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Genzyme 'Gong ride

GENZYME, a Sanofi Company, has put together one of its biggest ever teams for this year's MS Australia Sydney to the Gong Ride which aims to help raise money to support people living with Multiple Sclerosis.

30 members comprising Genzyme staff, friends, family and customers will collectively ride almost 3,000km, with 2013 being the 8th consecutive year that Genzyme/Sanofi have entered a team.

Collectively they have raised more than \$110,000 for the cause, including \$27,000 in 2012.

Genzyme md and ride participant Robert Hendriks said this year the fundraising target is \$20,000 "and we would welcome anyone in the industry who would like to donate to our cause or even join our team".

To donate for the ride **CLICK HERE**.

New NCPA President

THE US National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) has announced the appointment of Mark Riley as its new President.

Riley is currently executive vice president of the Arkansas Pharmacists Association and owns a community pharmacy in Little Rock, Arkansas.

He's also an expert on the American pharmacy benefit manager industry.

The move was announced during the NCPA conference, where members also voted in favour of a number of resolutions relating to challenges facing the sector such as compounding, taxation inequities, specialty pharmacies and the transfer of independent pharmacies from one owner to another.

United GPs slam PCEHR

DOCTORS groups from across Australia have urged the new government to address what they say are major issues with the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record, saying that the Department of Health is not listening to the concerns of people actually using the system.

United General Practice Australia issued a statement saying there is currently no alignment between registration of consumers and actual meaningful use of the system through engagement of the clinical community and assurance of improvement of health outcomes.

In Aug a number of key "clinical leads" resigned from the National E-Health Transition Authority, amid "ongoing concerns and requests for NEHTA and DoHA to review the PCEHR development cycle".

More new AusPARs

AUSTRALIAN Public Assessment Reports have been released for three more therapies, with the TGA website now including AusPARs for Zaltrap/Aflitv/Lidaveg (aflibercept), Daivobet 50/500 (calcipotriol and betamethasone) and Cinryze (C1 esterase inhibitor).

Kombiglyze XR

A NEW once-daily fixed dose combination therapy to improve glycemic control has been approved for use by adults with type 2 diabetes in Australia, with the registration of Kombiglyze XR which combines the mechanism of action of Onglyza (saxagliptin) with extended release metformin.

"E-Health and the PCEHR have the potential to transform Australia's health system and provide superior, safer and more efficient healthcare" the groups said, adding that this will only occur if clinicians have input and there is full secure messaging interoperability.

Prior to the election, new health minister Peter Dutton flagged a review of the PCEHR system, with the doctors' groups saying they look forward to contributing.

Locum app released

A NEW smartphone app for pharmacy recruitment has been released by The Pharmaceutical Locum Company.

It is now available for free download on iPhone, iPad, Android devices and tablets.

"I have been in this industry for over 25 years and this LocumCo App redefines the pharmacy recruitment experience" says Sue Muller, CEO of The Pharmaceutical Locum Company.

"On surveying locums, many recounted how they felt uncomfortable checking their emails or Facebook whilst on a job."

Muller highlighted the app's ability to send "Push Notifications" to locums in a specific geographical area in close proximity to the site of an emergency position, thereby being able to offer a faster solution.

Both job seekers and employers can access the Emergency Locum Service through this app.

A video featuring the software can be viewed on the **Pharmacy Daily** website - **CLICK HERE**.

Herron multis gone

ASPEN Australia has advised pharmacies that a number of its Herron Multi Vitamin products have been discontinued, including Men 18-50, Men 50+, Women 18-50 and Women 50+.

The discontinuation is effective immediately, the company said.

REVITIVE LV
THERAPY FOR LEGS AND FEET

New REVITIVE LV
"Love your legs"



**Revive your day
with Revitive**



Get a \$40k profit increase guaranteed!*

pa pharmacy
alliance
Your formula for
independent strength

Click Here

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- Cost Effective
- Targeted
- Easy

J&J sales surge

JOHNSON & Johnson has seen a healthy 9.9% increase in sales of prescription drugs during the three months to 30 Sep.

J&J's Total prescription drug sales amounted to US\$7 billion, with the performance led by demand for items such as Remicade, Velcade, Stelara, Simponi and Zytiga.

