



RGH E-Bulletin

THIS week's edition of the RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin covers acclidinium (Bretaris Genuair by Menarini Australia), the most recent addition to possible treatments for airway disease.

Acclidinium was approved for PBS subsidised supply in March 2014, and is indicated as a long-term maintenance bronchodilator for the treatment of moderate to severe Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease in adult patients.

CLICK HERE for the E-Bulletin.

New varicose option

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved the VenaSeal closure system to permanently treat varicose veins of the leg.

The system uses an adhesive agent to seal the affected superficial veins, and includes a delivery system including a catheter, guidewire, dispenser gun, dispenser tips and syringes along with the adhesive, which is a specially formulated n-butyl-2-cyanoacrylate.

The VenaSeal system is manufactured by Covidien.

US pharmacist kills would-be robber

A PHARMACIST working in West Virginia in the USA has shot and killed an armed robber from behind the dispensary counter.

According to *WCHS TV*, the would-be thief entered the pharmacy and pulled out a gun, waving it at staff counting cash at a register.

No charges will be laid against pharmacist Don Radcliff, who drew his own weapon and shot the man twice, and then walked out from behind the counter and fired again.

The robber was taken to hospital but died a short time later.

Draft award 'appropriateness'

THE Shop Distributive and Allied Employees' Association (SDA) has said it is "greatly concerned" about the "appropriateness" of the Guild's proposal to develop a plain English draft of the Pharmacy Industry Award (*PD 30 Jan*).

The Guild had told the Fair Work Commission (FWC), as part of a submission for the four yearly review of modern awards, that it had employed the Plain English Drafting Association to produce a plain English draft of the Award, to be ready by March.

However, in its own submission the SDA said the FWC had not made any suggestions for an alternative process to that provided in the draft guide, nor did it suggest parties should re-draft the Award.

"It is therefore surprising that the Guild has chosen to take it upon themselves to redraft the

Pharmacy Award, thereby ignoring the statements, directions and processes determined by the FWC in this Review," the SDA said.

The SDA accused the Guild of trying to circumvent the process of the review by putting up a redraft of the Award which did not meet the determined timeline.

The SDA also opposed the use of illustrative examples as suggested by the Guild, as Awards were a legal instrument; examples might be more appropriate in an annotated version of the Award, it said.

The SDA joins the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers Australia in opposing the plain English draft.

New Sanofi chief

OLIVIER Brandicourt has been appointed as the new ceo of Sanofi, joining the firm with 28 years of global pharmaceutical experience.

Brandicourt was most recently chairman of the board of management of Bayer HealthCare AG, and has also worked with Pfizer. He takes up his new role 02 Apr.

Valeant acquisition

VALEANT Pharmaceuticals International has announced the US\$14.5 billion acquisition of Salix Pharmaceuticals, which has a portfolio of 22 gastrointestinal products including Xifaxan, Uceris, Relistor and Apriso.

Valeant said Salix was an "ideal strategic fit," with the GI market having attractive fundamentals and the Salix range complemented by a "promising near-term pipeline".

The combined companies are estimated to yield more than \$500 million in annual cost savings, from reductions in corporate overhead and R&D rationalisation.

HIV workshops

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has announced a new *Introduction to HIV* workshop to help community pharmacists prepare to dispense HIV antiretrovirals.

Until now people living with HIV have had to get their medicines from a hospital, with changes to the supply of HIV antiretrovirals announced last year becoming effective 01 Jul this year, meaning they will become available through community pharmacy.

The workshop, developed by SHPA's Infectious Diseases Committee of Specialty Practice, HIV Special Interest Group, includes lectures, group discussions and case studies, with the aim of helping community pharmacists support new and existing customers who have HIV.

As well as the management of HIV medicines, interactions, adverse events, adherence and counselling, topics also include the social, personal and emotional aspects of the condition.

Accredited for five Group-1 and two Group-2 CPD credits, the workshops will take place 09 May in Melbourne, 23 May in Brisbane and 30 May in Sydney - for details see www.shpa.org.au.

Heart Foundation: invest in prevention

National Heart Foundation ceo Mary Barry says the release of the second *Lancet* series on obesity is a reminder to government that "spending on health is an investment, and the key is investing in prevention".

The papers look at the obesity epidemic and conclude changes needed are likely to require many sustained interventions at several levels, but that national governments should take the lead.

The Foundation urged the reduction of excessive sugar, fat and salt in processed food, as well as opposing the marketing of junk food to children and more.

Barry said the pandemic needed to be reversed by changing the societal approach to food, beverages and physical activity.

The advertisement features the 'PRO PAIRA' logo in a stylized font, with 'Skin Care for Problematic Skin' written below it. A large red button with the text 'Acne Prone skin' is prominent. At the bottom, another red button says 'find out more'. The background is a light grey with some abstract lines.

The advertisement shows a bottle of 'Inner Health Immune Booster for kids' and a cartoon character of a blue pill with a face and arms. The text says 'for kids immunity' in large, colorful letters. Below that, it says 'Inner Health Immune Booster for kids may help reduce the frequency and severity of cold symptoms, such as runny noses and coughs, and reduce the days away from childcare and school.' The website 'innerhealth.com.au' is at the bottom.

