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## Be at APP for free

THE Queensland branch of the Pharmacy Guild is reminding **TD** readers that a free registration for next year's APP conference on the Gold Coast is available to every pharmacy which sends two assistants to the Pharmacy Assistants Conference.

The offer is valued at \$760, with PA2013 taking place 17-19 Oct at the Outrigger Surfers Paradise.

For more information see the **front full page** of today's issue of *Pharmacy Daily*.

## Abbott supports pharmacy

THE Pharmacy Guild has confirmed receipt of a number of letters of support for community pharmacy from political leaders ahead of this weekend's election - including a key document from liberal leader Tony Abbott.

Abbott confirmed that if elected the Coalition Government "will continue to deliver support for community pharmacy, as an essential element of our health system".

"Community pharmacy is an integral, highly accessible part of the health system...the Coalition continues to support the model of pharmacies being owned by pharmacists to ensure community pharmacy remains focused to the needs of patients," he wrote.

The letter also affirms ongoing support for timely access to medicines, advice and services through community pharmacy, as well as committing to "work in partnership with [the Guild] to further consider cost-effective ways of delivering improved health outcomes through professional services in pharmacy".

Guild President Kos Sclavos said he was pleased to have received the letter from Abbott, along with others from the Australian Greens and Katter's Australian Party.

"We are optimistic that we will receive a letter from the Australian Labor Party before polling day," Sclavos added.

Nationals leader Warren Truss

has also stressed the importance of community pharmacies in regional and rural communities, reiterating his party's support for the Community Service Obligation payments to wholesalers.

"I am also very pleased to see that Mr Truss has clearly stated his support for ongoing Community Pharmacy Agreements negotiated with the Guild, and for the continuation of the location rules".

Sclavos also highlighted support from the Greens and Bob Katter.

"The Guild will need to negotiate a solution with whoever wins the election on Saturday regarding the impact of the accelerated price disclosure announcement," he said.

Because of this the 'Pharmacy Under Threat' petition campaign, which has already garnered a whopping 550,000 signatures, will continue until 14 Sep, Sclavos said.

"This issue must be resolved because pharmacy services, jobs and pharmacy viability are at stake," he warned.

## Tecfidera approval

**BIOMER** Idec has confirmed the TGA approval of Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate), which is a new oral treatment for patients with relapsing multiple sclerosis.

Tecfidera has also been recommended for PBS listing, and Biogen Idec says it will introduce a Product Familiarisation Program for the medication which will be available to suitable MS patients via neurologists in Australia.

Tecfidera has been shown to reduce important measures of disease activity including relapses and development of brain lesions.

It's also been proven to slow disability progression over time, while showing a favourable safety and tolerability profile.

## In for the Krill

**KRILL** oil has been one of the fastest growing categories in the Australian supplement market, according to research presented at the CHC conference this week.

A survey commissioned by Aker BioMarine found that most krill oil users had been taking the supplement for a year or less, with 89% saying they were happy with their brand and would continue taking the supplement.

Swisse was the most frequently consumed brand, with a 26% share.

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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*.

## CRUISE WEEKLY

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If you're thinking about taking a cruise any time soon, this is the best time to book.

Cruise lines and travel agents have united in a major promotion for National Cruise Week, and there are considerable savings available across the board.

In fact this week (02-09 Sep) may be the best ever opportunity to snap up the biggest cruise bargains around the world.

As well as discounts, value-adds such as free flights and hotel accommodation, stopovers, balcony cabin upgrades and onboard credits, there are also booking incentives with opportunities to win big prizes.

And if you're just dipping your toe in the water lots of agencies are running info sessions too.

Your local cruise specialist travel agent can help you navigate the offers from more than 30 cruise lines - local events and online offers can be seen at [www.nationalcruiseweek.com.au](http://www.nationalcruiseweek.com.au).

## MIMS floats into the cloud

MIMS Australia has released a new version of eMIMS, with a significantly advanced delivery platform meaning the reference will be available both on- and offline.

The new eMIMSCloud is currently available, with a further eMIMSDesktop product to follow later in the year.

"A modern interface and simple functionality is shared across both delivery platforms, as is the resource rich content," MIMS said.

eMIMSCloud is internet based, available on a range of platforms including PC, Mac or Android which has opened up "wonderful opportunities for mobility" particularly via tablet devices.

Meanwhile the desktop version is locally installed, meaning users don't need internet connectivity to access the full content and functionality of the new eMIMS.

MIMS country manager Siobhan Murphy said "Because we understand that many of our customers are not yet ready to use an internet based resource we made a decision to support that thinking and have developed the new eMIMS as both an internet based and a desktop version."

MIMS is a recommended text by the Pharmacy Board of Australia and is used multiple times per day by health care professionals, with the product aiming to support pharmacists across their workflow.

"Unlike other medicines information resources in Australia, eMIMS has a broad breadth of content," the company said.

"Evidence based drug

interactions, patient care and clinical resources as well as the most refined image search capabilities have all been put together in a way that will encourage engagement with patients and support work flow".

