



**IF YOUR CUSTOMERS
ARE TAKING A COURSE
OF ANTIBIOTICS**

a probiotic such as Inner Health Plus may assist in maintaining the balance of good bacteria.

INNER HEALTH PLUS
Always read the label. Use only as directed.

Buzz off, mozzies

FEDERAL health minister Peter Dutton yesterday provided details of a partnership with the Qld state government targeting the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.

Dengue fever, Japanese encephalitis and chikungunya are being tackled "at the source" with almost \$4m committed to the initiative, directing funding to the Torres Strait Islands region and for health communications with PNG.

Teams of experts will search out mosquito breeding sites in the Torres Strait, which they will treat with backpack mist-blowers and hi-tech tractor-mounted sprayers.

Dutton said that recent outbreaks of dengue in North Queensland had seen 180 locally acquired cases in Cairns, Townsville, Charters Towers and Innisfail.

Dengue is carried and spread by several mosquito varieties including the Asian Tiger Mosquito which is currently only found in the Torres Strait but has the capacity to spread to mainland Queensland.

Vaccination consultation

THE Australian Pharmacy Council has launched a public consultation, seeking comment from the industry and consumers on the accreditation of vaccination training courses for pharmacists.

The move follows the release of the draft *Standards for the accreditation of programs to support pharmacist administration of vaccines* - a document which aims to define "measurable attributes that vaccination programs must demonstrate."

The proposed standards would be used to assess whether training activities ensure that pharmacists receive complete and current education and training in the area of vaccinations, and also that the assessment of each pharmacist's competence is "valid, reliable, flexible and fair".

The new draft standards are

based on work undertaken by the Vaccination Working Group of the Advanced Pharmacy Practice Framework Steering Committee (APPFSC), which has developed a consolidated set of competencies necessary for pharmacists to administer vaccines.

The consultation period ends at 5pm AEST on 01 August, after which feedback will be incorporated into the standards and a further version released for consultation in October.

The standards are not intended to be applied to undergraduate education or intern training programs, the overview states.

It's envisaged that the final standards will be publicly released in December this year.

CLICK HERE to view the draft.

BMS US warfarin recall

BRISTOL-MYERS Squibb (BMS) is voluntarily recalling six lots of Coumadin for injection (warfarin sodium) 5 mg single-use vials in the US due to "particulate matter" found in the product.

Australian supplies are not known to be affected.

TGA ticks Eloctate

ELOCTATE (efraloctocog alfa) from Biogen Idec is the first long-acting antithaemophilic factor haemophilia A and has now been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for adults and children under certain conditions.

This follows the TGA approval of the company's Alprolix (eftrenonacog alfa) for the treatment of patients with Haemophilia B (**PD** 09 May 14).

APC Colloquium

INTERNATIONAL keynote speaker Marshall Moleschi from the Ontario College of Pharmacists will be one of the presenters at this year's Australian Pharmacy Council 2014 Accreditation Colloquium.

Set to take place on Tuesday 19th August 2014 at Rydges Southbank in Brisbane, the 2014 Colloquium is titled "Mysteries of Time and Space: Preparing future practitioners for patient centred care".

The event will be streamed online, with participants encouraged to post comments and questions via a live Twitter feed - **CLICK HERE** for registration details.

Solvadi approval

SOLVADI (sofosbuvir), a new direct acting antiviral treatment for chronic hepatitis C infection, has been approved by the TGA, with the medication being considered next week by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

Said to represent a major advance for treatment of the condition, Solvadi enables shorter treatment duration against all strains of hepatitis C with few side effects and shorter treatment time via a once daily dosing regime.

Chronic hepatitis C currently affects an estimated 230,000 people in Australia.

Novel lung function test tool

RESEARCHERS at Sydney's Woolcock Institute of Medical Research have found that an emerging lung function tool is both "more informative and easier to use" than currently available tools including peak flow measurement.

The so-called "forced oscillation technique" (FOT) is not actually new, having been invented in 1950 - but it hasn't been able to be used until recent technological advances which have allowed such a sophisticated device to be produced more economically.

