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Patent cliff \$65b hit

GLOBALLY, pharmaceutical companies will sustain an estimated \$65b drop in sales by 2019 due to patent expiries of major money earning drugs according to research and consulting firm GlobalData.

Main companies mentioned included Otsuka, Eli Lilly, and AstraZeneca (AZ) with central nervous system products the main therapeutic area impacted, the company said.

AZ's loss of two thirds of its Seroquel (quetiapine fumarate) business to generics, Eli Lilly's \$5b loss of Zyprexa (olanzapine) business and Otsuka's Abilify (aripiprazole) anticipated losses led the negative growth.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the report.

GP prescribing differs by location

A REPORT has found the likelihood of a GP prescribing drugs for some common conditions varied depending on location in Australia.

From the National Health Performance Authority (NHPA) using BEACH data from 2009 to 2013, the report found that 11% of patients received a prescription for anxiety or depression in Southern Adelaide-Fleurieu-Kangaroo Island and Central Adelaide and Hills, while in Hume, it was 74%.

In South Eastern Melbourne and Sunshine Coast, 26% of patients were prescribed statins for selected cardiovascular risk conditions compared with 40% in Eastern Sydney and Central Queensland.

NHPA ceo Dr Diane Watson said there were many factors when deciding what management was appropriate and the report made no suggestion that higher or lower prescription rates was more or less appropriate.

Consumers Health Forum (CHF) ceo Adam Stankevicius said this difference indicated medical practice in the country would benefit from closer scrutiny, and governments should use the report to calculate what was best for physical and fiscal health.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the NHPA report.

PHARMAC saves \$52.2m

NEW Zealand's pharmaceutical management agency PHARMAC said it achieved NZ\$52.2m in savings in its 2014 annual review.

These savings meant over 10 years, the agency's budget savings for District Health Boards (DHBs) would exceed NZ\$5b, it said.

It had funded access to 26 new medicines in the year and was on budget at NZ\$795m combined yearly DHB pharmaceutical expenditure, it said.

The report said PHARMAC's expanded role in managing all hospital medicines, haemophilia

treatments, vaccines, as well as current negotiations for hospital medical devices, would save DHBs more than NZ\$100m over five years.

The top three funded medicines by cost were adalimumab, trastuzumab and dabigatran.

Writing in *Australian Prescriber*, University of Auckland School of Pharmacy senior lecturer Zaheer-Ud-Din Babar and University of South Australia Sansom Institute School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences senior research fellow Agnes Vitry said New Zealand achieved savings compared with Australia on 62 identical drug-dose combinations.

However, New Zealand's policies had been criticised because fewer medicines, including new drugs, were subsidised compared with other countries, with a comparative analysis showing only 59 of the 126 medicines listed on the PBS from 2000 and 2009 were listed in the New Zealand Pharmaceutical Schedule, they wrote.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the review.

PSA congratulates Hughes

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has congratulated Professor Jeff Hughes on the Australian Pharmaceutical Sciences Association medal, recognising a significant contribution to the pharmaceutical sciences and pharmacy practice.

National president Grant Kardachi said Hughes was a worthy recipient who had a global reputation for his commitment to teaching and learning.

Soliris in Japan

ALEXION has said that Soliris (eculizumab) has been granted orphan drug designation by Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare for the treatment of patients with myasthenia gravis.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more detail.

John Ware FIP award

EX-NATIONAL president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and Victorian community pharmacist John Ware has been presented with the Distinguished Service Award at the 2014 International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) annual congress in Bangkok, recognised for a commitment spanning more than 60 years, the organisation said.

Lacteeze Ultra added

ALLERGYFREE Pty Ltd has added Lacteeze Ultra to its range of lactose enzyme supplements and has an introductory special on the product - see **page three** for more.

Pharmacist disqualified

THE State Administrative Tribunal of Western Australia has found pharmacist Nicholas Gledhill engaged in professional misconduct, reprimanded him and disqualified him from applying for registration for two years.

The case of Gledhill had been referred to the tribunal by the Pharmacy Board of Australia earlier this year in relation to the dispensing or handling of S8 medications.

Gledhill pleaded guilty to the offences.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.



