

## GoPharm deals

**THIS** week's deals from GoPharm are being promoted on **page four** of today's *Pharmacy Daily*.

Membership of the web-based deals site is free, with offers available from an ever-growing range of suppliers and some deals selling out last week.

**THE  
RESULTS  
ARE IN**  
**Iberogast®  
VS  
PPI**

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to discover  
the results of  
the NHMRC  
funded trial  
in Functional  
Dyspepsia**



## Guild welcomes 5CPA audit

**THE** Pharmacy Guild says it welcomes scrutiny of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, after a probe into the 5CPA was confirmed late yesterday by the government's Australian National Audit Office (**PD** breaking news).

Guild spokesman Greg Turnbull says that it appears that the Agreement was part of the ANAO 'audit work program' for 2012/13 but didn't proceed, and will now

## Monash to award honorary doctorate

**FORMER** President of the International Pharmaceutical Federation, Dr Kamal Midha, will be conferred with an honorary doctorate from Monash University early next month.

The Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*) will recognise his major contributions to pharmaceutical science and global health.

Under the leadership of Canada-based Midha, FIP grew to represent more than 127 global organisations and over 2 million pharmacists.

Another key achievement was the development of science-based regulations in the areas of bioavailability and bioequivalency.

Midha will be the special guest speaker at the Monash Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences annual *Emeritus Professor Barry L. Reed Distinguished Lecture* (**PD** 20 May) which will take place at the Clayton campus on 04 Jun.

Attendance at the lecture is free but registration is essential by calling 03 9903 9087 or **CLICK HERE**.

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## 18 student teams

**THE** Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced that 18 teams will compete for the 2013 National Student Business Plan Competition.

There's been strong interest in participating this year, with multiple registrations from several pharmacy schools and several first-time entrants including Charles Sturt University, La Trobe University and RMIT University.

The competition is an initiative of the Pharmacy Guild, with Blackmores being the principal sponsor along with PDL and Gold Cross Products and Services.

It aims to encourage innovation amongst pharmacy students, "who will be the future owners of Australia's community pharmacies," the Guild said.

The competition will now progress through several rounds, culminating in the finals which will take place 20-22 Sep in Canberra as part of the Guild's Pharmacy Business Network.

\$12,000 in cash prizes is up for grabs as well as registration, flights and accommodation to attend the PBN conference - more details at [pharmacybusinessnetwork.com](http://pharmacybusinessnetwork.com).

## Are you Ready?

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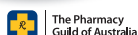
**REGISTER NOW!** [www.nswpharmacy-nce.com.au](http://www.nswpharmacy-nce.com.au)

## NSW Pharmacy - National Convention & Exhibition

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Keynote Speaker -  
Friday 21 June

**Mark Bouris**

Executive Chairman,  
Yellow Brick Road



## Symbion-Ebos deal?

**SYMBION** Pharmacy Services is reportedly considering a possible merger with New-Zealand's Ebos Group, with the combined operations to be run by Symbion ceo Patrick Davies.

According to a report in today's *Financial Review*, investors have been asked about investing in the combined entity in the lead-up to a listing on the Australian Stock Exchange.

Merchant bank UBS is advising Ebos and has suggested a capital raising underwritten by a \$90m share placement and a \$150m rights issue.

Ebos is publicly listed in NZ and has a range of operations including Ebos Healthcare, which distributes health products in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and the Pacific Islands.

Ebos also owns the Masterpet Group animal care business.

Symbion Pharmacy Services is owned by Hong Kong-based Zuellig Group, which bought the pharmacy business after Primary Health acquired Symbion Health in 2008.

## Pharmaxis to slash staff

**PHARMACEUTICAL** research firm Pharmaxis yesterday announced a staff reduction of around 30%, after a major review of the business following "recent regulatory and clinical trial setbacks".

The revised plan "delivers significant reductions in expenses and increases the focus on partnering strategies" to reposition the company for the future in the global respiratory drug market.

Partnership opportunities for Bronchitol will be sought in the US for cystic fibrosis, and globally for bronchiectasis, while the company will retain a direct commercial interest in Bronchitol in Europe and other approved and reimbursed markets for the product.

Staff numbers will be cut across the board from 155 to 110 by 31 Dec, saving about \$12 million per annum and resulting in restructuring costs of \$2 million which will be booked in 2012/13.

Pharmaxis said it would manage its US regulatory efforts from Australia with US advisors, merge

its chief operating officer role into that of the CEO and reduce consulting costs, as well as closing its US office and cutting staff in its clinical and Bronchitol R&D areas.

Chairman Malcolm McComas said the failure of the company to achieve regulatory milestones meant that 2013 would be a "year of restructure."

"I believe we have a clear plan and a viable way forward," he said.

## RACP on Vitamin D

**THE** Royal College of Pathologists of Australia yesterday released a new position statement on the use and interpretation of vitamin D testing in Australia.

RCPA president Professor Yee Khong said the organisation recommends that vitamin D testing is not conducted or recommended as routine screening.

"The testing of healthy individuals will reveal a significant subgroup with low 25OH-D levels," he said.

"This leads to treatment and perpetuates repeat testing, without information as to whether such patients will benefit from vitamin D supplementation".

Khong said that as the main source of vitamin D is UVB sunlight exposure, levels are correlated with time spent outdoors, exercise and other aspects of a healthy lifestyle.

"For healthy adults, infants and pregnant women, we do not currently recommend routine screening".

The RACP also said that high dose annual replacement of Vitamin D should be discouraged, "as two studies have been published with significant results demonstrating harm" with this type of Vitamin D supplementation.