The new technique is expected to be particularly useful in small children where it's often quite difficult to use peak flow measurement.

Woolcock paediatric respiratory physician, Dr Paul Robinson, said FOT can help doctors tell how well controlled the asthma in a child

is, and gauge the severity of the condition.

The Woolcock study, published today in the CHEST journal, involved the use of FOT daily on 22 asthmatic children aged 8-12 who attended a five day camp organised by the NSW Asthma Foundation.

Compared to peak flow tests the FOT results were more sensitive, with Robinson saying children whose asthma was poorly controlled or more severe had greater fluctuation in the degree of airway narrowing from day to day.

Peak flow measurements also didn't show any relationships to asthma control or severity.

Dr Robinson said it was hoped that the results of the study may motivate a commercial manufacturer to come on board and bring a FOT device for home monitoring to market.

**Boost your
pharmacy
career.**

Apply today.

utas.edu.au/2014 | 13UTAS

**UNIVERSITY OF
TASMANIA**

CRICOS Provider Code: 00586B



Your Pharmacy Recruitment Experts

FreeCall: 1800 429 829

Email: info@ravensrecruitment.com.au

Web: www.ravensrecruitment.com.au

Jobs of the Week

- **Retail Manager** - Brisbane, QLD (Job# 2010654)
Unique pharmacy location - great community and experienced team.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Melbourne, VIC (Job# 2010632)
Join a new and innovative brand about 40km north west of Melbourne CBD.
- **Aged Care Pharmacist** - Rural NSS (Job# 2010645)
High end salary for 3 year contract for experienced Aged Care Pharmacist.

Australia's largest and longest running specialist pharmacy employment agency

Futuro lends a hand (and a foot)

FUTURO has launched a new range of products to help people suffering from joint discomfort to sleep without pain.

The Futuro Night Wrist Sleep Support and Futuro Night Plantar Fasciitis Sleep Support are wrist and ankle braces designed to stabilise and cushion the joints, allowing sufferers to sleep and wake in comfort.

Futuro claims that wrist and foot strains are becoming increasingly common among Australians, with causes related both to accidents and sporting injuries as well as simply stiff and painful joints.

Actavis Furiex deal

ACTAVIS subsidiary Forest Laboratories has finalised the acquisition of Furiex Pharmaceuticals, in an all cash deal valued at about US\$1.1 billion.

The takeover boosts Actavis' focus on gastroenterology, with Furiex's developmental drugs including bowel treatment eluxadoline.

Fourth term for Kardachi

PHARMACEUTICAL Society of Australia National President, Grant Kardachi, was yesterday re-elected for a fourth term at a meeting of the PSA National Board in Canberra.

The meeting also re-elected Joe Demarte as Vice President, while outgoing Vice President, Claire O'Reilly, has been replaced by Michelle Lynch.

Nexium for UK OTC

NEXIUM Control 20 mg gastro-resistant tablets are being reviewed for a possible reclassification to a general sales listed (GSL) product by the UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

This follows an application through the EU's centralised procedure, under which Nexium Control was approved as a non-prescription medicine by the European Commission almost twelve months ago.

Nexium is an esomeprazole salt used to treat reflux oesophagitis and gastric or duodenal ulcers.

Kardachi said he was honoured to have been chosen once again to lead the PSA's 18,000 members for another year.

"Over the past few years PSA has gained greater respect, recognition and acceptance as being the major representative voice of the whole of the pharmacy profession in this country," he claimed.

"PSA has members from all sectors of the pharmacy profession, from all areas of Australia, and this gives the Society strength as well as great responsibility," he added.

Kardachi said the profession is also entering an important period, with negotiations for the next Community Pharmacy Agreement set to begin soon as well as new business models becoming increasingly important to pharmacy's sustainability.

He said the PSA had developed close working relationships with a range of stakeholders, with a view to seeking opportunities for pharmacists while improving the health outcomes of the communities that they serve.

India trials blocked

NEW pharmaceutical clinical trials in India have ground to a halt, with the approval process stalled by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) which is now taking extreme caution in evaluating submissions.