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Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

- 19-20 Jan: Tools for the Medicinal Chemist Symposium 2015; Parkville; see: www.monash.edu/pharm/about/events/tmc2015
- 1 Feb: Provide First Aid, Bankstown; see: www.psa.org.au
- 6-8 Feb: Foundation Seminar in Clinical Pharmacy Practice; Melbourne; for more details visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 14-16 Feb: Pharmacy Re-Entry Course: Refresher Training for Australian Community Pharmacy; St Leonards; more details available at: www.psa.org.au
- 21 Feb: Pharmacy in Focus: Bridging the Gap Workshop; Wagga Wagga; more details at: www.psa.org.au
- 21 Feb: Better Pharmacy Futures Forum; Wagga Wagga; more details at: www.psa.org.au
- 21-22 Feb: Pharmacy in Focus: Cardiovascular Weekend; Wagga Wagga; for more details please visit: www.psa.org.au
- 7-8 Mar: Oncology - Foundation Seminar; Melbourne; for more details visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 28-29 Mar: Paediatric Seminar; Adelaide; for more visit website: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 17-20 Apr: 3rd BioCeuticals Research Symposium, titled 'Interconnected Drivers of Health and Disease'; Sydney; more details at: www.bioceuticals.com.au

PGNZ: inc fee concern

THE Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand (PGNZ) has written to the Pharmacy Council of NZ to say its members are concerned at the proposed increase to the Pharmacist Annual Practising Certificate fee from NZ\$506 to NZ\$571.

The Guild said the combined cost of all three compulsory parts of a pharmacist's practise added up to NZ\$1136 annually.

Its members saw these costs contributing to decisions to cease practice, and an increase to the fee would disproportionately affect those pharmacists who worked less frequent hours, the Guild said.

77% nursing home residents use DAPs

SEVENTY seven per cent of nursing home residents, or 53,805, used at least one drug with anticholinergic properties (DAPs), according to a study published in *Drugs and Aging*.

The study, looking at Medicare data from 2007 to 2008, said older adults with dementia were vulnerable to the central deteriorating effects of DAPs.

It concluded that clinicians should consider alternatives with lower anticholinergic effects.

CLICK HERE to access.

Stilnox dosage change recommended

VICTORIAN coroner Peter White has recommended that the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) halve the dosage of Stilnox (zolpidem) for female patients.

The recommendation came as part of the Coroner's findings for the death of Phoebe Handsjuk, who died from blood loss and injuries sustained after climbing into the rubbish chute in her apartment, "in the setting of alcohol and zolpidem consumption".

As reported by *Pharmacy News*, White recommended the Royal Australian College of GPs examine existing prescribing practises around Stilnox and provide doctors with advice about the dangers of over prescribing the drug.

White recommended only 5 mg tablets be permitted to be supplied in Australia, and that 10 mg tablets should not be offered.

The TGA said current information for Stilnox contained warnings not to use with alcohol, and it had recently reviewed zolpidem products.

In August, the Medicines Safety Update included information about Stilnox and next day impairment. (*PD* 04 Aug).

The TGA said it would consider the Coroner's finding.

CLICK HERE to read the findings.



DISPENSARY CORNER

GOOD lord put the uniform back on!

If your pharmacy has a uniform, you may be missing out on the joy that is absolutely hideous Christmas jumpers.

The *Telegraph* has asked its readers whether James Cochrane of Toronto's offering is the ugliest Christmas garment in creation.

The jersey has a working model train set attached to it, as well as a gigantic Christmas tree, a model house and, of course, lights.

It turns out the hideousness is for a good cause too, with Cochrane telling the publication he hoped the fashion travesty would inspire people to donate to the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day.

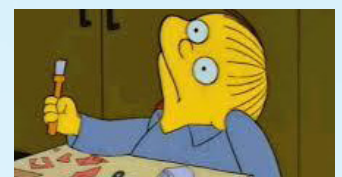
CLICK HERE to view a video of the jumper at work.

IMA Pseudonym et al.

We've wondered before whether researchers have fun with their pharmaceutical trial names (*PD* 25 Sep), so why not the researchers' names?

Alas, they really should be real names, as opposed to the Simpsons characters submitted as authors of a made-up paper from a fabricated university to two scientific journals, both of which accepted the proffered nonsense, *The Washington Post* reported.

Apparently, the papers were submitted under the names of Maggie Simpson and Edna Krabappel to try and catch out bad science journals, with author Alex Smolyanitsky lamenting that the second name used wasn't Ralph Wiggum, the *Post* reported.



Win with AROMABABY

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and *Aromababy* are giving readers the chance to win an Aromababy Hair and Body Kit.

Aromababy's Pure Hair Cleanse has been soothing scalps and cradle cap for almost two decades. As the first sulphate free and low-foam baby shampoo enriched with natural oils, this mild shampoo substitute is like all Aromababy products, based on research the company says. It is suitable for anyone with dry scalp concerns.

To win, be the first person from **VIC** or **TAS** to send the correct answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



Is Aromababy's Pure Hair Cleanse suitable for older children as well as for babies?

Hint: www.aromababy.com

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Graeme Cameron**.

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- ✓ **New easy to swallow caplet**.

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Lacteeze Ultra 8 Caplets	916587	174516	172685	\$5.95	

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