

Nestle diet study

NESTLE will study the link between diet and disease in a new biotech partnership with Cellular Dynamics International (CDI).

Nestle Institute of Health Sciences director Emmanuel Baetge said in the *Wall Street Journal* that Nestle, which produces food and beverages, including chocolate and soups, would use brain and liver cells from CDI to study how nutrients in foods affected human cells.

The company hoped the partnership would help it develop more profitable offerings.

Both companies are expected to announce the deal this week.

Farxiga FDA approved

THE U.S. FDA has approved Farxiga (dapaglifozin) tablets for adults with type 2 diabetes.

Dapaglifozin propanediol monohydrate was approved in Australia under specific conditions on 05 Oct 2012 and sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Farxiga had been rejected in the US previously over safety concerns but an outside advisory panel said the benefits outweighed the risks, *Reuters* reported.

The Australian submission details can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Fifty years of tobacco

IT has been fifty years since Dr Luther Terry delivered the first Surgeon General's Report outlining the links between tobacco use, lung cancer and death and the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) has released a number of papers on this topic.

A clinical evidence synopsis 'Pharmacological Treatments for Smoking Cessation' found that among the three first-line smoking cessation treatments, higher rates of cessation were associated with nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) at 17.6% and bupropion at 19.1% compared with placebo at 10.6%. Varenicline and combination NRT (for instance a patch plus inhaler) were most effective at 27.6% and 31.5% respectively.

'Maintenance Treatment with Varenicline for Smoking Cessation in Patients with Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder' said it was estimated that more than half of those with serious mental illness smoked regularly and that while standard courses of pharmacotherapeutic cessation aids helped short term abstinence, most who achieved it rapidly relapsed after stopping the courses.

The paper looked at whether

maintenance pharmacotherapy would achieve higher rates of prolonged tobacco abstinence among smokers diagnosed with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

"Among smokers with serious mental illness who attained initial abstinence with standard treatment, maintenance pharmacotherapy with varenicline and cognitive behavioural therapy improved prolonged tobacco abstinence rates compared with cognitive behavioral therapy alone after 1 year of treatment and at 6 months after treatment discontinuation.

For more [CLICK HERE](#).

Di-Gesic & Doloxene

ASPEN Australia has advised new conditions concerning prescribing and dispensing Di-Gesic (dextropropoxyphene HCL) and Doloxene (dextropropoxyphene napsylate).

The conditions came into effect on 01 Jan.

Doctors need to complete a Prescriber Confirmation Form for all new prescriptions written after 01 Jan.

Audit and pharmacy copies need to be presented with the script to the pharmacy before dispensation.

"Pharmacists should not dispense an original script without the Prescriber Confirmation Form," said Aspen, "even if the script was written prior to 1 January 2014.

"Repeat prescriptions do not require a Prescriber Confirmation Form, regardless of when they were first dispensed."

The Therapeutic Goods Administration has posted a handy dextropropoxyphene Q&A section on their website (*PD* yesterday).

For more, [CLICK HERE](#).

Telehealth pharmacy

A new business will offer a telehealth service for residential aged care facilities (RACF) and pharmacy could be included in the service in future.

Researchers from the University of Queensland's Centre for Online Health (COH) and the Centre for Research in Geriatric Medicine (CRGM) have established RES-e-CARE through the university's commercial arm, Uniquest.

The service will provide RACFs with regular consultations via video conferencing studios and clinical support staff trained in telehealth.

COH director Professor Len Gray said there were "very interesting possibilities" around the involvement of the pharmacy discipline, in particular that the integration of GPs, pharmacists and geriatricians in RACF medical care could be useful.

"By using a combination of online and video-consultation interactions, these professionals might be able to work together simultaneously to secure an optimal result, with a much higher degree of efficiency.

"The overall effect would be greater coverage at lower cost."

This would most likely require changes to the Medicare payments schedule, however, including the ability to consult online. RES-e-CARE would explore the idea of incorporating pharmacy during its R&D process.

NYC approves pot

NEW York governor Andrew Cuomo will allow medical marijuana in some hospitals.

Twenty hospitals statewide would be allowed to prescribe marijuana to patients with cancer and some other ailments, a plan enacted not by legislation but executive order, *CBS New York* reported.

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AusPAR additions

GSK'S Revolade (eltrombopag olamine) and Takeda's Instanyl (fentanyl citrate) have had major variations approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration and detailed on the Australian Public Assessment Reports (AusPARs) - **CLICK HERE** to read.

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*.

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CHOOSE from a range of 36 cruises in Europe and Asia with Azamara Club Cruises and receive US\$1000 of credit to spend onboard or on shore excursions when booked by 31 Jan 2014.