The more you use, the more you lose

WHEN it comes to weight loss, a new randomized controlled trial conducted by Baylor College of Medicine researchers and published online in *The American Journal of Medicine* found that overweight and obese adults following a community-based weight loss intervention, namely Weight Watchers, lost significantly more weight than those who tried to lose weight on their own (10.1 lbs. vs. 1.3 lbs. at six months).

Those following Weight Watchers were 8x more likely to reach a 5% weight loss and the best results were achieved by those using meetings, mobile apps and online tools.

Covad secures funding

PHARMACY-BASED health insurance provider Covad has a new Executive Chairman after successfully completing a round of venture capital raising.

Izak Pretorius, who's a security entrepreneur, industrialist, former South African Businessman of the Year and now Australian resident, is taking on the role after making a "substantial long term commitment" to the Covad business and its founder and md Anthony Huxley.

Covad, which is the first ever private health aggregator to leverage the "bricks and mortar pharmacy channel," (PD 30 Aug) will launch its consumer site at the end of the month via pharmacies across Australia.

Huxley said that Covad will debut in close to 100 locations, followed by a paced rollout of over 1,000 sites activated progressively across the next twelve months.

"We're pacing the rate of site activation because we're committed to setting an industry benchmark," Huxley said.

"We've communicated that to

regulators, providers, pharmacies and consumers and we're sticking to it...we're forecasting as many as 50% of total retail pharmacy sites being onboard within three years".

Pretorius said that after looking closely at well over 100 investment proposals, mainly start-ups, he was attracted to the Covad business because "they're not just transforming the delivery of health cover, they're building a really viable future for pharmacy too".

See www.covad.com.au.

Pyjamas, breasts, and naughty nightcaps

WOOLLEN PJ's, how mums can use their breasts to protect their kids from snoring and why a pre-sleep tittle is not such a good idea are all part of the Australasian Sleep Association's 25th annual scientific conference.

The meeting, titled *Sleep Down Under 2013* will showcase the latest in sleep discoveries covering problems like snoring, insomnia, narcolepsy and sleep deprivation through to the damaging effects of alcohol, computers, shift work and bad bed clothes.

Brisbane Convention Centre hosts the event which runs Oct 17 to 19.

For a full list of conference highlights, contact Lucy Williams by email on lawilliam@bigpond.com.

DISPENSARY CORNER



A PHARMACY at Melbourne Airport has become world famous overnight, after a kangaroo hopped into the terminal and ended up in the skincare aisle of the chemist shop.

Reinforcing the widely held stereotype that Aussies all have kangaroos in the back yard, the marsupial had apparently been injured in a collision with a car.

The news was broken (of course) on social media network Twitter, with comedian Julia Morris spotting the creature and tweeting "Ok, so I'm at Melbourne Airport and a KANGAROO has just jumped into the chemist".

She also attached hashtags #notajoke, #soundslikeajoke and #mustneedaprescriptionfilled.

Websites across the globe quickly picked up the story, with Twitter snaps of the bemused animal (**below**) also giving some huge publicity to Swisspers.



WIN A NATURAL INSTINCT PACK

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a **Natural Instinct** Pack, including shampoo, conditioner, body wash, body lotion and a moisturiser.



So natural you could grow it.

Natural Instinct is bringing a range of affordable face, hair, body and baby care that are made with carefully selected natural ingredients. These Australian-made products are formulated with the finest plant-derived ingredients, free from any potentially harmful chemicals and toxins.

Natural Instinct products are a truly natural alternative.

To win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

On the Natural Instinct website, Arabella Forge talks about the Hohoba plant: what does she say the benefits are of this natural ingredient?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Linda Luczak** from **Cranebrook General Practice**. The correct answer was \$11.95.

LOCUM PHARMACIST WANTED

Experienced Locum pharmacist wanted to work in the beautiful region of Margaret River. Famous for its wineries, beaches and surf. Full accommodation will be provided.

- Mid-December 2013 to end of February 2014
- 30-40 hours per week
- Fred dispensing software
- Great team environment



The successful applicant will be organised, able to work unsupervised and follow the pharmacy's processes and procedures, be customer-focused and be able to manage the dispensary work-flow efficiently.

Experience with checking Websters/Meditec sachets and the Guildcare programmes are an advantage.

Email resumes to Karen: karencheah@pharmacymr.com.au with a cover letter and availability to come in for an interview