



PSA hails CPY Award

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has welcomed Dr Chris Freeman being named recipient of the 2014 Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy Consultant Pharmacist of the Year Award (**PD** 02 Jun 2014).

Freeman was a previous winner of the PSA's Young Pharmacist of the Year Award.

PSA national president Grant Kardachi said Freeman was a very worthy recipient of the award.

"Chris has pioneered work in establishing pharmacists within a GP practice and he has demonstrated by example that there are huge benefits available to patients and to the practice through this model."

Alexion recalls Soliris

ALEXION Pharmaceuticals has said it is initiating a voluntary recall in conjunction with the US Food and Drug Administration of certain lots of its Soliris (eculizumab) concentrated solution for intravenous infusion due to the presence of visible particles.

The company stated that the particles were detected in a single lot of Soliris during periodic stability testing of the treatment.

The affected lot was distributed only in the US and no safety risks to patients who had received Soliris had been identified, the company said.

Alexion also clarified that there was no financial impact from the voluntary recall.

For more information, **CLICK HERE**.

GSK posts \$42m profit

GLAXOSMITHKLINE (GSK) has reported total profit before tax of \$42m for 2013 on sales of \$1,414m.

The company's report to the Australian Securities and Investment Commission showed overall Australian group sales had decreased compared with the previous year, from \$1,452m, but profit before tax was up from \$41m.

Exports were down 1% to \$515m and investment in Research and Development was down 5% to \$51m.

Pharmaceutical manufacturing

saw an increase in sales of about 17% as investments in previous years began to deliver, GSK said.

The Consumer Healthcare division saw a drop in commercial sales of 4% and manufacturing sales of 20%, down from a total \$355m in the year prior.

It had experienced "significant supply challenges" in 2013 but with renewed focus on scientific discovery, new product developments were being expedited through the pipeline, Consumer Healthcare Australia general manager Vincent Cotard said.

GSK's opiates business continued to perform strongly, with year on year growth for the last three years, it said.

The company recently said its growing trials in Victoria had positive results (**PD** 19 May).

GSK announced the closure of its Stiefel skin science facility in Rowville, Victoria, with 22 jobs lost, at the end of May (**PD** 26 May).

CLICK HERE for more.

PGNZ nods free care

THE Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand (PGNZ) has come out in support of the New Zealand Green Party's policy to extend free health care to under 18s.

The \$29m plan involved offering free doctors' visits and prescription medicine to teenagers from 13 to 18 years old, PGNZ said.

PGNZ ceo Lee Hohaia said it was important to ensure affordable and accessible health care was available to teens as their health needs could be complex and potentially life altering.

"The Guild is pleased that the timeframe proposed enables sufficient time to ensure the funding will support service provision without cutting back on services.

"We would welcome further extension of this targeting to other at risk groups such as the elderly and high deprivation communities."

APC seeks gov council director

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) is calling for applications for directors of the governing council.

The APC Council was responsible for the governance of accreditation functions and had one councillor position available from 01 Jul.

The APC was a company and councillors were company directors, APC said.

Appointments are for an initial three year term but councillors can reapply for a maximum of three terms.

For more info, **CLICK HERE**.

'openFDA' launched

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has launched 'openFDA', a new initiative designed to make it easier for web developers, researchers and the public to access large, valuable public health datasets collected by the agency.

The FDA said that the initiative was in line with the recent Presidential Executive Order on Open Data and the Department of Health and Human Services Health Data Initiative.

The database utilises a search-based Application Program Interface (API) to collect large amounts of existing publicly available data, offering developers the ability to search through text within that data, ranking results and even enabling developers to build their own applications on top of the open database.

More information is available at open.fda.gov.

New learning module

STARTING this month all the pharmacies in Australia can access 'Nasodren: a new approach to Rhinosinusitis', a course offered by iTherapeutics and offering a certificate as a Rhinosinusitis specialist and up to 100 iRewards for the first 500 completions.

The free online course has been developed for pharmacists and their assistants and can be accessed by **CLICKING HERE**.

National Convention & Exhibition '14
for everyone in pharmacy

20 - 22 June
Australian Technology Park
Inspiring Pharmacy to:
Adapt, Change & Future-Proof

Secure 2014 Group 1 & Group 2 CPD Credits

Cocktail Function
Fri 20 June, 5.00 - 7.30pm

Exhibition
New Products & Services

COMPREHENSIVE 3 DAY EDUCATION PROGRAM
REGISTER NOW! www.nswpharmacy-nce.com.au
All enquiries to guidevents@nsw.guild.org.au

Now's the time to stop manually packing!
Sign-up and receive over \$2,000 value

Outsource your DAAs to APHS Packaging before 30 June and receive:

FREE setup valued at \$1,000 | **A \$30 rebate** for every new patient you sign up

FREE point of sale materials and best practice DAA training

Best of all you'll increase your productivity, reduce costs and provide scalability for the ageing population.