The new eMIMS also offers the IMgateway herb-drug, supplement-drug and food-drug interactions database, with this option available as an additional module.

This evolving database, published by UnityHealth, now features over 650 interactions and, in another first, drug interactions with Traditional Chinese Medicines and Japanese Kampo Medicines.

UnityHealth CEO, Peter De Lorenzo said that some complementary medicines and foods can make some prescription drugs less effective and may cause adverse events.

"Through IMgateway in eMIMS, healthcare professionals will find information is unbiased, rigorous and uniquely available at the point of care, helping healthcare professionals provide trusted and relevant advice," he added.

## Fair Work decision

THE Fair Work Commission has rejected changes to the Pharmacy Industry Award which were proposed by the Pharmacy Guild.

According to union group Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA), the changes sought to allow owners to force employees to take leave when eight weeks had been accrued, as well as enabling proprietors to enforce leave if they wish to close the business for a period of time.

PPA president Geoff March said the ruling was "good news for non-owner pharmacists, and means that individuals will still have control over their own leave arrangements".

He said that a survey of pharmacists conducted prior to the hearing formed a "crucial part of our submission and was specifically noted by the Commissioner hearing the case".

However the Fair Work Commission has left open the possibility of the proposed changes being considered again next year.

Other proposed changes covering the definition of full time hours are still under consideration.

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## WIN Only Papaya PRIZE PACK

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an **OnlyPapaya** prize pack.

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### What is OPAL A made from?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Jeanie Misko** from **Royal Perth Hospital**.

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## CHC appoints new ceo

**THE** Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC) yesterday announced the appointment of Carl Gibson as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Gibson will commence in the role in October 2013, stepping into the shoes of outgoing CHC ceo Wendy Morrow (**PD** 18 Jun).

Announcing the appointment at the CHC Annual Conference in Sydney, CHC President Richard Henfrey said Gibson was appointed following an extensive search.

"The CHC Board unanimously agreed that he was the right person to build on the foundations put in place by Dr Wendy Morrow, and to champion the complementary medicines industry with government and other key stakeholders."

Gibson's career has spanned nearly 30 years in regulation, public policy and communications.

He was most recently Head of Brand & Communications at Blackmores.

Gibson said he was delighted to

be taking up the role.

"There is no doubt that we need to move from the traditional illness model to a wellness model.

"Treating illness is getting more and more expensive and is unsustainable.

"Complementary medicine including vitamins, minerals, herbs and nutritional supplements, play an important part in the lives of many Australians, and empower people to take a new approach to healthcare, one that promotes well-being," he said.

Gibson said that as CMs become more mainstream the CHC's job is to ensure regulation is appropriate and to campaign for a policy framework that supports and promotes their use, "giving consumers real choice and confidence".



## Asthma week support

**MEDIBAND** will donate \$1 from every online sale to Asthma Australia during Asthma Week, which is taking place 1-7 Sep.

The week focuses on managing the condition, especially should the patient have an unexpected attack.

Mediband director Michael Randall said the medical bands are proving popular with parents of very young children who attend day care and childcare.

"The feedback from parents is that the medical bands give them a little more reassurance that their child will be instantly recognised as having asthma or any other condition for that matter when they are being cared for by someone else," Randall said.

The bands include an encrypted code which links to an online service, which is a secure database recording the wearer's medical condition and history should they need emergency medical attention and be unfit to supply the information to first responders.

For more information on the product see [www.mediband.com](http://www.mediband.com).



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**KING** Richard III was not only vilified as an evil monarch - it appears that he also suffered from intestinal worms.

A report in *The Lancet* yesterday says that the controversial king who ruled England between 1483 and 1485 and whose remains were rediscovered last year buried under northern English carpark, was infected with roundworm.

Scientists from Leicester and Cambridge Universities analysed the soil around his pelvis, with a powerful microscope revealing multiple roundworm eggs in the area where the intestines would have been before they decomposed.

Soil samples taken from other areas around his bones did not show similar infestations.

They also found the remains were clear of other intestinal parasites such as tapeworm.

## September MIMS Monthly Medicine Update

### NEW PRODUCTS

**Erivedge (vismodegib)** is a low molecular weight, orally available inhibitor of the Hedgehog pathway. The Hedgehog pathway signalling through the smoothened transmembrane protein (SMO) leads to the activation and nuclear localisation of GLI transcription factors and induction of Hedgehog target genes. Vismodegib binds to and inhibits SMO, thereby preventing Hedgehog signal transduction. Erivedge is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with metastatic basal cell carcinoma, or with locally advanced basal cell carcinoma where surgery and/or radiation therapy are not appropriate. Erivedge is contraindicated in pregnancy; women of childbearing potential, unless two reliable methods of contraception are being used during treatment and for 7 months after the last dose. It is also contraindicated in nursing mothers during the course of treatment and for 7 months after the last dose because of the potential to cause serious development defects in breastfed infants and children. Erivedge is available as a 150 mg tablet in packs of 28's.

