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Pharmeducation conf

CLINICAL updates, drug interaction and complementary medicines updates will form the core of the 2015 Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar to be held at Rydges Sydney Central, Surry Hills, on 29 and 30 Aug.

As well as asthma, COPD and NOAC updates, the program will look at what's new in diabetes and a number of safety updates.

Dr Geraldine Moses & Debbie Rigby will present.

CLICK HERE for more detail.

Chemist Warehouse lawsuit

THE owners of Chemist Warehouse, Mario Verrocchi and Jack Gance, have lodged a Statement of Claim in the Federal Court of Australia against Hue and Thanh Vin Thai, the owners of Your Chemist Outlet Pty Ltd which trades as Queensland pharmacy group Chemhouse.

The intellectual property claim, which is set down for a case management hearing early next month, alleges there is "substantial similarity" between Chemhouse's branding on its stores, catalogues and websites.

Chemist Warehouse claims Chemhouse is engaging in misleading and deceptive conduct, passing off and trademark infringement because its logo (pictured) is "substantially identical with or deceptively similar to" that



of Chemist Warehouse.

There are currently five Chemhouse

pharmacies in the Brisbane suburbs of Springfield Lakes, Carseldine, Acacia Ridge, Hillcrest and Mt Gravatt.

Verrocchi and Gance are seeking damages and the cancellation of the Chemhouse trademark, as well as orders that Chemhouse be "restrained from continuing its infringing behaviour".

Chemist Warehouse last year lost an intellectual property case against Direct Chemist Outlet which was also accused of infringing the Chemist Warehouse trademark.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a full page from **Symbion** inviting pharmacies to become part of the Pharmacy Choice network.

F2 consultation

THE deadline for submissions to the health dept's consultation on the originator list for PBS medicines on the F2 formulary has been extended until this Fri 14 Aug.

A table listing proposed originator brands has been updated to reflect 01 Aug changes, adding propanolol and several additional Diabex brands, as well as removing a brand of desferrioxamine.

Written feedback can be provided by this Fri - see www.pbs.gov.au.

Blackmores webinar

BLACKMORES Institute will host an online webinar later this month, hosted by Dr Brett MacFarlane, the education and research manager at the Australian College of Pharmacy.

Titled 'A Practical Guide to herb/drug/nutrient interactions' it's the first webinar in a series on integrative medicine and co-prescribing.

The session takes place on 25 Aug - see www.blackmoresinstitute.org.

CVS cigarette ban

FINANCIAL results published this week for US pharmacy giant CVS have revealed the impact of a decision last year to be the first big chain to cease selling cigarettes.

Quarterly figures show an 8% drop in sales on a same-store basis, equating to a \$2b drop in revenue.

Interestingly sales also declined strongly in impulse items which smokers used to purchase along with their tobacco fix.

TWC funds research

TERRY White Chemists (TWC) has partnered with The Common Good to raise money for unfunded medical research projects.

The Common Good, an initiative of the Prince Charles Hospital Foundation, raises support through a 60-day crowd-funding platform.

Foundation ceo Michael Hornby congratulated the TWC team and said their donations now meant Matthew Linnane could begin vital research into improving techniques for restoring collapsed lungs.

The project aims to improve the health outcomes of the 110,000 Australians each year that need a respirator to help them breathe.

E-Bulletin covers CRPS

COMPLEX Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) is the subject of this week's RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin, covering symptomatology, types of CRPS, prognosis and treatment.

CLICK HERE to access.

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Med exports decline

MEDICINES have slipped to second place behind the motor vehicle industry in terms of Australian exports, highlighting the significant headwinds local industry faces in the competitive global industry, says Medicines Australia.

Latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show a 30% year-on-year decline in pharmaceutical exports in Jun.

The MA submission to the Senate inquiry into Australia's Innovation System called for a framework that ensures retention of existing investments within Australia and encourages local development of bio-pharmaceuticals.

While helpful, the dropping Australian dollar "will not reverse the trend," Medicines Australia warned - **CLICK HERE** to access the MA submission.

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is

Catherine Cervasio, Founder of

Aromababy Natural Skincare.



