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## New cancer drug

US company NorthWest Biotherapeutics has been allowed to sell its brain cancer drug in Germany, before the treatment had finished its late-stage trial.

The company received a "hospital exemption" to provide its DCVax-L to patients for treatment of any glioma brain cancers, outside of the company's clinical trial.

The company said it could charge full price for the treatment, and that the approval period was for five years, which could be re-applied and re-issued once it expired.

Patients could be from Germany or elsewhere, Northwest Biotherapeutics said.

The European Union had encouraged the hospital exemptions to foster use of breakthrough biotechnology drugs that had not yet won market approval, *Reuters* reported.

## PPA not invited to forum

**PROFESSIONAL** Pharmacists Australia (PPA) says it wasn't invited to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's stakeholder forum on the upcoming Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

PPA president Dr Geoff March said the organisation was disappointed the Guild did not seek the views of non-owner community pharmacists, and that when it came to determining how \$15.4b of taxpayer's money was spent in pharmacy, the PPA believed it was vital that community pharmacists were at the table.

"CPA6 presents an opportunity for us to create a sustainable model for community pharmacy, one that supports patients, health outcomes and a viable future for the professionals that work in it.

"Our members are happy to take our campaign to government and

the broader community, to achieve change that will provide better health outcomes for patients."

The Guild said the forum was targeted at people who were actively involved in aspects of the Agreement as providers and consumers.

"Our consultation process is ongoing and we certainly welcome constructive input from all sources including the PPA.

"Just last week the Guild was engaged with PPA representatives at a meeting of the Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum."

## Pharmacy ADR screen

**THE** role of pharmacists in detecting risks that don't emerge during clinical trials is "equally important as that of medical consultants who prescribe the new drugs as soon as they are made available in the market," Dr Atmaram Pawar, president of the Physician-Pharmacist Community Forum, India, told *Pharmabiz.com*.

He also asked the government, the Indian medical association and the pharmacy council of India to initiate awareness programs on ADRs.

## LUTS, BPH and ED

**IT** may sound like alphabet soup but these related conditions affect one in six men over the age of 40 years.

Pharmacists are being reminded by Eli Lilly that their erectile dysfunction (ED) treatment, Cialis (tadalafil) 5mg, is the only such therapy also approved for once daily treatment of moderate to severe lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) associated with benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH).

While ED and LUTS are individual in nature, said Lilly, they often co-exist with around half of men over 50 with LUTS also reporting ED.

Dr Peter Sutherland, head of urology at Royal Adelaide Hospital, said, "The ability to treat both ED and LUTS with Cialis 5mg once-a-day is a major advantage, as these conditions can have a profound impact on a man's life ... significantly improving men's confidence and self esteem."

In addition to Cialis 5mg for once-daily treatment, Cialis On-Demand, available as a 10mg or 20mg dose, also remains patent protected and is unaffected by the availability of generic sildenafil.



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## RGH on testosterone

**INCREASED** risk of myocardial infarction and stroke resulting from inappropriate use of testosterone is the key message behind the latest Repatriation & General Hospital (RGH) e-Bulletin.

The bulletin includes reference to the formal Position Statement on the Use and Misuse of Androgens by the Endocrine Society of Australia.

To read the E-Bulletin **CLICK HERE**.

## CMs for carpal tunnel

**A RECENT** study published in *Evidence Based Complementary and Alternative Medicines* has demonstrated the "Clinical usefulness of oral supplementation with alpha-lipoic Acid, curcumin phytosome, and B-group vitamins in patients with carpal tunnel syndrome undergoing surgical treatment."

Treated patients showed significantly lower nocturnal symptoms scores compared with controls - **CLICK HERE** to read.

## US Ranbaxy recall

**RANBAXY** Laboratories Ltd has run into trouble again, recalling more than 64,000 bottles of atorvastatin calcium tablets in the United States.

The generic version of Lipitor had been recalled due to a pharmacist complaint that a 20mg tablet in a sealed bottle of 10mg tablets, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said.

The recall of a total of 64,626 bottles was initiated by Ranbaxy and designated 'Class II' by the FDA, or where use or exposure to the product could cause temporary adverse health consequences.

The recall follows the FDA's prohibition of Ranbaxy's Toansa, India facility from producing and distributing drugs for the US market, after "significant" current good manufacturing practice violations were identified following an FDA inspection of the facility in January, the organisation said (*PD* 24 Jan).

It also follows a recall of the

cholesterol lowering medicine in 2012, *Reuters* reported.

Ranbaxy Australia said the recall was unrelated to the Australian market and would not affect local supply.

## Blood test signals AD

**RESEARCHERS** in the US have said that testing 10 lipids in blood predicted phenoconversion to amnesic mild cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's Disease (AD) within two to three years with 90% accuracy.

The five year study, published in *Nature Medicine*, looked at blood sampled from 525 people over the age of 70, the *BBC* reported.

The study compared 53 participants who developed AD or mild cognitive impairment with 53 who stayed mentally agile and found lipid level differences, the publication reported.

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

## EMA meds guidance

**THE** European Medicines Agency's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) has completed a review of domperidone-containing medicines and has recommended changes to their use including using these medicines only to relieve symptoms of nausea and vomiting, restricting the dose and adjusting doses carefully by weight where it is licensed in children.