**GyMiso (misoprostol)** is a synthetic analogue of prostaglandin E1. In the event of an early termination of pregnancy, the combination of GyMiso used in a sequential regimen after mifepristone

leads to an increase in the success rate and accelerates the expulsion of the conceptus. GyMiso is indicated in females of childbearing age for the medical termination of a developing intrauterine pregnancy in sequential combination with a mifepristone 200 mg tablet, up to 49 days of gestation. GyMiso is contraindicated in the following situations: if there is a contraindication to medical abortion including: known or suspected hypocoagulation diseases, treatment with anticoagulants; uncertainty about pregnancy age; suspected ectopic pregnancy and contraindication to mifepristone. GyMiso is available as a 200 microgram tablet in packs of 4's.

**Jakavi (ruxolitinib phosphate)** is an inhibitor of the Janus Associated Kinases (JAKs) JAK1 and JAK2 with nanomolar potency. JAKs mediate the signalling of a number of cytokines and growth factors that are important for haematopoiesis and immune function. Ruxolitinib inhibits JAK-STAT signalling and cell proliferation of cytokine dependent cellular models of haematological malignancies. Jakavi is indicated for the treatment of disease related splenomegaly or symptoms in patients with primary myelofibrosis, post-polycythemia vera myelofibrosis or post-essential thrombocythemia myelofibrosis. Jakavi is available as 5 mg, 15 mg and 20 mg tablets in packs of 56's.

**Priligy (dapoxetine hydrochloride)** is a SSRI. Priligy is indicated for the treatment of premature ejaculation (PE) in men 18 to 64 years of age, who have all of the following: an intravaginal ejaculatory latency time (IELT) of less than two minutes; a persistent or recurrent ejaculation with minimal sexual stimulation before, on, or shortly after penetration and before the patient wishes; a marked personal distress or interpersonal difficulty as a consequence of PE; and a poor control over ejaculation. Priligy is contraindicated in all of the following conditions: significant pathological cardiac conditions (eg NYHA class II-IV heart failure), conduction abnormality (2nd, 3rd degree A-V block or sick sinus syndrome) not treated with permanent pacemaker, significant ischaemic heart, valvular disease; concomitant MAOIs, thioridazine, SSRIs, SNRIs, TCAs, serotonergic drugs/ herbs (eg L-tryptophan, triptans, tramadol, linezolid, lithium, St John's wort) (including less than 14 days before starting, less than 7 days after ceasing dapoxetine); concomitant potent CYP3A4 inhibitors eg ketoconazole, itraconazole, atazanavir, nelfinavir, ritonavir, saquinavir, telithromycin, nefazodone; and in moderate to severe hepatic impairment. Priligy is available as a 30 mg tablet in packs of 3's and 6's.

**Zaltrap (afibercept (rch))** is a recombinant protein consisting of sequences derived from human vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) receptor (1 and 2) extracellular domains fused to the Fc portion of human immunoglobulin G1 (IgG1). Afibercept is produced by recombinant DNA technology in a Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) K-1 mammalian expression system. Zaltrap in combination with irinotecan-fluoropyrimidine based chemotherapy is indicated in adults with metastatic colorectal cancer previously treated with an oxaliplatin containing regimen. Zaltrap is contraindicated for ophthalmic/ intravitreal use due to hyperosmotic properties of Zaltrap. Zaltrap is available in vials of 100 mg/4 mL and 200 mg/8 mg.

**Zarzio (filgrastim (rbe))** is a recombinant Human Granulocyte Colony Stimulating Factor (rmHuG-CSF) derived from *E. coli*. Zarzio is indicated in the reduction of neutropenia duration, clinical sequelae after induction/ consolidation chemotherapy in AML; following autologous or allogeneic bone marrow transplant. It is also indicated in the mobilisation of peripheral blood progenitor cells (PBPC) following myelosuppressive chemotherapy (autologous) or in normal donors (allogeneic); infection incidence reduction during myelosuppressive

chemotherapy in nonmyeloid malignancy; severe chronic neutropenia (SCN); and in the maintenance of adequate neutrophils during antiretroviral/ myelosuppressive HIV therapy. Zarzio is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to *E. coli* derived products. Zarzio is available as a 300 microgram per 0.5 mL and 480 microgram per 0.5 mL prefilled syringe.

### SAFETY RELATED CHANGES

**Avapro, Karvea (irbesartan)** and **Avapro HCT, Karvezide (irbesartan/ hydrochlorothiazide)** are now contraindicated with aliskiren containing medicines in patients with diabetes or with moderate to severe renal impairment.

**Efudix (fluorouracil)** is now contraindicated in women who are or may become pregnant during therapy.

**Normison (temazepam)** is now contraindicated and should not be used as monotherapy to treat depression, or symptoms of anxiety associated with depression, due to a risk of suicide.

**Xarelto (rivaroxaban)** is now contraindicated in patients undergoing dialysis.

*This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.*