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Pharmacist+GPs support

LAST week's PSA "Pharmacists in General Practice" forum in Sydney saw strong support for the Society's proposal to have pharmacists become an integral part of general practices (PD 28 May).

Attended by about 100 pharmacists, GPs, researchers and other stakeholders, the forum's keynote speaker was British pharmacist Ravi Sharma, who is an expert in the field.

Sharma described the UK experience and the associated benefits of the model, as well as "funding mechanisms and the political journey involved in seeing the practice pharmacist model acknowledged," PSA said.

He said pharmacists are able to contribute a "massive amount" in the GP setting, particularly around the use of medicines.

"As we go forward extending our role in the GP setting and start working collaboratively with other health professionals, particularly GPs and nurses, we are helping develop person-centred care.

"This holistic approach to patient care better promotes the best use of medicines and better management of patients' long-term complex conditions," Sharma said.

He said it was important that existing community pharmacy services are not duplicated in the GP clinic, while practice pharmacists should engage with community pharmacy to access additional support and services.

Other presenters included Queensland practice pharmacist Dr Chris Freeman, who has worked in a GP setting for over six years.

He said interventions made during that period had benefited patients on many levels.

PSA is inviting pharmacists to register their interest to be kept up to date on this area of practice via practicepharmacists@psa.org.au.

MPh students in hosp

THE University of Sydney Faculty of Pharmacy held a two day Hospital Pharmacy Student conference in the first week of second semester for Master of Pharmacy (MPh) students at two locations this year: Concord Hospital and St Vincent's Hospital.

The conference aimed to expand on the practical experience of working in hospitals as a pharmacist with important insights into how the health system works.

\$50k WA funding

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Western Australia has announced a significant increase in funding for pharmacy research, lifting the maximum grant under the J.M. O'Hara Research Fund to \$50,000.

PSWA chairman Dean Schulze said the increase reflects the changing direction of the society, which ceded its professional roles in 2013 and now has a vision to be a major facilitator of pharmacy research.

Named after the late John Michael O'Hara, a past president of the PSWA and a highly respected Western Australian pharmacist, the fund provides assistance to PSWA members for WA based research in the pharmaceutical sciences and pharmacy practice designed to improve the health of Australians.

Applications for grants under the program close on 30 Sep, with full guidelines and more information at www.pswa.org.au.

RGH E-Bulletin

THIS week's RGH Pharmacy E-bulletin covers concerns over NSAIDs and adverse cardiovascular effects, highlighting a range of complications for both selective and non-selective NSAIDs.

To view the bulletin **CLICK HERE**.



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*versus ferrous sulphate

References: 1. Ortiz R, Tobli JE, Romero JD et al. Efficacy and safety of oral iron(III) polymaltose complex versus ferrous sulphate in pregnant women with iron-deficiency anaemia: a multicentre, randomized, controlled study. J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med 2011;24:1-6. 2. Tobli JE, Brignoli R. Iron(III)-hydroxide polymaltose complex in iron deficiency anaemia / review and meta-analysis. Arzneimittelforschung 2007;57:431-438.

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Medlab Brain Squeeze

BIOTECHNOLOGY research institute Medlab Clinical has launched an educational monthly email for health professionals highlighting its latest research. Focusing on the development of nutraceutical products, probiotics and the human gut microbiome, the updates include "Brain Squeeze" multiple choice questions for self-assessment. To find out more and register email ellyce_cunnane@medlab.co.

FDA ticks Repatha

FOLLOWING Europe's approval of Repatha (evolocumab) to help manage cholesterol (**PD** 25 Jun), the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has now approved the PCSK9 inhibitor to treat certain patients with high cholesterol, especially those with familial hypercholesterolaemia or atherosclerotic CV disease.

Aromababy winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Gemma Dillon from bioCSL, who was the winner of last Fri's Aromababy competition. This week we are giving away daily Designer Brands prize packs - for details [see below](#).

Integrated growth - Mayne

MAYNE Pharma is expecting significant growth in the coming year, with a strong pipeline of products set to debut in both Australia and the USA.