A review of zolpidem-containing medicines (Stilnox), used for the short-term treatment of insomnia has also resulted in recommended changes to the product information, aimed at further minimising the known risks of next-morning impaired driving ability and mental alertness (including somnambulism).

The EMA has also reviewed Diacerein (an interleukin-1 blocker) and recommended that it remain available with restrictions including being unavailable to patients over 65 years so as to limit risks of severe diarrhoea and liver effects.

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## Guild Update

### The Price Disclosure campaign

As pharmacists begin to gather on the Gold Coast for the Australian Pharmacy Professional (APP) conference, the Guild wants all to know that strong advocacy work is continuing in relation to the impact of price disclosure on community pharmacies.

In an extremely difficult budgetary climate for the Federal Government, the Guild is continuing to ask the Government to offset the impact in 2014-15 of the pre-election changes to the price disclosure regime.

We are asking for its impact on pharmacies in the last year of the Community Pharmacy Agreement to be offset, because these changes to price disclosure moved the goalposts and breached our Agreement.

In the last three months, we have continued to prosecute pharmacies' case strongly through:

- Writing to every Coalition Member and Senator explaining the impact of the changes to price disclosure and seeking their support in securing the future viability of the pharmacies in their electorates.
- Making strong submissions to the Commission of Audit and the Pre-Budget process.
- Presenting a number of options to Minister Dutton which would ameliorate the impact of price disclosure on pharmacies in 2014-15.
- Producing a detailed economic analysis of the impact of price disclosure which has been presented to Minister Dutton and the Prime Minister's and Treasurer's offices.
- Organising for the tabling of the record 1.2 million signature petition which occurred on 26 February. The Guild will not rest until this issue is satisfactorily addressed.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

## NSW grant funding

**APPLICATIONS** for the Pharmacy Council of New South Wales' Education and Research Grant Funding Program opened as of 01 Mar.

There were two types of grants available, the Research and Project Grant, for which the maximum amount granted was \$10,000, and the Development and Education Grant, for which the maximum amount was \$2,500.

NSW students and registered pharmacists whose principal place of practice was in the state may apply no later than 01 May.

### Ultrasound guide

**NPS MedicineWise** has released a guide to ultrasounds during pregnancy.

The publication in Medicinewise Living goes over safety of ultrasounds when pregnant, when they are offered, for instance first, second and third-trimester scans, and tips about choosing the imaging practice and operator.

The guide also offers links to other sources of information.

To read it, **CLICK HERE**.

Proposals which related to education and research about the health, performance or conduct of pharmacists or students would be considered, with a second round of funding offered in 01 Sep.

For more, visit [www.pharmacycouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.pharmacycouncil.nsw.gov.au).

### Pharm dr pay drops

**PAYMENTS** to health professionals from US pharmaceutical companies for promotional speeches has dropped following increased attention paid to pharmaceutical marketing practices, analysis from *ProPublica* has found.

The organisation found Eli Lilly and Co's payments to speakers dropped by 55% from 2011 to 2012, down to US\$21.6m, and payments from Novartis dropped 40% to US\$14.8m.

The first disclosures of the Physician Payment Sunshine Act, requiring pharmaceutical companies to publicly report payments to physicians, were expected in Sep, *ProPublica* said.

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



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**STUPID** is as stupid eats.

The Dietitians Association of Australia polled 200 accredited practising dietitians about the nutritionally worst of the most popular current diets, *Mamma Mia* reported.

Coming in at third was the Ashy Bines bikini challenge, which advocates 'clean eating' or a general effort to avoid processed foods - 32% of nutritionists voted against it, while 55% said no to the SkinnyMe teatox, a diet involving drinking loose-leaf tea for two to four weeks, the publication reported.

First place went to the Lemon Detox diet with 68% of nutritionists voting against the diet which replaces food and liquids with a lemon detox drink, for 10 days, *Mamma Mia* reported.

**DON'T** give up your day...wait...

If you're of the gaming persuasion, you may not want to think too hard about Joseph Garrett at work today, since the 23 year old now earns enough from filming himself playing Minecraft and uploading it to YouTube that he's been able to quit his job.

His channel gets five million hits a day and he receives an average of 3000 messages from gamers looking for tips, *Orange News* reported.

The publication said Garrett makes money from his share of the advertising revenue.

**'YOU** will have good luck'

Next time you crack open a fortune cookie, take note of any numbers within - a New York woman has won US\$2m after playing the numbers she found in her fortune cookie.

Emma Duvoll, 75, joked to the *Daily News* that perhaps the waiters at Sammy's Noodle Shop & Grill should be 20% of the winnings, the *Associated Press* reported.

## WIN WITH BIOSPORT

This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win the **BioSport's Reflex Soles**.

BioSport has recently over-hauled their Reflex Soles, the new design includes Polymer Gel technology that is embedded with six therapeutic magnets. This allows the individual wearing the insoles to get the benefits of a Reflexology treatment without even being aware of the magnets that are formed into the polymer gel.

The polymer gel technology also offers optimum cushioning and absorption of damaging foot shock. The flexible gel gives a longer lasting durability allowing you more value for your money. And with the 28-Day-Money-Back-Policy you really have nothing to lose but your pain.

To win, be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).



**What is the gauss rating of the therapeutic magnets found in the BioMagnetic SportGel Reflex Soles?**

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner **Mem Phung** from **Macquarie Medical Centre Pharmacy**. The correct answer was **six**.