Between Jul and Aug 2013, the DCGI had received up to 1,122 applications - 285 of which were approved by India's New Drug Committee but just 162 were cleared by the DCGI, according to India's *Pharmabiz.com* website.

Then the clinical trial process was further stalled last year when the Supreme Court of India issued an order in October staying all of the 162 DCGI approvals.

The court's judgement said it considered that the number of uncontrolled clinical trials sponsored by drug companies across India outstripped the country's ability to safely monitor them, potentially resulting in "hundreds of deaths" from unethical practices.

Only 25 Indian clinical trials have received approval to proceed in the first half of 2014.

MIMS Updates

July 2014

NEW PRODUCTS

Altargo (retapamulin) is a semisynthetic derivative of pleurumutillin. Retapamulin selectively inhibits bacterial protein synthesis by interacting with the 50S subunit of the bacterial ribosome in a way distinct from other nonpleurumutillin antibiotics, partially blocks P-site interactions, prevents normal formation of active 50S ribosomal subunits, and therefore appears to inhibit bacterial protein synthesis by multiple mechanisms. Due to this distinct mode of action, in vitro target specific cross resistance with retapamulin and other classes of antibiotics is rare. Altargo is indicated for the short-term treatment of superficial skin infections (including impetigo, infected small lacerations, abrasions, sutured wounds, and secondarily infected dermatoses) in adults, adolescents, children and infants aged from 9 months, in the absence of abscess formation and infections due to MRSA. Altargo is available as an ointment (1% w/w) for topical use in tubes of 5 g and 15 g.

Cleviprex (clevipidine) is a dihydropyridine L-type calcium channel blocker. Experiments in anaesthetised rats and dogs show that clevidipine reduces mean arterial blood pressure by decreasing systemic vascular resistance. Cleviprex is indicated for the short-term treatment of hypertension when oral therapy is not feasible or desirable. Cleviprex is contraindicated in patients with known allergies to soybeans, soy products, eggs or egg products. Cleviprex emulsion for infusion is available as single use vials containing 25 mg/5 mL and 50 mg/100 mL in packs of 10's.

Dymista 125/50 (azelastine hydrochloride/ fluticasone propionate) contains azelastine hydrochloride, a pthalazinone derivative, classified as a

potent long-acting antiallergic compound with selective H₁-antagonist, mast cell stabilising and anti-inflammatory properties, and fluticasone propionate which has potent anti-inflammatory activity. Dymista 125/50 is indicated in the symptomatic treatment of moderate to severe allergic rhinitis and rhinoconjunctivitis in adults and children 12 years and older where use of a combination (intranasal antihistamine and glucocorticoid) is appropriate. Dymista nasal spray (azelastine (base) 125 microgram, fluticasone propionate 50 microgram per spray) is available as a 17 mL bottle containing 120 sprays.

Gazyva (obinituzumab) is a recombinant monoclonal humanised and glycoengineered type II anti-CD20 antibody of the IgG1 isotype. Obinituzumab specifically targets the extracellular loop of the CD20 transmembrane antigen on the surface of nonmalignant and malignant pre-B and mature B lymphocytes. Gazyva in combination with chlorambucil is indicated for the treatment of patients with previously untreated chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL). Gazyva is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity (IgE mediated) to obinituzumab and murine proteins. Gazyva is available as a 1000 mg concentrate for infusion (40 mL) in a single dose vial.

Samsca (tolvaptan) is a selective vasopressin V₂-receptor antagonist with V₂-receptor affinity greater than that of native arginine vasopressin. This causes an increase in urine excretion resulting in increased aquareis, decreased urine osmolality and increased serum sodium concentrations. Urine excretion of sodium and potassium are not significantly affected. Samsca is indicated for the treatment

of clinically significant hypovolaemic or euvoalaemic hyponatraemia (serum sodium less than 125 mmol/L, or less marked hyponatraemia that is symptomatic and has resisted correction with fluid restriction) including patients with heart failure and syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone (SIADH). (Important limitations - patients requiring intervention to raise serum sodium urgently to prevent or to treat serious neurological symptoms should not be treated with Samsca. It has not been established that raising serum sodium with Samsca provides a symptomatic benefit to patients.) It is contraindicated in the following conditions. Patients hypersensitive to benzazepine derivatives; patients who are unable to sense or appropriately respond to thirst; patients suffering from hypovolaemic hyponatraemia; patients with anuria; urgent need to raise serum sodium acutely (not studied); coadministered strong CYP3A inhibitors (e.g. ketoconazole, itraconazole, clarithromycin, telithromycin, saquinavir, nelfinavir, ritonavir and nefazodone). Samsca is available as 15 mg tablets in packs of 10's.

