

PRO PAIRA		API PDE
Skin Care for Problematic Skin		
ITEM		
PROPAIRA	Purifying Cream 30ml	932140
PROPAIRA	Foaming Cleansing Gel 100ml	932167
PROPAIRA	Ultra-Calm Lotion 100ml	932183
PROPAIRA	Ultra-Calm Cleansing Gel 100ml	932221
PROPAIRA	SPF50+ Sunscreen 80ml	932256

## Leimo sales

**INNOVADERMA** Australia and NZ is inviting pharmacists to sign up to become a reseller of the Leimo Personal Hair Laser Starter Kit and receive discounts with its Starter Packs - see [page three](#) for more.

## Code privacy tweaks

**THE** Australian Privacy Commissioner (APC) has submitted to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission about the Medicines Australia Code of Conduct, seeking small changes to paragraphs relating to privacy matters around reporting transfers of value to healthcare professionals.

With wording adjustments recommended, the APC approves of healthcare professionals giving consent or being made to expect that details would be divulged.

The ACCC anticipates releasing its final decision on the code shortly. [CLICK HERE](#) to access.

## NAPSA urges political action

**NATIONAL** Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) national president Sam Turner has encouraged members to write to their local MP to highlight their concerns about a viable pharmacy future and to urge for certainty in the future of the profession, following Health Minister Sussan Ley's speech at APP 2015 in which the Minister said that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme would not be exempt from cost savings measures.

## FDA probes homeopathy

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration this morning announced a public hearing into "the current use of human drug and biological products labelled as homeopathic".

The FDA probe will evaluate the regulatory framework for complementary medicine products, including homeopathic prescription drugs and OTC medications.

"FDA is evaluating its current enforcement policies for drug products labelled as homeopathic from scientific, risk and process perspectives," the agency said, with input sought from stakeholders on how to adjust arrangements "to reflect changes in the homeopathic

## Ibuprofen CV risk data

**THE** NZ Medicines Adverse Reactions Committee has recommended updates to data sheets to reflect a consistent picture of the cardiovascular (CV) risks associated with ibuprofen.

Studies of the CV risks were described as "mostly observational, under powered and highly confounded", with data for low dose suggesting no increased risk, for doses 1200mg to 2400mg lacking sufficient data and higher doses having a definite association, the Committee said.

Medsafe would advise sponsors of the recommendation to harmonise data sheets and would communicate the results of the review of the matter to healthcare professionals, the Committee said.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the minutes.

product marketplace over the last approximately 25 years".

Since 1988 homeopathic drug products have been manufactured and distributed without FDA approval - however sales have surged and the agency noted many items are now "sold OTC in major retail stores and are often marketed as natural, safe and effective alternatives to other prescription and nonprescription products".

Key topics at the hearing will include whether current policies are appropriate to protect public health in the light of the tremendous growth in the sector, and whether consumers and health providers have sufficient information to make informed decisions about the use of homeopathic drug products.

## Teva to buy Auspex

**TEVA** has agreed to acquire Auspex Pharmaceuticals for US\$3.2 billion - a 42% premium to the company's share price last week.

Teva ceo Erez Gicodman said the deal strengthened Teva's lead in central nervous system treatments "and advances us into underserved movement disorder markets".

The acquisition includes Auspex's SD-809 (deutetrabenazine) which is expected to be the subject of a marketing filing with the FDA later this year for the treatment of Huntington's disease.

## Blackmores confirms "strong sales growth"

**BLACKMORES** ceo Christine Holgate yesterday announced that the company has been experiencing continued strong sales growth for the third quarter.

An ASX update issued after a Blackmores board meeting said group sales are expected to be about 10% higher than the previous quarter of this financial year.

"The Board estimates that this pleasing growth will deliver a third quarter net profit after tax increase of around 20% on the previous quarter of this financial year," the update stated.

## Hydroxyzine limited

**THE** European Medicines Agency's Coordination Group for Mutual Recognition and Decentralised Procedures - Human (CMDh) has agreed on new measures to minimise the risk of cardiac effects from medicines containing the antihistamine hydroxyzine, available in most EU countries for various indications.

Stemming from earlier fears expressed by Hungarian authorities and measures recommended by the Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee to minimise risks relating to QT prolongation and torsade de pointes (*PD* 12 May 14 and 16 Feb 15), the CMDh has restricted hydroxyzine use in those most at risk, with lower dosages along with recommended Product Information changes to reflect the restrictions.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

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## CaSPA meets SHPA

**THE** Canberra Student Pharmacy Association (CaSPA) held its first Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) information night with pharmacists from both Canberra and Calvary Hospitals on 11 Mar.

