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WANT A COMPETITIVE EDGE IN TODAY'S CHANGING LANDSCAPE??

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Men's health week

ANDROLOGY Australia has developed free resources such as posters and information brochures for pharmacies to support and encourage men to talk about their reproductive health, with Men's Health Week taking place 15-21 Jun.

For more information see www.andrologyaustralia.org.

APLF workforce summit

THE Australian Pharmacist Liaison Forum (APLF) will host the profession's first ever Pharmacist Workforce Summit later this month.

The event is being organised in collaboration with Monash University's Project Pharmacist, with APLF chair Professor Iqbal Ramzan saying it's hoped the summit will "address issues relating to enhancing utilisation of the Australian pharmacist workforce."

"We would like to achieve a set of consensus outcomes from this day that can pave a path for a united way forward," he said.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia is also supporting the event,

with the APLF already canvassing responses from all of the major pharmacy organisations via a survey feeding into the development of the summit program.

The Summit will also feature Dr Adrian Webster from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare & Professor Anthony Scott who leads the Centre of Research Excellence in Medical Workforce Dynamics.

The Summit will take place Fri 26 Jun 15 at Monash University's Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Script forgery in court

AN ADELAIDE general practitioner faced court yesterday over allegations he forged prescriptions to obtain Stilnox and Tramadol.

58-year-old Graeme Murphy is claimed to have "uttered prescriptions" for the medications which were presented at a pharmacy in Frewville in Feb 2013.

Pharmacy staff alerted police after concerns that the scripts were suspicious and had been issued to a John Brooks, someone who "does not exist to the best of our knowledge," according to testimony given during the hearing.

When the police arrived at the pharmacy Murphy fled, with officers claiming he had been "caught in the crosshairs".

However the defence argued the case had not been proven beyond reasonable doubt, with security footage from the pharmacy being "inconclusive" and claims that police had not conducted an adequate search for the mysterious John Brooks.

The judge will hand down her ruling next month.

Win with Nutri-Synergy

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Plunketts** are giving away a pack of Nutri-Synergy skincare each day, including NS Dry Skin Moisturiser and NS Soap Free Wash.



New packaging for Nutri-Synergy skincare is now being introduced into pharmacy – brighter and more modern. NS combines natural therapeutic actives to effectively treat dry, sensitive and problem skin and works in synergy with the skin, to restore and maintain its healthy condition. NS is natural dermatology. For more info go to www.NutriSynergy.com.au

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

Name one of the "nasties" that Nutri-Synergy products do not contain.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Marina Atanasovska from Chemsave.

Vale Peter Brand

THE Australian pharmacy sector is mourning the death of former PSA National President Peter Brand, who died in Brisbane last week.

Brand's illustrious career included receiving the PSA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008, while in 2009 he received an Order of Australia for service to the pharmacy profession.

His funeral will take place in Brisbane tomorrow.

FDA tick for Praluent

AN advisory panel to the US Food and Drug Administration has voted in favour of approving a new cholesterol-lowering therapy developed by Sanofi and Regeneron pharmaceuticals.

Praluent (alicorumb) is a first-in-class PCSK9 inhibitor which has been shown to lower LDL.

Last minute ball tix

THE Danii Foundation has some last minute space available at this weekend's annual Jelly Bean Ball, which raises funds to make affordable, life-saving alert technology a reality for people with type 1 diabetes.

Taking place at the Sydney Sofitel Wentworth Hotel on Sat 13 Jun, bookings can be made via emily@dani.org.au or on 02 9888 5555.

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Vax fears survey

PARENT'S fears around vaccinating their children are to be analysed from data anticipated from an Australia-wide survey out of the University of Queensland.

Lead researcher Dr Cassandra Dittman said little was known about the attitudes of the majority of the current generation of Australian parents.

"If we know how parents form their opinions, we can start to look at ways to have respectful and open discussions with them about vaccine safety and effectiveness, if that is what is required," Dittman said.

Some parents delay or refuse some vaccines or remain concerned even when they have had their children vaccinated, she said.

The survey is intended to reveal what parents think about vaccines and identify the sources of information they consult and trust, all of which will lead to providing health care professionals with tools to help counsel parents.

Boots restructure

BRITISH pharmacy giant Boots has announced 700 job cuts, under a cost reduction program following its merger with US chain Walgreens.

About 400 support roles will disappear from its Nottingham headquarters while the rest will come from across the network - but no job losses will occur within Boots pharmacy or optical outlets, the company said.

The £9 billion merger between Boots and Walgreens was approved late last year, with the intention of creating the first "global pharmacy-led health and wellbeing enterprise".

Boots said the changes were part of plans aimed at "simplifying the structure of support functions in order to provide a better level of service...and allow for a more focused investment in key areas to drive future growth".

