

Peptide for asthma

A **STUDY** has found a possible new drug to treat asthma.

Published in *PLOS One*, the study, led by the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research, tested a peptide derived from the tumstatin molecule, LF-15, on asthmatic mice and human airway tissue.

Co-author of the study Dr Brian Oliver said the study showed the peptide reduced airway hyperactivity and inflammation in both mice and humans.

"And we were able to do so with a totally new approach that reduces inflammation by stopping new blood vessels from forming, a very different mechanism when compared to traditional anti-inflammatory drugs," he said.

"That makes our discovery a potentially new and exciting treatment alternative."

To read the study, **CLICK HERE**.



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CHF backpedals on S3 ads

THE Consumer Health Forum (CHF) has issued a correction, following its statement on Thursday that it had written to the Pharmacy Board of Australia regarding its concern that the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (PGA) and the Australian Self-Medication Industry (ASMI) were calling for authorities to ease advertising bans on codeine and ibuprofen.

The CHF had said the combination of such drugs was addictive and potentially dangerous in large doses, and that the advertising proposal "sounds like giving vampires directions to the blood bank."

However ASMI said it had been explicit in exempting codeine-containing analgesics, as well as pseudoephedrine from its proposal to introduce an alternative regulatory model for advertising Pharmacist Only medicines.

"Under ASMI's proposed model, the emphasis will be on creating consumer awareness about the condition and/or symptoms for a selection of Pharmacist Only medicines, and highlighting the importance of the role of the pharmacist in determining whether the product is appropriate for that consumer."

Examples included proton-pump inhibitors (PPIs) for the treatment of heartburn, it said.

The Guild said the CHF was verballing it and misrepresenting its position in an unfortunate way.

"We support measures which emphasise the importance of seeking the advice of pharmacists in relation to the quality use of all

medicines."

The CHF issued a correction later in the day, saying it had been wrong to state that the self-medication industry and the Guild called for the easing of advertising restrictions on over-the-counter sales of codeine.

CHF spokesman Mark Metherell said while the industry was calling for an easing of advertising bans on Pharmacy Only products, "CHF accepts that the Australian Self-Medication Industry has stated that the changes could make exceptions, where it was in the public interest, to exclude S3 products like codeine-containing analgesics."

Vit D and Parkinsons

HIGHER vitamin D levels were associated with better cognition and mood in a sample of patients with Parkinson's Disease without dementia, a new study has found. Published in the *Journal of Parkinson's Disease*, 'Memory, Mood and Vitamin D in Persons with Parkinson's Disease' found that "significant associations" were found between the vitamin's concentration and verbal fluency and memory.

To read the study, **CLICK HERE**.

Ranbaxy Toansa out

THE US FDA has now prohibited Ranbaxy's Toansa, India facility from producing and distributing drugs for the U.S. market.

This follows an earlier quality alert from the FDA (**PD** 16 Jan).

For more details **CLICK HERE**.

Raven's recruitment

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Capricornia Region, QLD (Job# 2010012)
Pro-active Group - focus on customers/professional services. \$40-\$45/hr +
- **Pharmacist** - Riverina Region, NSW (Job# 2009912)
Diverse opportunity involving work between community & hospital sector
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Eyre Peninsula, SA (Job# 2010357)
Get work/life balance with 5.5 days per week in a laid-back country town.

our dynamic support can move your business or career forward!

Next Pharmacy Daily

YOUR next **PD** issue will appear in your inbox on Tue 28 Jan following the Australia Day public holiday.

J&J global health coy

JOHNSON and Johnson (J&J) subsidiary, Janssen, has formed a new group targeting "unmet global health demands."

The Janssen Global Public Health (Janssen GPH) group would focus on developing and introducing its most promising medicines, the coy said.

Janssen worldwide chairman Paul Stoffels said it was essential to emphasise the needs of the developing world in equal measure to those of the developed.

The group would be responsible for clinical and product development and creating and implementing new access strategies, he added.

For more, **CLICK HERE**.

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Advertising amended

SEVERAL companies have changed their advertising following UK MHPR action to ensure prescription only medicine is not promoted to the public.

To read the list, [CLICK HERE](#).

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.