Conditions: You must sign-up 50 patients, per pharmacy, before the offer applies. The \$30 rebate will be paid as a credit on the July invoice. Offer only valid for new APHS Packaging customers.

Contact the APHS Packaging Customer Service team for more details and to sign-up on...

1300 306 748

APHS Packaging

New AusPARs

NEW Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines have been released, including for Loteprednol etabonate (Lotemax), Misoprostol (Misodel/Misopess), Palonosetron hydrochloride (Aloxi), Pasireotide as diaspertate (Signifor), Afatinib as dimaleate (Giotrif), Bevacizumab injection (Avastin) and Insulin detemir - rys (Levemir).

To read more, **CLICK HERE**.

MEANWHILE the TGA has said the 40th meeting of the Therapeutic Goods Committee will be held on 20 Jun.

New Schizophrenia Rx

NEW research has suggested that estrogen can help treat schizophrenia in previously treatment-resistant women.

Professor Jayashri Kulkarni, who led the Monash Alfred Psychiatry work, said that the study, the largest clinical trial in the world of its type, found that in an eight week, three arm, double blind, placebo-controlled, adjunctive trial of estradiol, women who were given estradiol made better recoveries than those who were given a placebo.

This created a focus on women with the disease, said Kulkarni.

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

New blood sampling

THE University of Tasmania and Housefield Pty Ltd has announced the signing of an intellectual property licensing agreement to develop MilliSpot, a new blood sampling and storage system.

MilliSpot is a polymer-based material that can stabilise and store small amounts of dried blood, from a finger-prick for example, that allows laboratories to carry out analyses with greater accuracy.

The technology was invented by a team led by Professor Emily Hilder in the Australian Centre for Research on Separation Science (ACROSS) and has been developed by the University for more than five years.

Hilder said MilliSpot was more reliable than current methods.

Paramedic rule change

THE UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has proposed to amend legislation to allow paramedics involved in helicopter search and rescue operations to administer medicines.

The impetus for the change is the projected move for helicopter search and rescue services in the UK to a wholly contracted service in 2016, using civilian operators.

The MHRA said there was no legal provision for registered paramedics employed by civilian operators to use patient group directions (PDGs), exemptions that allows administration of medicines to groups of patients that meet specific criteria.

The agency said currently in the UK, PDGs could not be used in private search and rescue services and it proposed to amend the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 to change this.

The proposal is open to consultation until 22 Jul.

EMA naming guides

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) has published a revised guideline on the acceptability of names for human medicines.

The revised guideline includes a change with regard to name submission rules in that up to two proposed or invented names per marketing authorisation application can be accepted by the EMA's Name Review Group and a maximum of two names per name review request can be proposed for consideration at each meeting.

\$2,000 incentive for using eRx

WHAT'S YOUR SCAN RATE?

“eRx is the best innovation to be added to dispense programs for the last 5 years”

– Chris Walsh, Amcal Pharmacy Drysdale

eRx.com.au/ScanRate 

Oxycodone update

FURTHER to the Professional Pharmacists Australia's call to support only tamper-proof oxycodone (PD 03 Jun), the Generic Medicines Industry Association (GMIA) said four companies had forms of oxycodone registered, according to the ARTG.

Ceo Kate Lynch said the introduction of generic medicines was important as they played a crucial role in containing expenditure on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

“Therefore, it is vital that effective market entry pathways exist for generic medicines in Australia.”

The Therapeutic Goods Administration required sponsors of generic medicines to adhere to the same high standards as the original brand, Lynch said.

The *Daily Telegraph* reported that manufacturer of tamper-proof OxyContin, Mundipharma, warned the government in April of the potential dangers to the community of allowing high dose non tamper-proof versions.

Mundipharma Australia medical affairs director Christine Smith said the issue was about the diversion, abuse and threat to pharmacists and physicians that the black market for this prescription medicine caused.

“The generics should be allowed in, but only if it is a level playing field where all providers have a tamper resistant tablet.”

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia has said the matter was under active consideration by the Guild in consultation with the TGA and manufacturers (PD 03 Jun).

TGA meds update

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has released its Medicines Safety Update, Volume Five, Number Three.

Topics covered include the TGA's enhanced monitoring of the meningococcal B vaccine, Bexsero (PD 14 Apr), the updated product information for strontium ranelate (PD 04 Apr) and the TGA's receiving of five adverse event reports following vaccination consistent with complex regional pain syndrome - **CLICK HERE** to read it.

NZ Amoxicillin listing

NEW Zealand's PHARMAC has alerted pharmacists that a new brand of Amoxicillin granules for oral liquid will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Schedule on 01 Jul.

There were some differences pharmacists needed to be aware of, including that Amoxicillin Actavis granules must be discarded 10 days after first preparation, it said.

