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Gout managed better

NEW advances in drug developments to treat gout and hyperuricaemia in the elderly bode well for better management of the conditions, according to a study published in *Drugs and Aging*.

Usually attributed to physiological decline of renal function associated with the elderly, and as a result of comorbidities, gout and hyperuricaemia were now routinely treated with urate-lowering therapy such as allopurinol, but new products had proliferated, providing more options, the authors said.

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

EMA Ebola med check

EBOLA treatments are under review by the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

With no fully approved medications available at this time, the review was being fast tracked, the agency said.

Seven companies had submitted data on their products for review.

MEANWHILE the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use has recommended 15 new products for approval and three extensions of indication.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

RGH Pharm E-Bulletin

ANIDULAFUNGIN is an echinocandin antifungal recommended for the treatment of invasive candidiasis (including candidaemia) in adults.

The RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin this week summarises key issues around the use of this product.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the bulletin.

PPA: invite others to 6CPA

PROFESSIONAL Pharmacists Australia ceo Chris Walton has called on the Prime Minister to include consumers and pharmacists in the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement negotiations.

In a letter to Tony Abbott, Walton said the Guild no longer represented majority interests in the pharmacy sector, and it was concerning that 20,000 employee pharmacists were shut out of the negotiations.

"By including pharmacists and consumers, the Prime Minister will take the first step toward shifting pharmacy away from its

current storefront-focus and return it to providing a vital frontline healthcare contribution to our communities."

Walton said the letter came in response to the Competition Review draft report (*PD 23 Sep*).

He said many employed professional community pharmacists believed pharmacy rules prevented pharmacy from playing a greater role in healthcare.

To read more, [CLICK HERE](#).

AHF support needed

A SURVEY sponsored by Novartis has found 94% of hospital professionals interviewed believed a greater level of community support was required to address rehospitalisation rates for acute heart failure (AHF).

The survey was conducted online in November by ACA research with 70 people including physicians, oncologists and specialists nurse groups.

It found that 85% believed the AHF patient population to be highly vulnerable and 69% said that increased educational and emotional support for this population would be welcomed.

Geelong Cardiology Research Unit director Associate Professor John Amerena said the survey findings highlighted to community healthcare professionals the importance of being aware of initial presentations of heart failure and monitoring for worsening heart failure, to reduce rehospitalisation rates.

Multimed's frailty link

POLYPHARMACY is common in older patients being discharged from hospital and has been shown to be associated with falls and poor functional outcomes, according to a study out of Queensland.

The study, involving 351 patients discharged from hospital and published in *Clinical Interventions in Aging*, encouraged regular medication reviews and rationalisation of medications as part of discharge planning.

The authors said careful deprescribing improved outcomes in frail patients and that this should be the focus of future trials.

Polypharmacy (five to nine medications) was noted in 46.7% of patients and hyperpolypharmacy (10 or more drugs) in 39.2%.

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

NZ pharmacy error

THE NZ Deputy Health and Disability Commissioner has recommended a NZ pharmacist undertake training through the NZ College of Pharmacists before returning to work, following a warfarin dispensing error which saw a patient admitted to hospital with excessive bleeding.

The locum pharmacist was the only staff member involved in processing, dispensing and checking the patient's prescription, and dispensed 5mg warfarin tablets instead of 1mg tablets, the Deputy Commissioner said.

The pharmacy should also have orientated the pharmacist with SOPs, she said.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.



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Soliris to be supplied

THE manufacturer of atypical haemolytic uraemic syndrome treatment Soliris will supply the medication to the government.

Alexion said it did not agree with the government's treatment guidelines for "arbitrary and mandatory disruption of patient supply without medical evidence".

The company said it was disappointed the government would not provide sustained access, consistent with treatment globally.

PBAC chair Associate Professor Suzanne Hill has previously said she was "deeply concerned" by the company's response to the Minister's approval for listing the treatment on the PBS.

The Committee had not recommended all patients stop receiving treatment after 12 months, she said.

Guild Update

New National Advertising Campaign

THE Guild is investing in a new national advertising campaign, which is almost here. Launching in October, the 'Discover More. Ask your Pharmacist' campaign will promote a range of services offered by pharmacies around Australia. Pharmacies are our most powerful assets for this campaign. By joining together and promoting the campaign in-store, you can make sure our message is heard by all Australians.

