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## Advance at PAC13

**LEADING** academic pharmacist Professor Lisa Nissen will present at the PSA's PAC13 conference on the career opportunities which may arise from advanced practice.

Nissen is Head of the School of Clinical Sciences at Qld University of Technology, and her research focuses on the Quality Use of Medicines in the wider community, and the expansion of roles for pharmacists including development of practice into areas such as sleep, pain management and prescribing. More info at [psa.org.au/pac](http://psa.org.au/pac).

## Di-Gesic to stay on ARTG

**THE** Administrative Appeals Tribunal of Australia (AAT) has ruled that medications containing dextropropoxyphene, including Di-Gesic and Doloxene, should remain on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

The move is the latest twist in the long-running saga which has seen the TGA repeatedly issue warnings of the potential safety risks of the products (**PD** 15 Apr).

An appeal by Aspen Pharmaceuticals has been upheld by the AAT but several conditions have been applied, after the company was unable to reach agreement with the TGA.

Under these conditions, doctors

must provide a 'Prescriber Confirmation Form' which indicates that they are aware that the products are only approved for patients who are not able to be adequately treated with other mild analgesics, and have warned the patient about the appropriate use of the product.

The PSA will produce guidelines for dispensing of the products, and the Guild will also help to promulgate the recommendations which will aim to promote compliance with the requirement not to dispense the goods (on a first dispensing) unless the pharmacists have obtained the Prescriber Confirmation Form.

The AAT has also ordered regular monitoring of a sample of pharmacists and wholesalers to ensure they are complying with the requirements.

**CLICK HERE** to see full details of the judgement.

## New Bisolvon name

**BOEHRINGER** Ingelheim has renamed its Bisolvon Chesty Tablets and Soluble Tablets to include "Forte" in the product description.

The formulation has not changed, with the products continuing to contain 8mg of bromhexine per tablet which is the same strength as Bisolvon Chesty Forte Liquid.

The Bisolvon Chesty Forte Tablets and Bisolvon Chesty Forte Soluble Tablets have relaunched with updated product packaging, but pharmacy staff can rest assured that it is the same trusted product formulation, according to BI Senior Product Manager, Sally Binfield.

"There are no changes to EAN codes, PDE codes or pricing of the variants," she said.

"The inclusion of 'Forte' will help pharmacy staff easily identify Bisolvon Chesty double strength 8mg bromhexine products compared to other products in the range," Binfield added.

The new range will be phased into retail pharmacy in the next few months, she said.

## PD Fri winner

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Alana Barton from Covidien, who was the lucky winner of a John Plunkett Collagen Lift Moisturiser prize pack in Friday's **Pharmacy Daily**.

See **page 2** for this week's comp.

## GoPharm guarantee

**GOPHARM** is offering best prices on supply of a range of products including Claratyne liquid capsules 10s and Children's Panadol 100ml, which the company is offering as "cheapest net into store guaranteed".

Free freight is on offer for orders over \$300 - for details see **page three** of today's **Pharmacy Daily**.

## Black cohosh study

**FLORDIS** has released details of a clinical observational study of its Femular Ze450 unique black cohosh extract, which has for the first time proven a dose dependent effect in relieving menopausal symptoms.

The study, published recently in the *Phytomedicine* journal, also demonstrated efficacy and tolerability for up to nine months.

Dr Lily Tomas, president of the Australasian Integrative Medicine Association said it is critical that clinically relevant and statistically significant trials are performed on interventions such as black cohosh.

She said the Femular study provides healthcare professionals the "much needed confidence to continue what has already been observed in clinical practice: the value of black cohosh in the relief of menopausal symptoms."

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## Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Debbie Capuano**, Recruitment Consultant at **Raven's Recruitment**.



### Work Culture – And It's Importance!

As a Business Owner or Manager do people enjoy working within your organisation's culture? Is this a question you have asked yourself lately? If not, I would humbly suggest that you should – and soon.

Are you surprised at the answer and concerned about what this could mean for your business moving forward?

The importance is paramount as you look to secure the best staff, encourage them to be passionate about your business and to keep them motivated as time goes on.