Baby Skin Concerns

BABIES are often born with dry and peeling skin. According to some neonatal experts, this is normal and requires no specific treatment.

Parents however, may still wish to use some form of emollient to help care for their infant's skin and will often seek out their local pharmacy as the first port of call.

Sulphates and other surfactants including cocoamphodiacetate, which are attracted to lipids (oil in our skin) can deplete the skin of its natural oils and exacerbate dryness, causing red and itchy skin. Other skin allergy triggers include fragrance and even some essential oils.

Whilst natural or organic, essential oils are also known to dry out the skin and even trigger allergies in some babies. These may include the stronger citrus-type oils such as lemongrass, anti-bacterial oils such as tea tree and widely used lavender, which is used extensively in 'natural' baby care products. As with any natural ingredient, there are varying degrees of quality, often as much the result of cutting (diluting) and adulteration as constituents – based on geographic region and species.

This can result in one lavender variety, for example, being tolerated whereas another may not. If in doubt, always err on the side of caution and avoid essential oils during the important early months altogether.

Guild hails allergy strategy

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed the release of the National Allergy Strategy, the first comprehensive Australian initiative aiming to improve the assessment and treatment of allergic diseases which affect more than four million or almost 20% of the population.

As the fastest growing chronic disease and public health issue in Australia, allergic diseases can range from food, insect and drug allergies (including anaphylaxis) through to asthma, allergic rhinitis (hay fever) and eczema, said the Guild.

Pharmacy can play a key role in

allergy treatment, especially in the shared care model of practice, highlighting the importance of improved communication between pharmacists, GPs and clinical immunology/allergy specialists.

The strategy states that the "services of dietitians, pharmacists and psychologists in particular, are often required to optimally manage allergic diseases" and emphasises the need to promote referral to allied health professionals with expertise in allergy, such as pharmacists, who provide self care and quality use of medicines advice.

The National Allergy Strategy was developed by the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCI), Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA), in collaboration with key stakeholders.

CLICK HERE to access the strategy document.

Microsoft to warn of online pharmacies

SOFTWARE giant Microsoft has announced it will equip its search website bing.com with new warnings about the dangers of visiting unsafe online pharmacies.

The warning will automatically appear if a user clicks onto search results for a site that the Food and Drug Administration has flagged as a fake online pharmacy engaged in illegal activity, such as offering unapproved or misbranded drugs to US consumers.

Microsoft is dynamically linking to a list of sites maintained by the FDA which is accessible at fda.gov.

"The list of online pharmaceutical sites for which we are providing warnings will grow and evolve," Microsoft said, with continued efforts to help users make "more well-informed decisions as additional, highly reliable sources of information become available".

New MES PBS listings

CRIZOTINIB (Xalkori) and trametinib (Mekinist) have both been listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme via a Managed Entry Scheme (MES).

An MES provides "a means by which to address the uncertainty over the clinical benefit of a medicine while providing early access to those patients for whom there is a high clinical need," the Health Department said.

Prescribers and patients are advised that if the drugs do not prove as beneficial in practice as in clinical data presented to the PBAC, they may have their listings modified, or they may be removed from the PBS.

DISPENSARY CORNER



RESEARCHERS have come up with a possible answer to the age-old question - why women always think the air conditioning is too cold.

According to a paper published in the *Nature* journal titled "Energy consumption in buildings and female thermal demand," women are comfortable at a temperature of between 24° and 25° - about 2.5° warmer than that preferred by men.

Dutch scientists Boris Kingma and Wouter van Marken Lichtenbelt said the implications of the finding could be quite serious because indoor climate regulations are based on an "empirical thermal comfort model that was developed in the 1960s" which includes the male metabolic rate as one of the standard variables.

"This may cause buildings to be intrinsically non-energy-efficient in providing comfort to females," they said.

THE underwire from a bra looks to have saved the life of a woman who was hit by stray ammunition when she was cycling near a group hunting wild boar in northern Germany last week.

The 41-year-old female was riding beside a field of grain when she suddenly felt pain, with a police spokesman saying "she was hit by an object in the breast area."

She suffered only bruising, with a bullet fragment found on the bra's metal wire.

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