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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a full page from **Corum Group**.

Kadcyla pricey: NHS

BRITISH medical scheme manager NHS England has received guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) around the use of Kadcyla (trastuzumab-emtansine).

NICE has declared the HER2-positive breast cancer therapy too expensive at £90,000 per patient at its full list price for routine use on the NHS.

People currently taking Kadcyla will not stop receiving it said NICE.

They have the option to continue treatment until they and their doctors consider it appropriate to stop.

MA ceo James moves on

MEDICINES Australia (MA) has announced the resignation of ceo Tim James to take effect January 2016.

Thanking James for his strong contribution to the Australian medicines industry during what he termed "a very difficult period for the sector", interim chairman Wes Cook said, "Tim has been a passionate advocate for the industry during his tenure as CEO through a most challenging period and he departs with our deep thanks and best wishes."

Cook highlighted James' achievements during his tenure as: negotiating the latest Code of Conduct and smoothly implementing its new measures; bringing MA into the digital and social media era with a new website and social platforms; seeking and supporting recent developments such as the Industry Growth Centre, Health Industry Forum, Innovation Statement, Free Trade Agreements, and the Medical Research Future Fund; fostering improved engagement with patient organisations including the launch

of the updated edition of the Working Together Guide.

James said he would make an announcement about his future direction "in due course" but in the meantime plans to spend more time with his young family "to whom I owe so much after this year".

James' resignation comes only 14 months from his appointment and two months after the resignation of group chairman Martin Cross.

The Board plans to recruit for James' replacement in the new year.

Guild ticks Hep C fund

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has welcomed the announcement that a range of hepatitis C medicines will be funded on the PBS, following an announcement of their inclusion last week.

Guild executive director David Quilty said the additions bring new hope to thousands of Australian sufferers with the accessibility of 5,500 community pharmacies helping to ensure patients get the benefits of this significant public investment.

Turing ceo arrested

FORMER hedge fund manager and pharmaceutical-company Turing Pharmaceuticals ceo Martin Shkreli, infamous for raising the price of an essential pharmaceutical therapy fifty five fold, has been arrested and charged in an indictment unconnected to the drug price hikes scandal, according to a report in *Modern Healthcare*.

The charges instead involve his actions at another pharmaceutical company, Retrophin, which he reportedly ran as ceo up until last year.

The 32-year-old entrepreneur claimed the fraud allegations against him are "baseless and without merit", pleading not guilty in the Brooklyn federal court with the judge setting bail at US\$5m.

If found guilty Shkreli could find himself peering through vertical iron bars for up to 20 years, the report said.

AZ buys Acerta

BRITISH pharmaceuticals group AstraZeneca (AZ) announced last week that it had agreed to buy a 55% share of Dutch and US based Acerta Pharma, which is developing an oncology therapy according to a report in *Yahoo! News*.

AZ will pay \$2.5b upfront, then a further \$1.5b once Acerta's experimental drug acalabrutinib wins regulatory approval from US authorities or else by the end of 2018.

Acalabrutinib has reportedly demonstrated some activity in treating leukemia and autoimmune diseases such as lupus while other research in the company's portfolio extends to other cancers, respiratory diseases and diabetes therapies.

With shareholders' blessing, AZ has the option of buying the remaining 45% of Acerta for around \$3b conditional upon the drug gaining regulatory approval the report said.

New diabetes drink

PATENTED food-grade pre-meal drink GlucoSmooth by Omniblend Innovation, for managing type 2 diabetes (T2D), is planned to be on pharmacy shelves early next year, following an announcement from EVE Investments.

The company says it has entered into a binding agreement to acquire a 40% stake in Omniblend Innovation, a medical technology company focused on foods for special medical purposes.

According to the announcement, the product has been clinically shown to reduce blood glucose level peaks by 35% after carbohydrate containing meals.

EVE Innovations has also announced that it has an exclusive six-year national distribution agreement in place to bring GlucoSmooth to more than 6,000 pharmacy shelves in Australia and New Zealand by mid 2016.

Australia is estimated to have over three million people with T2D or pre-diabetes, that figure growing around 3% per year, making it one of Australia's fastest growing chronic diseases.

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Retired dr indicted

FORMER doctor Raghbir Singh pleaded guilty in a UK Southwark Crown Court to selling an unauthorised medicine and for selling prescription-only medicines without a valid prescription, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has reported.

The 67-year-old retiree was sentenced to four months in prison, suspended for 18 months, with two months under a curfew where he is not allowed out between 8pm and 7am.

All of the medicines he supplied were purchased through unregulated sources and were for use in the treatment of male pattern baldness.