Shortly, Member pharmacies will be receiving a pack filled with point-of-sale materials to display. Inside there are posters, a window decal, shelf wobblers and some stickers for staff. But this is just to get you started! Pharmacies can also purchase customised versions of all these plus more through an online portal.

We hope you're looking forward to the 'Discover More. Ask Your Pharmacist' campaign as much as we are.

Progen posts \$1.8m loss

PROGEN Pharmaceuticals has posted a net loss for the year of \$1.8m, which the company said was up 13.6% on 2012-13.

This was on gross profit of \$3.2m, compared with \$1.2m in 2013.

Executive chairman Indrajit Arulampalam said the company posted revenue of \$5.75m, up 63.9% on the prior year.

The company's principal focus was on development of PG545, currently undergoing clinical trials involving advanced cancer patients, with a completion date slated for mid-2015, it said.

The company said Muparfostat was also involved in a Phase 3 trial.

CLICK HERE to read more.

Meningtec recall

EMERGE Health is recalling all unexpired doses of Meningtec meningococcal serogroup C conjugate vaccine suspension for injection, single dose syringe, due to the potential for particulate contamination.

CLICK HERE for more.

Six drug myths talk

UNIVERSITY of Sydney Faculty of Pharmacy Professor Andrew McLachlan will hold a free talk on 14 Oct called 'Six Drug Myths You Probably Believe'.

The talk will cover topics including generic's efficacy versus brand-name's, pain relievers targeting specific parts of the body and the idea of something being safe because it is natural.

CLICK HERE for more information.

PBAC rejects Sovaldi

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) rejected the submission to list sofosbuvir (Sovaldi) as Section 100 for the treatment of hepatitis C.

In its July recommendations, the Committee said this was on the basis of "unacceptably high and likely underestimated cost-effectiveness and the high and likely underestimated budgetary impact on the PBS."

"The PBAC considered that consideration of new treatment options for hepatitis C virus should be framed in the evolving treatment landscape where patients are most likely waiting for the availability of interferon-free regimens."

CLICK HERE for more information.



DISPENSARY CORNER

FORCING repeat business.

From opioid-like shopping (see **page one**) to opioid seeding of food:

An enterprising restaurateur in China thought that by adding opium to his noodles, he would make people come back for more without knowing why, according to *Orange News*.

One unfortunate customer tested positive in a routine urine test as part of an anti-drink-driving blitz and could only think of the restaurant as a possible source.

Once confirmed by police, he was released after 15 days although police dismissed his appeal saying their priority was to punish drug users regardless of intent, reported the publication.

ANIMAL therapy for the elderly.

A new report published by the International Federation on Ageing, evaluated the impact of pets on older people, showing that they can contribute to health by reducing anxiety, loneliness and depression.

Bayer HealthCare chief medical officer Michael Devoy said that this research touched on the roles of human healthcare practitioners, veterinarians, doctors, nurses, gerontologists, and social workers.

"The interaction between humans and animals is powerful.

"Animals can educate, motivate, and enhance the quality of life for people around the world."

SKIRTING around cancer.

What size skirt are you now wearing compared with when you were 20 years of age? New research has said it could be linked to breast cancer risk.

The association of breast cancer risk with self-reported skirt size, as a proxy for waist circumference measurement was consistent regardless of BMI, creating an easy to communicate message to reduce the risk of breast cancer in middle aged women, said the research - **CLICK HERE** to read.

WIN A NAD'S PACK

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Nad's** are giving five readers the chance to win a Nad's wax pack.

World First DIY nose wax is a specially formulated sensitive hard wax and comes with a unique SAFETIP™ applicator designed to comfortably remove nose hairs. Facial Wand Eyebrow Shaper gives you salon finish eyebrows. This precision applicator makes ease of eyebrow shaping, giving you complete control and confidence. Body wax strips are a quick and easy way to remove hair in minutes. Made with natural beeswax, the soft fabric conforms to the body's curves. Visit: www.nads.com



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

What does the Nad's Nose Wax formula contain?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner from NSW, **Meme Phung** from **Macquarie Medical Centre Pharmacy**.