The company runs more than 2,500 Boots stores across the UK, with total staff numbering around 70,000 people.

Community health services consultation

THE Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is asking stakeholders for feedback on a draft resource that has been developed to help community health services using the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards.

The commission is looking to broaden the applicability of the guide to include other community health services using the NSQHS Standards.

CLICK HERE for details.

HCP Peace in Practice

QUEST for Life Foundation ceo Petrea King will be a key presenter in the Blackmores-sponsored 5-module training workshops titled *Peace in Practice for Healthcare Professionals*.

The events are planned for May to Nov and held at Blackmores in Warriewood.

Ring 1300 941 488 for more.

Januvia CV safety

SITAGLIPTIN (Januvia by Merck Sharp & Dohme) was noninferior to placebo for the primary composite cardiovascular outcome of risk for major adverse events or hospitalisation for heart failure or adverse events, in a study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* yesterday.

The paper was presented at the American Diabetes Association Scientific Sessions disclosing that 14,671 diabetes type 2 patients were assigned to add either sitagliptin or placebo to their existing therapy and were followed up for a median of 3.0 years.

Oxford University's Professor Rury Holman, joint chair of the study, said the research "provides reassurance that sitagliptin may be used safely to improve blood glucose levels" in diabetes type 2 patients at high cardiovascular risk without impacting on rates of cardiovascular complications or heart failure.

CLICK HERE to access the abstract.

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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly promoted feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy.

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

New Blackcurrant Lozenges by Isla

Especially designed to help with symptoms of dry cough from an allergy, tickly throat or strained vocal cords, new **Isla Blackcurrant Lozenges** are also a convenient 'on-the-go' treatment for people who are susceptible to dry, irritated airways. By sucking a blackcurrant flavoured Isla lozenge, a protective, moist coating is produced in the mouth and pharynx providing relief to a dry cough or tickly throat, the company says.



Stockist: 1300 790 978

RRP: \$9.95

Website: www.islacough.com.au

Bilberry Eyestrain Relief by Blackmores

Designed to support eyesight if you perform fine detailed work or if you suffer from poor night vision, **Bilberry Eyestrain Relief** contains flavonoid compounds, anthocyanosides, which have been found to significantly improve night vision and assist the function of the retina, Blackmores says. Bilberry can help maintain rhodopsin stores which may be depleted during long periods of visual work and may also be protective against circulatory-related eye conditions.

Stockist: 1800 803 760

RRP: \$20.99

Website: www.blackmores.com.au



Blushing Blush Powder Blush by Clinique



Clinique's **Blushing Blush Powder Blush** is a silky formula that sweeps effortlessly over cheekbones to create a natural look. Fresh, jet-milled colour builds to desired intensity with a custom-sculpting brush. Long-wearing, the colour is designed to stay true, with the formula oil-free. This blush is available in Aglow, Innocent Peach, Pink Love, Precious Posy, Bashful Blush, Iced Lotus and Smouldering Plum, and presented with its own brush in a silver compact.

Stockist: 1800 556 948

RRP: \$49.00 for 6 g

Website: www.clinique.com.au

For men: Hydrix Balm by Lancôme

Lancôme **Hydrix Balm** for men is a micro-nutrient moisturising balm for normal to dry skin. For daily skin moisturising, the balm is enriched with micro-nutrients specially chosen for men to help hydration in the upper layers of the epidermis. Ingredients include micro encapsulated tri-ceramids, vitamin E, micro-nutrients including vitamins and royal jelly, shea butter with emollient properties and coprah and palm vegetable oils.

Stockist: 1300 651 991

RRP: \$85.00

Website: www.loreal.com.au



DISPENSARY CORNER

NEW research by scientists at Northwestern University in the USA clarified there is no data to support the notion that eating the placenta after childbirth can protect women against post-natal depression.

According to a report in the *Archives of Women's Mental Health* the practice has gained popularity in recent years, with a number of studies published in relation to placenta eating.

Proponents of "placentophagy" claim it can help with breast milk production, increase energy and enhance mother-child bonding.

However the review, which looked at ten studies, could not find any data to support claims of health benefits from eating the placenta in any form, whether raw, cooked or as tablets.

EMERGENCY services in the UK responded to a rather unusual crisis over the weekend, when a woman called them because she had been superglued to her front door handle.

After initially dismissing her call as a prank, eventually firefighters, paramedics and accident & emergency staff responded and in the end had to saw her free after three hours stuck to the door.

"I got home after spending the evening with my friend who lives nearby and was confused when I realised the door handle was sticky," 28-year-old Fiona Crabb told the *BBC*.

"I did manage to get the door open and woke up my partner Tony, but I just couldn't free myself," she added.

Once the paramedics arrived they tried a range of options including WD-40, hot water, vegetable oil and even Coca Cola before cutting off the handle and using a special solvent.