The advertisement features the 'ETHICAL NUTRIENTS' logo and 'INNER HEALTH' text. It shows a cartoon character of a blue pill with a face and arms, holding a white cross. The text says 'Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist consult your healthcare professional.' The website 'innerhealth.com.au' is at the bottom.

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SHPA Fellowship

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is inviting interested pharmacist members to apply to become a Fellow of the organisation.

Prospective applicants should have been an SHPA member for at least five years and demonstrated a high level of postgraduate academic achievement relevant to hospital pharmacy practice.

CLICK HERE for details.

Guild Update

APP 2015

AMONG the attractions at APP 2015 next month will be a wealth of international speakers and pharmacy organisation representatives.

The Friday morning panel will focus on the theme: Pharmacy Professional Programs - world's best practice. The Panel, including international guests from the USA, New Zealand and Portugal, will discuss pharmacy professional services across the world and how Australia can embrace best practice in providing solutions to the community. The panel on Friday March 13 will also feature two young female pharmacy owners, the president of NAPSAs, and the National president of the Guild, George Tambassis. One of the key questions to the international guests will be: What can Australia learn from the expansion of professional services in your country? What should we avoid?

Another challenging question will be: Who should pay for expanded professional services – government, consumer, health insurance funds?

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at Australia's premier pharmacy event on the Gold Coast next month.

Gaps in AMS pharmacists

DESPITE the serious threat posed to global health by antimicrobial resistance, paediatric hospitals in Australia and NZ are lacking education and personnel to tackle the issue, according to a *Medical Journal of Australia* paper.

The study undertaken by Penelope Bryant on behalf of the Australasian Stewardship of Antimicrobials in Paediatrics group aimed to identify current antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) resources and activities for children in hospitals in Australia.

14 hospitals were surveyed, with paediatric bed numbers ranging from 40 to 400.

Of those seven had a dedicated AMS team or AMS team with a paediatric representative, and 11 had an AMS pharmacist position.

However only four had committed

ongoing funding for a permanent paediatric AMS pharmacist.

All hospitals had antimicrobial prescribing guidelines, but most did not have guidelines for antifungal prophylaxis, surgical prophylaxis, neonatology or intensive care.

The commonest perceived barriers to successful AMS were lack of education (in 11 hospitals), and lack of dedicated pharmacy (eight) and medical (seven) staff.

All hospitals had restricted antimicrobials, but only four had an electronic approval system.

15 minute Ebola test

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has approved the ReEBOV Antigen Rapid Test Kit (Corgenix, USA), an Ebola test that can be completed in 15 minutes without electricity, making it suitable for mobile or outpost medical centres.

WHO says that the test is able to correctly identify about 92% of Ebola infected patients and 85% of those not infected with the virus, but is rapid compared to the 12 to 24 hour turnaround of other tests.

CLICK HERE for the WHO release.

FDA guidance

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued five draft guidance documents to pharmacies and others seeking to compound or repack drugs.

CLICK HERE to read more.

WIN WITH FAB IRON

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **FAB IRON** are giving readers the chance to win a prize pack of FAB IRON+ Liquid Iron 250mL and FAB IRON sachets.



FAB IRON Liquid Iron is a low dose iron supplement that gives you all the benefits of iron with a natural fruity taste, the company says. Containing an organic form of iron that is gentle on the digestive system, FAB IRON is suitable for the whole family including children and pregnant women.

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

The average Australian diet provides us with approximately 10mg of iron per day. What is the recommended daily intake for a woman?

Need a hint? [Click here.](#)

Congratulations to yesterday's winner Adrian Sung from Pharmacy Online!



WOULD you like some flies with that?

The UK's first insect restaurant will open shortly, with the aptly-titled Grub Kitchen to offer a range of dishes made from grasshoppers and worms.

Apparently very nutritious, the cuisine to be served by the eatery in Pembrokeshire, South Wales, is the brainchild of head chef Andrew Holcroft.

"We want to pioneer the movement to normalise the eating of bugs on a day-to-day basis," he told UK restaurant magazine *The Caterer*.

"We are treating them as a normal food item, incorporating insect protein as an ingredient, but also using normal flavours we are familiar with," he said.

Holcroft said he does not believe humans will ever stop eating meat - "that goes against biology" - so the menu of bug burgers will also offer more conventional dishes such as lamb kebabs.

SKIING can be a dangerous pastime - but it can be more risky off the slopes than on, according to a new survey of British skiers hurt while on snow holidays.

More than half of those polled said that their injuries occurred when they weren't actually skiing.

The most common incidents involved slipping on icy streets, while others tripped or otherwise hurt themselves while ensconced in their chalet accommodation.

Some hurt themselves playing in the snow, and 20% confessed to being injured going uphill on a ski lift rather than speeding down.

Of those hurt while actually skiing, 27% said it happened because they were going too fast, while 37% said it was someone else's fault, or caused by another skier crashing into them.