According to the company's annual results announcement on Fri, there are more than 20 items set to launch in Australia, with six having already received TGA approval and set to launch in the coming months, and a further seven approvals pending.

In the USA there are over 30 pipeline products, of which 17 are pending approval with a potential market of over US\$1.8 billion.

CEO Scott Richards said the last year had been a "transformational period" for Mayne, which had diversified its US business via the acquisition of the Doryx brand.

Overall revenue fell 1% to \$141.4 million, but business picked up in the second half of the year with revenue up 37% and a strong gross profit contribution from Doryx.

With the completion of the US Doryx acquisition for US\$50m described as "transformational", a new US Specialty Brands (SBD) group created, the purchase of US distribution in-house for generic methamphetamine and oxycodone

product families, FDA approval of 50mg Doryx tablets and TGA approval of 12 products, Mayne is optimistic about the future.

FY16 promises significant growth said the company, driven by recent product acquisitions, new product launches, increased market penetration of existing products and growth in Metrics Contract Services.

Locally Mayne expects a stronger contribution from its growing injectable product offering, further growth in its OTC portfolio and the launch of oxycodone immediate release tablets.

Richards said the company also maintains an active program to identify potential acquisition targets, and "will continue to look at opportunities through FY16 to diversify the product portfolio and business".

Pharmacy BP OK

PHARMACY measurements of blood pressure (BP) have similar high sensitivity and specificity to in-surgery measurements and home measurements according to a paper published in the *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*.

While standardising arterial blood pressure measurement is difficult because of different operators such as a doctor or pharmacy employee, the study demonstrated no statistically significant differences.

The study was conducted in an internal medicine service with 160 patients in Ankara, Turkey.

CLICK HERE to access the research.

FDA slams cig claims

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued warning letters to three tobacco manufacturers: ITG Brands LLC, Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company Inc., and Sherman's 1400 Broadway N.Y.C. Ltd. for describing their cigarettes on labeling as "additive-free" and/or "natural."



DISPENSARY CORNER

BREAKFAST is the most important meal of the day - at least according to a US primary school teacher who was disciplined for being late for work more than 100 times in two years.

Arnold Anderson's employer, the Roosevelt Elementary School in New Brunswick, New Jersey, attempted to have him fired over his tardiness.

However an arbitrator ruled against the school, saying the teacher should be allowed to keep his job.

"I have a bad habit of eating breakfast in the morning, and I lost track of time," the 46-year-old told AAP, claiming he was never more than two minutes late.

He has plenty of time on his hands at the moment, though, because despite the ruling he remains suspended without pay until 01 Jan next year.

When he returns to work in 2016 "I will be early," he promised.

IT'S official - drinking lots of water does not help prevent a hangover.

And eating late night snacks after heavy drinking is also useless, according to a new study conducted by researchers from the Netherlands and Canada.

The scientists surveyed over 1,500 students in both countries and found that more than half of them had tried fatty food and even heavy breakfasts in order to stave off a hangover.

And more than two thirds drank water in the hope of lessening the effects of their drinking sessions.

It appears that nothing they did made a difference, with almost all of the heavy drinkers suffering hangovers on a regular basis.

The key finding overall was that those who didn't suffer the after effects had "simply consumed too little alcohol to develop a hangover in the first place".

Win with DESIGNER BRANDS

This week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away a prize pack each day containing products from the Designer Brands Special FX Collection including a DB Contour Kit (RRP \$9.99), Instant Face Bronzer (RRP \$12.99) and Invisible Lip Liner (\$8.99).

The Designer Brands Contour Kit comes with step-by-step instructions on the back of the palette to help you contour like a pro! Featuring a highly blendable and buildable formula, it's perfect for contouring and highlighting the face. Sculpt, shape and define your features with this trio of contouring and highlighting shades.

To win, be the first person from **NSW** or **ACT** to answer the following question and send it to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Where are the step-by-step instructions for the Contour Kit located?

Need a hint? [CLICK HERE](#)

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



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