The sale is on offer for selected Europe cruises departing between April to November 2014 and selected Asia cruises departing between December 2014 and March 2015.

For instance, the Azamara Journey will take guests on a nine night Mediterranean cruise from Barcelona to Rome, departing 18 Oct 2014, from \$3009 for a club interior stateroom.

For more info see

www.azamarclubcruises.com.

Or for the land-bound, selected Carlson Rezidor hotels are giving guests one night free when they stay three nights.

The deal runs until 13 April and when guests stay for three eligible nights, they will have earned enough Gold points to stay a free night at one of Carlson Rezidor's category one to four hotels.

For more info go to www.clubcarlson.com

Price disclosure impact

DAVID Quilty, president of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, has responded to Medicines Australia (MA) ceo Brendan Shaw who has stressed that unlike other elements of the Australian healthcare system, PBS spending is sustainable with price disclosure impacting on jobs in big pharma companies.

"However," said Quilty in a letter to the Australian Financial Review, "it must not be forgotten that price disclosure is also having a serious impact on retail pharmacy small businesses and local jobs."

He reminded readers that around 5,300 Australian community pharmacies will lose "the equivalent of between one and two full-time jobs this year due to government savings from price disclosure."

UK Irbesartan recall

TEVA UK Ltd in conjunction with the MHRA has instigated a recall of Irbesartan / Hydrochlorothiazide, Teva strength combinations 300/12.5 mg & 300/25 mg due to incorrect patient information.

CLICK HERE for details.

"The Pharmacy Guild estimates up to 40 per cent of pharmacies risk becoming unviable or only marginally viable."

"Pharmacists continue to support cheaper medicines for consumers, but the real and serious flow-on impact of price disclosure needs to be fully recognised," he added.

Cancer services grant

FRESENIUS Kabi Australia (FKA) has a total of \$10,000 available for members of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA). FKA is looking to fund research that leads to better quality of life and use of medicines in patients accessing cancer services.

Up to \$5000 would be awarded as one or more grants for applicants embarking on either a preceptorship and/or attending a conference or a research project in the area of oncology, haematology, stem cell transplantation or palliative care.

Technicians with all levels of experience were encouraged to apply, the SHPA said.

For more, **CLICK HERE**.

Diet products charges

THE US Federal Trade Commission has charged four companies with deceptively marketing weight-loss products.

It said the companies made unfounded promises by saying food additives, skin creams and other dietary supplements could help consumers lose weight, the *New York Times* reported.

The companies are Sensa Products, L'Occitane, HCG Diet Direct and LeanSpa.

For more **CLICK HERE**.



DISPENSARY CORNER

BECAUSE pharmacy.

If you're seeking a succinct way to explain something, look no further - the American Dialect Society has chosen the 'because-noun' as its word of the year.

The 'because-noun', made popular by the internet (what else?) is a term used when explaining nebulous reasons or proof succinctly, or as the *Telegraph* puts it, it's "an ironic and efficient explainer online."

Why? Because words.

GOING bananas.

Five supermarkets in Berlin discovered what police called a "logistical error" by drug smugglers when containers of bananas were found to contain a total of 140kg of cocaine.

Staff found the fruit/drug combo shortly before the bananas went on sale on Monday, *Reuters* said.

The cartons were seven of 1,134 boxes which came by ship from Colombia to Hamburg and delivered to a fruit wholesaler and then the supermarkets.

ALL at sea.

The next time someone asks for some sea sickness medication, just think of poor Tseng Lien-fa, stranded at sea for 60 hours.

The Taiwanese fisherman, who can't swim, was swept away by a wave but managed to cling to a piece of wood until reaching shore 75km from where he had started, the *Telegraph* reported.

Shake It Up with IsoWhey® - WIN



This week **Pharmacy Daily** has teamed up with **IsoWhey** for a daily giveaway. Every day one lucky reader will have the chance to win a selected flavour from the IsoWhey range.

Scientifically formulated and recommended by practitioners, the IsoWhey range contains a balanced mix of vitamins, minerals, digestive enzymes, prebiotic fibre and probiotics. The range extends beyond weight management solutions as a comprehensive nutritional offering.

The IsoWhey range is available in five flavours: Madagascar Vanilla, Strawberry Smoothie, Ivory Coast Chocolate, Banana Smoothie & Classic Coffee. For more info, visit www.isowhey.com.au.

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

What type of protein does IsoWhey feature?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Paul Tucker** from **Coobe Bay Pharmacy**. The correct answer was 23.