



DISPENSARY CORNER

FORGET phenergan - the latest innovation to get kids to sleep is so-called "smart pyjamas" which can automatically read bedtime stories to children.

The interactive jim-jams have 47 clusters of dots that act like a barcode when scanned by a smartphone or tablet gadget.

As you'd expect, "there's an app for that," and once you download it the PJs are scanned and the story starts, with the offering currently including Mother Goose, the Little Mermaid and more.

Parents around the world are understood to be looking forward to the release of another app which can change nappies and undertake toilet training.

A BRITISH man whose broken arm took six years to heal has snapped it again, just a week after he finally got better.

Tim Blackburn of Stockton fell off a ladder in 2007, breaking his right arm in three places.

Unfortunately the bones did not knit under normal treatment with a splint and a cast, and after years of trying with various treatments he finally began to recover using a newly approved ultrasonic bone healing system called Exogen, which was approved by the UK NHS earlier this year, says the BBC.

In April Blackburn celebrated after being able to use the limb without pain for the first time in years - but then a few days later he tripped over his dog and the same arm "snapped like a twig".

He's now trying again with the Exogen system, which helps healing by "stimulating the production of growth factors and proteins which remove old bone and encourage new bone to be made," according to the UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

Blackburn said his recovery was a bit like climbing a mountain.

"I nearly got to the top but I fell back a bit, so I'm brushing myself down and getting back up there".

GET YOUR SKIN READY FOR WINTER

Winter is upon us and it's time to treat your skin with Nutri-Synergy.

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving two lucky readers the chance to win a **Nutri-Synergy** prize pack.

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Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners, **Kaye Hazel** from **Angel Medicine** and **Ghazal Ghodosi** of **Choice Pharmacy Townsville**.

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