Ultibro Breezhaler 110/50 (indacaterol maleate/ glycopyrronium bromide) is a beta₂-adrenergic agonist/ anticholinergic for oral inhalation. When indacaterol and glycopyrronium are administered together, they are expected to provide additive efficacy due to their different mode of action targeting different receptors and pathways to achieve smooth muscle relaxation. Due to the differential density of beta₂-adrenoreceptors and M₃-receptors in central versus smaller airways, beta₂-agonists should be more effective in relaxing small airways whilst an anticholinergic compound may be more effective in large airways. Thus for optimal bronchodilation in all regions of the human lung, a combination

of a beta₂-adrenergic agonist and a muscarinic antagonist may be beneficial. Ultibro 110/50 is indicated as once daily maintenance bronchodilator treatment to relieve symptoms in patients with COPD. Ultibro 110/50 capsules contain lactose and are therefore contraindicated in patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, severe lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption. Ultibro (indacaterol 110 microgram, glycopyrronium 50 microgram) is available as an oral inhalation capsule in packs of 30's with one Breezhaler inhalation device.

NEW INDICATIONS

Cimzia (certolizumab pegol) is now also indicated for the treatment of adults with active psoriatic arthritis where response to previous disease modifying antirheumatic drug therapy (DMARDs) has been inadequate. Cimzia has been shown to improve physical function. Cimzia is also indicated for the treatment of adults with active ankylosing spondylitis who have been intolerant to or have had inadequate response to at least one nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID).

Emtriva (emtricitabine) is now also indicated for the treatment of HIV in combination with other antiretroviral agents in paediatric patients 12 years of age and older, weighing more than 33 kg.

Kiovig (normal Immunoglobulin (human)) is also indicated for IV use in multifocal motor neuropathy.

Viread (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) is now also indicated for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B in paediatric patients 12 years of age and older with compensated

liver disease and with evidence of immune active disease, i.e. active viral replication, persistently elevated serum ALT levels or evidence of active inflammation.

Nexavar (sorafenib tosylate) is now also indicated for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic, progressive, differentiated thyroid carcinoma refractory to radioactive iodine.

Zonegran (zonisamide) is now also indicated in monotherapy in the treatment of partial seizures, with or without secondary generalisation, in adults with newly diagnosed epilepsy who are intolerant to other agents or where other agents are contraindicated.

NEW CONTRAINDICATIONS

Incivo (telaprevir) is now also contraindicated with the following CYP3A substrates - carbamazepine, phenobarbitone, phenytoin, flecainide, propafenone and astemizole.

Invirase (saquinavir mesylate) is now contraindicated with the use of quetiapine due to increased quetiapine related toxicity.

Ospolot (sulthiame) is now contraindicated in patients with sulfonamide hypersensitivity, known acute porphyria, hyperthyroidism or arterial hypertension.

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.

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.