4 Feb: Cardiovascular Disease & Type 2 Diabetes Risk Assessment; Brisbane; call: (07) 3831 9246

8 Feb: Pharmacy on the Move; Sydney; more info at: www.psa.org.au

21-23 Feb: CPD by the SEA - NSW Convention; Novotel Sydney Manly Pacific; www.cpdbythesea.com.au

21-23 Feb: Foundation Clinical Pharmacy Practice Seminar; InterContinental Adelaide - see more at: www.shpa.org.au

28 Feb - 1 Mar: Blackmores Institute Symposium; Australian Technology Park, Sydney; more info at: <http://wired.ivvy.com/event/BIS13/>

1-2 Mar: Cardiology Seminar; Sofitel Gold Coast Broadbeach - visit: www.shpa.org.au

7-9 March: PSA Annual Therapeutic Update; Crown Plaza Terrigal; see www.psa.org.au/conferences

13-16 Mar: Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual National Conference APP 2014, Gold Coast - see www.appconference.com

11-12 Apr: 2nd BioCeuticals Research Symposium; Sofitel Sydney Wentworth; see: www.bioceuticals.com.au

12-14 Apr: FIP Fifth Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress, Melbourne - for details [CLICK HERE](#).

Gold Questionnaire up

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has again made available the *Annual Gold Questionnaire*.

PSA national president Grant Kardachi, said that the questionnaire is one of the profession's most popular education tools and is "a great way to refresh your knowledge and get a good number of CPD credits as well."

"Now that the *Annual Gold Questionnaire* is a dedicated online tool, it is even easier to use."

"Members just have to sign in and fill in the questionnaire and proceed to the multiple-choice questions."

"The questionnaire is also increasingly being used to guide small group discussions with

peers and for those pharmacists not involved in direct clinical care," he added, "it can help to raise awareness of current issues affecting pharmacy practice in Australia."

Its learning objectives are to become familiar with a variety of current and reliable Australian references and resources, and to refresh knowledge on a variety of clinical and primary care topics.

The questionnaire has been accredited for 7.5 hours of Group 2 CPD (or 15 Group 2 CPD credits) suitable to include in your plan.

Access the *Annual Gold Questionnaire* through the Online Learning area of the PSA website at www.psa.org.au.

Vit B12 for depression

A NEW randomised controlled trial published in *The Open Neurology Journal* has shown that patients taking SSRIs for Major Depressive Disorder may benefit additionally from taking vit B12.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the study.

DDS free hearing tests

DISCOUNT Drug Stores (DDS), with Australian Hearing, is running free hearing clinics in more than 100 of its stores until March, to help fight hearing loss.

Customers over 21 years old can book an appointment online to have their hearing tested using an audiometer by an Australian Hearing Health promotions office, Discount Drug Stores said.

The officer would explain the outcome and advise customers on what to do next such as seeking further medical advice if required.

Customers could also visit to get general advice about ear care or discuss concerns about hearing, it said.

DDS professional services manager Casey Clark said that people should get regular testing to make sure problems were picked up and treated before permanent damage occurred.

"Often by the time they've sought help, their condition has already significantly impacted their quality of life," she pointed out.

"This is what our clinics aim to address by giving customers a greater understanding of hearing loss and of the physical, social and psychological side effects that come from waiting too long to get tested."

For more, [CLICK HERE](#).

DISPENSARY CORNER

CRACK open a bean, mate.

The Jelly Belly company has bowed to consumer demand and created the first beer flavoured jelly bean.

The company said it had taken three years to develop the bean, which doesn't contain any alcohol, the *Telegraph* reported.

The company said the flavour was clean, with notes of wheat and a touch of sweetness; its aroma, apparently, is mildly bread-like, the publication said.

PHARMACY123456

SplashData has released its annual list of the most common passwords found on the internet, and for 2013, 'password' lost its top place to 123456.

Other top ten passwords include the nauseating 'iloveyou' at number nine and, unimaginatively, 12345678, which comes in third.

WIN A SPOTNER AGESPOT CORRECTOR PEN

This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a Spotner Agespot Corrector Pen, valued at \$29.95.

New Spotner Agespot Corrector Pen revolutionises the treatment of age spots. With its precision pen applicator, Spotner works to visibly reduce the appearance of age spots. With a simple twice daily treatment, results can be seen within just two weeks.

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In what direction should you twist the bottom of the pen?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Lisa Piercy** from **Terry White**. Correct answer to yesterday's question: Two weeks.