MHRA head of enforcement Alastair Jeffrey said, "Buying medicines through unregulated sources can put you at serious risk as you have no idea what you are getting and how it will affect you."

Weekly Comment

Welcome to *PD's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Leanne Virtue, Recruitment Consultant at Raven's Recruitment.**



Bang Your Drum, aka Tell Them Why They Should Consider You!

WHEN was the last time you took a long hard look at your résumé?

This is one very valuable document; to open doors for you, bring opportunities your way and ultimately ensure you will be shortlisted to receive an invitation for interview for that exciting job!

Taking the time to put together a detailed résumé will demonstrate clearly why you are the right person for the role. Don't be afraid to illustrate the duties and responsibilities you have had exposure to in each position you have held.

Your achievements are important too. You are not being pushy or over confident by setting out the results and improvements you have introduced to a workplace that improved processes and procedures. If your résumé does not tell your story how will people understand what you are truly capable of?

If you need assistance at any time we offer a Professional Pharmacy Resume service. For more information simply visit our website www.ravensrecruitment.com.au click on the Professional 'Pharmacy Resumes' tab on the left hand side of the page. Once submitted, your new résumé will be emailed to you in less than 3 working days.

Discount delays free meds

INDIVIDUALS and families with chronic health conditions requiring a lot of PBS medicines will find that by utilising the \$1.00 discount on their scripts, it could effectively delay patient access to free medicines, providing no net financial benefit to them, according to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

The Guild said it has produced a flyer which has been distributed to member pharmacies spelling out the effect on patients.

"Concessional patients who take the \$1 discount must still spend the same total amount during the year to access free medicines on the Safety Net," the flyer states.

"If you take the \$1 discount your access to free medicines will start later in the year and the length of time you are eligible for free medicines will be reduced."

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The Guild campaign follows the recent Chemist Warehouse (CW) announcement highlighting a chain-



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DISPENSARY CORNER



THE twin phenomenon is no longer just a biological anomaly, with the launch of site Twinstrangers.net, people all around the world have successfully found their unrelated doppelganger just by registering.

Perhaps the most perplexing case comes from 21-year-old Shannon Lonergan from Ireland and 17-year-old Sara Nordstrom from Sweden, who look so strikingly similar that even Lonergan's father was stumped.

The pair found each other using the Twin Strangers Facebook page and met for the first time after Nordstrom flew to Dublin.

"When I opened the door and saw Sara standing there, literally my heart jumped into my mouth," said Lonergan to *Stuff.co.nz*.

For the chance to find your doppelganger click [here](#).



wide policy of offering the \$1.00 discount to all customers, without alerting them to the safety net implications.

The discount also effectively makes local pharmacists contribute the patient's cost for a PBS, the Guild said.

New PhD opportunity

AUSTRALIA'S practitioner-only nutritional and therapeutic supplements company BioCeuticals, has announced a research partnership with the National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM) at Western Sydney University, where there is a focus on complementary medicine research and policy.

The three-year long pilot trial will explore the clinical effect of herbal and nutritional supplements on cognitive function in elderly patients living with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI).

The university is seeking a doctoral candidate to undertake the research seeking to assess the impact of early intervention in MCI.

Some products for evaluation will include brahmi, ginkgo, ginseng and alpha-lipoic acid.

Win with MILANI

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Milani are giving away everyday a prize pack including Plumrose Colour Statement Lipstick, Grey Bella Eyeshadow and Mauve Baked Blush.

Milani Cosmetics is a cruelty-free brand. They do not test products on animals, nor do they allow others to test on their behalf. The brand is certified by both PETA and The Leaping Bunny Program (CCIC) as cruelty-free. Milani also has a ton of Vegan options also. For more info visit www.milanicosmetics.com.au

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

How many Bella Eyeshadow (MAS) Colours are there in the Milani Australia range?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.



EAT your heart out Austin Powers, because the long-standing stereotype on the British having poor oral health compared to Americans has been officially disproved.

According to a study by Harvard University and the University College London, Britons have no worse dental health than Americans.

"Contrary to popular belief, our study showed that the oral health of US citizens is not better than the English, with Americans having significantly more missing teeth," said lead author Richard Watt, Professor in Dental Public Health at UCL.

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

Publisher: Bruce Piper info@pharmacydaily.com.au

Reporter: Mal Smith

Contributors: Nathalie Craig, Jasmine O'Donoghue, Bonnie Tai

Advertising and Marketing: Magda Herdrik advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

We're PBS Ready!

CORUM **LOTS** one

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having our dispense systems PBS
ready for 1 January 2016.



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with PBS changes
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