- 7-10 Jul:** Annual Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Health Professional Educators (ANZAHPE); Gold Coast; www.anzahpe.org
- 9 Jul:** Pharmacy Live Webinar "Palliative Care In The Home"; Sydney; www.psa.org.au
- 19-21 Jul:** Pharmacy Re-Entry Course "Refresher Training for Community Pharmacy"; Sydney; see: www.psa.org.au
- 22-23 Jul:** Pharmacy "Essential Financial Skills"; Sydney; see: www.fmrbusdev.com.au
- 25-26 Jul:** Blackmores Institute Symposium: Integrating Natural Medicine Into Community Pharmacy - An Evidence-Based Approach; Sydney; more at: www.blackmoresinstitute.com.au
- 26-27 Jul:** Medication Review Skills in Primary Care; Sydney; more at: www.shpa.org.au
- 27 Jul:** Medicines Update 2014; Melbourne; more details at: www.psa.org.au
- 30 Jul:** Advanced Clinical Education Cardiovascular Seminar; Sydney; more at: www.psa.org.au
- 30 Jul-1 Aug:** The Pharmacy Management Conference; Surfers Paradise; more at: www.pharmacyconference.com.au/
- 10 Aug:** Managing Drug Interactions Seminar; Sydney; more at: www.pharmeducation.com.au
- 11-14 Aug:** Health Informatics Conference 2014; Melbourne; more at: www.hisa.org.au

MA warns on investment

MEDICINES Australia has highlighted new data from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) which it says shows Australia is behind other industrialised countries when it comes to investing in medicines.

The OECD Health Data 2014 report shows Australian public spending on pharmaceuticals is 0.7% of Gross Domestic Product, behind the OECD average of 0.8%.

"Australia is investing proportionately less of its income on new treatments for things like cancer, diabetes, rare diseases and cardiovascular disease than many other OECD countries," said MA ceo Dr Brendan Shaw, who described the figures as "very worrying."

He said the latest OECD figures don't even take into account the "massive price reductions and billions of dollars in savings delivered in Australia over the last 12 to 18 months through price disclosure reforms."

The latest Federal Budget figures show spending on medicines as a proportion of GDP had actually declined further, to 0.6% in 2013.

"While some critics lament Australia's spending on medicines,

the fact is we spend much less compared to many industrialised countries.

"We are underperforming, and will continue to lag behind countries such as Germany, Japan and even Greece," he said.

Medicines Australia warned that it could be possible that the under-investment in pharmaceutical spending "is also leading to higher spending in other parts of the health system."

Pharmaceeka website

A NEW online service aiming to connect pharmacy owners with locums has been launched by Victorian pharmacist Dougal Hunt.

A locum pharmacist for 11 years, Hunt says his 'Pharmaceeka' website fills a gap in the market which he personally experienced.

"With the number of registered pharmacists in Australia constantly growing and pharmacy profitability being greatly reduced, I felt there was demand for a cost-free internet based recruitment platform," he said.

Hunt said the new platform had already seen strong support since launching a month ago.

See www.pharmaceeka.com.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

WE couldn't see this one coming. A storekeeper in the US has accidentally shot a woman in the leg, as he demonstrated his wares at a gun exhibition.

According to Pennsylvania police, officials are considering charges against 44-year-old Geoffrey Hawk who was working on a booth for his shop at the Eagle Arms Guns show.

He apparently told officers he thought the gun was unloaded when he showed a customer how a "concealed-carry wallet holster" worked.

Unfortunately it wasn't, and the woman was taken to hospital where she was treated for a wound to her thigh.

HYGIENE is definitely in focus at a new museum in Tokyo which is dedicated to toilets and what usually goes into them.

The interactive exhibition contains fascinating educational items ranging from descriptions of how faeces is made through to a space toilet.

Visitors can also listen to a singing choir of toilet seats and S-bends, and for the ultimate toilet experience they can flush themselves down a five metre "toilet slide".

A spokesman for the museum, Tami Sakamaki, said "toilets and faeces are normally thought of as very unclean topics, but I would like for people to actively talk about them instead of just thinking that they're dirty."

DOWNLOAD the FREE *Pharmacy Daily* iOS App, **CLICK BELOW**.



WIN AN AROMABABY GIFT PACK

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and **Aromababy** are giving 5 readers the chance to win an Aromababy gift pack.

Pure, gentle organic. That's the Aromababy promise. Launched two decades ago as the first, natural baby brand of its kind, Aromababy offers a comprehensive selection of pure products for mother and child including unscented for sensitive skin.

100% Australian made and used in select hospitals, Aromababy offers absolute peace of mind when only the best will do.

Visit: www.aromababy.com

To win, be first to send in the correct answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



Can Aromababy products be used on sensitive skin?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Angie Lawson** from **HPS**