If you believe your organisations culture needs strengthening, I suggest you spend some time looking at the following areas:

- Building understanding amongst your team of what your culture is about;
- Considering ways you can measure your culture and it's effect;
- Setting the organisation's integrity compass;
- Creating a plan to develop a healthy culture; and
- Facilitating effective change if needed.

If there is something that is ugly and insidious within your culture that is as plain as the end of your nose, don't muck about with it – confront it head on and then enjoy breathing the fresh air that flows through your business.

You must be prepared to lead by example in all areas of your organisation's culture if you expect "your people" to really get it, but believe me, your customers will notice the difference in a very positive way for your bottom line!

## TGA examines medical apps

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration has launched a new online guide to the regulation of medical software, saying that the rapid evolution of health-related smartphone and tablet apps "presents new and complex challenges for the TGA and regulatory agencies internationally".

The document clarifies that software products are considered to be medical devices if they are intended to be used for diagnosis, prevention, monitoring, treatment or alleviation of disease.

This would include apps which do blood glucose analysis, monitor patients or other devices, which would be considered within the

medical devices regulations.

However the TGA says that many mobile apps are simply sources of information, and it doesn't have a role in regulating advice to health professionals or consumers other than in relation to the advertising of therapeutic goods, labelling and instructions for use.

**CLICK HERE** for more details.

## J&J contamination

**JOHNSON & JOHNSON** is recalling some vials of Risperdal Consta in the US over concerns about mould contamination of the product.

A spokesperson said that routine analysis of one batch of the injectable schizophrenia therapy has shown the presence of the mould *Alternaria alternata*.

She said there had not been any trends of adverse events associated with the batch which was manufactured last year.

The move followed another recall last week by J&J's McNeil Consumer Healthcare Division of about 200,000 bottles of Motrin Infants' Drops due to possible plastic particle contamination.

## NSW Guild director

**RYAN** Fletcher has been named as the new Director of the Pharmacy Guild's NSW branch.

Branch president Si Banks said that Fletcher had extensive experience in government, industry and private sector policy and advocacy roles.

The appointment is effective from the beginning of next month.



**WIN A  
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Every day this week, we're giving our readers the chance to win a **Manicare** prize pack, including Manicare Miracle Growth Booster, Flash Dry Top Coat, Mascara Wands and a Nail File.

For over 35 years, Manicare has offered a comprehensive range of quality, tried and tested nail treatments, hand and nail implements and beauty care accessories. Manicare, your trusted beauty tools brand provides solutions for all your nail, and beauty care need. Answer the daily questions for your chance to win Manicare's Flash Dry Top Coat, Miracle Growth Booster Nail Treatments, Mascara Wands and Nail File!

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

**What colourful on trend print did Manicare release recently to their Nail Files and Tweezers?**

Hint! Visit [www.manicare.com.au](http://www.manicare.com.au).

## ASMI codeine update

**THE** Australian Self-Medication Industry says that OTC medicines containing codeine are an "effective short-term option for temporary relief of moderate to strong pain," with the comments following the release of findings from a University of Adelaide study which found large and frequent doses of codeine may increase sensitivity to pain in mice.

The study which looked at the effects of codeine in mice, used very high doses.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**A MOTHER** in the Eastern European country of Georgia in the former USSR has preserved the body of her son for the last 18 years using vodka.

Tsiuri Kvaratshkelia said that after her son Joni died aged 22 she decided against burying him, so that the young man's own baby child "could see what kind of father he had".

Joni's body was placed in a coffin with a special viewing window, and the family initially used traditional methods such as balsam sap to preserve the body.

However soon Tsiuri said she had a dream in which "somebody was telling me to wake up and start using vodka to care for the body".

"I have been using spirit liquid poultices since then...you must not leave the body without them during the night because it will turn black," she said.

**THIS** family will be very good pharmacy customers.

A couple in the US state of Arizona are dealing with a lot of sleepless nights after the woman gave birth to five naturally conceived babies last week.

The quintuplets were born healthy at 32 weeks of gestation to Evonne and Dion Derrico.

They've all been named starting with 'D' in accordance with family tradition: Deniko (boy), Dariz (boy), Deonee (girl), Daician (girl), and Daiten (another girl).



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