## Pneumococcal vaccine

**THE** incidence of pneumococcal disease in Australia has been substantially reduced by universal vaccination of young children and older adults, according to an update from Australian Prescriber.

Universal immunisation for the disease was introduced in 2005, resulting in good "herd immunity".

## Pharmacy PCEHR error

**A GLITCH** in procedures at a community pharmacy has been cited as the most likely cause of a problem where a Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record incorrectly had two wrong prescriptions added to it.

Kate McDonald, a writer at *Pulse IT* magazine, found that the scripts had been added to her PCEHR in Feb - for drugs which had never been prescribed for her and for conditions she does not have.

An investigation by the Dept of Human Services found that the prescriptions had been dispensed from her regular pharmacy - but the problem was compounded when repeats were ordered from a different pharmacy, which she had never been to.

It appears that the initial scripts were linked to the wrong PCEHR when dispensed.

## 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.

Nutri-Synergy effectively moisturises dry, winter skin without petrochemicals, parabens, colours or fragrances.

This prize pack includes moisturisers for dry skin, rough

skin as well as lip balm and hand cream and the new NS-5 Cuticle and Nail Complex. Nutri-Synergy - natural goodness and no nasties!

For more information on the products, visit

[www.nutrisynergy.com.au](http://www.nutrisynergy.com.au)

To win this great prize pack, simply be one of the first two people to send in the correct answer to the question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

Complete this statement: Nutri-Synergy moisturisers \_\_\_\_\_ moisture levels and \_\_\_\_\_ moisture loss.

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners, **Anna Michael** of **APHS Pharmacy Greenslopes** and **Elleicia Box** from **Coolum Village Amcal Pharmacy**.

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## Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email [newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au)

### Prospan now available on-the-go

Cough relief is now available in a handy format for busy people on the go, with the release of new **Prospan Lozenges**. Prospan is an expectorant, mucolytic and also soothes bronchial airways. The lozenges contain active ingredient hederia helix which is the subject of more than 20 published clinical studies in both children and adults, and can be used in kids from six years of age. The lozenges are also free from sugars, alcohol, gluten and colourings.

Stockists: 1300 390 790

RRP: \$14.95

Website: [www.biorevive.com](http://www.biorevive.com)



### Woolf's vegan range blossoms

Adriana Woolf, a solicitor representing a number of pharmacy clients, has developed her own line of vegan, cruelty-free cosmetics and mineral makeup. The **Bare Blossom Mineral Makeup** range claims to be one of the safest product ranges on the market, and contains no parabens, talc, propylene glycol or animal derivatives. It's specially formulated for use on allergy prone skin as well as being safe to use during pregnancy. The products will be distributed exclusively through pharmacies and health food stores.

Stockists: (07) 3252 9933

RRP: Starter Kit: \$144.50

Website: [www.bareblossom.com.au](http://www.bareblossom.com.au)

### Sanctuary Spa in a box

The teams of therapists from the UK's number one day spa, Sanctuary Spa, now offer their highly acclaimed facial products in a box, so customers can recreate a salon quality facial at home. The **Sanctuary Spa Brightening Facial in a Box** and **Youth Boosting Facial in a Box** contain a step-by-step, 30-minute spa facial treatment which includes tips and professional secrets direct from the London spa to deliver skin with a fresh, flawless finish. Distributed in Australia by PZ Cussons.

Stockists: (03) 8545 2700

RRP: \$39.99

Website: [www.sanctuary.com](http://www.sanctuary.com)



### Fight the winter cold with Kaloba

With winter upon us, Blackmores has released a natural remedy, **Kaloba Oral Liquid**, clinically proven to relieve the symptoms of acute bronchitis and reduce the severity of acute sinusitis. Kaloba has been used widely in Europe since 1999 and is one of Europe's best-selling over-the-counter preparations in its category. For centuries, the active ingredient in Kaloba, herb *Pelargonium sidoides*, has been traditionally used in South Africa for respiratory conditions. Blackmores Kaloba is a registered product and has been extensively studied.

Stockists: 1800 803 760

RRP: \$9.95 (20 ml); \$19.95 (50 ml)

Website: [www.blackmores.com.au/kaloba](http://www.blackmores.com.au/kaloba)

## DISPENSARY CORNER



**STRESS** is no excuse for a chocolate binge, according to researchers from the University of Southern California, who found that being under pressure can reinforce both good and bad behavioural patterns.

Reported in the latest *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, a study looked at the activities of 65 students over a 10 week term and measured the amount of willpower subjects had during the stressful exam period.

They found that during trying times, when participants were stressed and sleep-deprived, they were even more likely to stick to old habits, reports the *BBC*.

Thus the students who ate lots of junk food had an even worse diet during exams, while those who went to the gym regularly were even more likely to exercise while under pressure.

"The central question for behaviour-change efforts should be, how can you form healthy, productive habits," said lead scientist, Professor Wendy Wood.

**NECESSITY** is the mother of invention, and a great example of this is a Chinese man who has built his own prosthetic limbs, after losing both arms in a freak accident eight years ago when a fishing boat exploded.

According to the UK *Telegraph*, Sun Jifa was unable to afford medical help from local hospitals, and has spent the time since the incident crafting his custom designed arms out of steel.

After refining the design he's now able to drive, perform routine tasks and help his family out on the local farm.

The report says the farmer has now become a minor celebrity in his home town, and is now reasonably prosperous, having started a business which has created more than 1000 pairs of prosthetic limbs for other amputees - and sold them at about a tenth of the price charged by Chinese hospitals.

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