For more, **CLICK HERE**.

WIN A DESIGNER BRANDS PACK

This week **PD** is giving 5 lucky readers the chance to win a **Designer Brands** pack.



The pack includes a Mineral Eye Shadow Palette and a Paw Paw Plus Kit.



DB's Paw Paw products contain 8% paw paw extract. This pack includes an ointment, hand cream and lip balm.

With 48 colours, the Mineral Eye Shadow Palette is perfect for highlighting the eyes! The mineral formulation includes natural ingredients, ensuring a finish that doesn't cake.

To win, be first to send the correct answer to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Name 3 of the other ingredients the paw paw products are enhanced with?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, **Kylie Bocalatte** from **Payless Chemists**.

EOFYS UP TO
35% OFF RRP

REVITIVE & ULTRALIEVE ACCESSORIES

Available at your Wholesaler

 **actegy**
health



Valid 1st-30th June 2014 or while stocks last.
Conditions apply.

Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

BIOEFFECT EGF Serum - anti-ageing wonder

Developed by scientists in Iceland, **BIOEFFECT EGF Serum** is a next-generation, anti-ageing beauty treatment that improves the skin's appearance by encouraging the skin to repair its own cells. Its key ingredient is Epidermal Growth Factor (EGF), a cellular activator that occurs naturally in human skin and has the ability to speed up the rate of cell turnover within the skin, resulting in a fresher, revitalised and glowing complexion.

Stockist: 0411 759 541

RRP: \$195.00

Website: www.bespokebeauty.com.au



Brand new Essenza Natural Facial Cleansing Wipes

Following the success of their Fuss Free Facial Masks last year, Essenza has launched its new **Natural Facial Cleansing Wipes** to keep skin feeling smooth, clean and healthy. Made using powerful, natural, active ingredients, the wipes feature a unique texture smooth design - one side of the wipe has small, raised bumps to deeply penetrate the skin's surface and remove make-up with ease while the other side is silky smooth to hydrate and soften the skin. The facial wipes are available in three varieties - Cleanse + Exfoliate (green), Cleanse + Moisturise (blue) and Cleanse + Refresh (pink).

Stockist: 08 9240 2088

RRP: \$6.95 for 25 wipes

Website: www.essenzahealth.com



Finally, a nicer head lice treatment - Licener

Frustrated parents of children with itchy scalps can breathe a sigh of relief: Mayne Pharma last week launched **Licener**, a single-treatment shampoo that could be the solution to a head lice infestation. This head lice treatment requires no combing and has been proven, in several clinical studies, to effectively kill lice and their eggs (nits) in one treatment of just 10 minutes. The dermatologically tested product contains Neem extract which is a natural ingredient that works in a single application by suffocating both lice and their eggs.

Stockist: Major wholesalers

RRP: \$19.95

Website: www.licener.com



Thalgo Shaving Gel and Descomen Deep Cleansing Scrub

Thalgo Shaving Gel for the smoothest most invigorating shave, this gel helps to protect, purify and soothe the skin. Apply seconds before taking up the razor for that silky smooth gliding feeling with unparalleled comfort.

Thalgo Descomen Deep Cleansing Scrub offers men's skin a once per week deep skin cleansing. This cooling scrub cleanses the skin as well as softens and smoothes whilst gently removing dead skin cells, leaving a fully fresh and wholesome sense of alertness.

Stockists: 02 9430 2200

RRP: \$37.00 for shaving gel, \$53.00 for deep cleanser

Website: www.thalgo.com.au

DISPENSARY CORNER

JUDGEMENT on high.

The pharmaceutical industry is no stranger to judgments, what with patent disputes and all.

But you've got to love these legal documents sometimes; they often contain gems of dry humour from a judge who might have seen one too many lawyers that day.

In a recent judgement, the justice was writing about an advertisement featuring a young couple "engaged in what is apparently the challenging physical pursuit of rock climbing."

STOP whatever you're doing.

If you're trying to multitask on a particularly busy day, stop right now least you lose your pharmacy.

A man who tried to blow his nose while smoking burned his house down, *WGHP FOX8* reported.

The man from North Carolina was apparently trying to blow his nose into a tissue, which caught fire, the channel reported.

His attempts to stomp out the fire caused it to spread but thankfully, no one was harmed and the fire was successfully put out, it said.

UNDERWATER pharmacy?

Is there an underwater pharmacy in the world? There are underwater post offices, one in Norway and one in Port Vila, so maybe a submariner dispensary is on the way.

We ask because the grandson of ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, Fabien Cousteau, intends to live for a month at 18 metres below the ocean's surface, the *Telegraph* reported.

The 31 days will be spent in an underwater laboratory called the Aquarius Reef Base with a five person crew, making a documentary, as is only fitting, and leading science experiments, the publication reported.

Maybe he'll need something for seasickness, then?