Pharmacy roles discussed included clinical oncology, sterile compounding, clinical intensive care, internship, clinical emergency department and research.

This follows a partnership announced between NAPSA and SHPA (*PD* 25 Aug 14).

## Guild Update

### PBS price changes from tomorrow 01 Apr

**THE** Guild is reminding members of the official PBS price changes that will take effect from tomorrow.

The Guild has received official notification from the Department of Health of the list of PBS price reductions and increases that will take effect on 1 April 2015. This list contains all drug names, brand names, forms, strengths, March prices and new April prices.

Guild Members can see the details on the Guild website.

This is the second cycle under the Simplified Price Disclosure amendments, which results in many drugs having a reduction sooner than previously scheduled. The latest round of medicine price cuts will put further pressure on community pharmacies at a time when they are already under financial stress, and struggling to maintain services and jobs. The impact will be felt by all pharmacies.

If you have any questions, please contact the National Secretariat on 02 6270 1888.

## Rural HCP chronic conflict

**PHARMACISTS** and doctors in parts of rural Australia are not prepared for effective collaboration especially with relation to chronic disease management, according to a new study published in the *International Pharmacy Journal*.

In the observational study over 12 months from 2011 to 2012, 84 patients were recruited from nine community pharmacies in rural NSW and pharmacists were to monitor factors including waist circumference, weight, visual acuity and where relevant cholesterol, triglycerides and INR.

Four pharmacies withdrew from the study due to local doctors objecting to them competing for their income, the authors said.

Another two pharmacies did not perform INR testing in order to avoid damaging doctor relationships, the study said.

Four sites did not perform triglycerides testing due to costs.

Both professions needed to accept such services for these to be successful.

Importantly, financial remuneration models needed to grow and adapt for collaboration to

occur, in order that neither party's funding was impacted, Charles Darwin University Professor of Pharmacy and co-author Patrick Ball said.

The atmosphere at the time of the funding had also not been conducive to collaboration, he said, with divisions of practice switching over to Medicare Locals.

Patient health literacy had improved over the course of the study, which was not unique to the study, showing one on one time with patients helped improve patient adherence to therapy.

The study's conclusion recommended that professional bodies advocate for new models and regulations to manage chronic disease.

Rural Doctors Association of Australia ceo Jenny Johnson has previously said the organisation would have reservations about pharmacists extending their role too much, but that there was potential for collaborative care arrangements when it came to doctors and pharmacists working together (*PD* 12 Jun 14).

**CLICK HERE** for the study.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**POLICE** in the USA are looking for a burglar with a particularly sweet tooth, after a robbery at a pizza outlet in northern Pennsylvania.

According to troopers from the tiny town of Pleasantville, the thief who broke into Corky's Pizza Shop is being sought after stealing more than 100 chocolate bars.

He also pinched eight giant chocolate chip cookies, with officers apparently circulating photos of the alleged criminal among local dentists and weight loss clinics.

**A PUBLIC** servant in Japan has been sacked after a series of absences in which he claimed to be attending the funerals of family and friends.

60-year-old Shigenori Natori is accused of fabricating the deaths in order to take a total of 16 days of bereavement leave over a five year period, in relation to the supposed deaths of 12 relatives.

His supervisors realised there was something odd happening when he tried to take time off earlier this year after the passing of a beloved uncle.

They noticed that he had already been granted compassionate leave for the same man's funeral some years prior, and dismissed him just a few weeks before his formal retirement date.

**GOOD** news - promiscuous koalas at Australia Zoo on the Qld Sunshine Coast can continue their raunchy ways in a consequence-free environment.

Pharmaceutical supplier Ceva Australia has come to the rescue of our cute furry friends, after generously agreeing to supply chloramphenicol, for the treatment of chlamydia.

Ceva has stepped up to fill the void left by a worldwide shortage of veterinary chloramphenicol.

## WIN A BIO-OIL PACK

This week *PD* and **Bio-Oil** are giving away five 'Love Yourself Fit' mini prize packs to the value of \$110, including Bio-Oil 200mL, Bio-Oil 60mL, a Bio-Oil sports drink bottle and a Bio-Oil Watch In tin.

Bio-Oil is a specialist skincare oil that helps to improve the appearance of scars, stretchmarks and uneven skin tone. It has also been proven effective on ageing skin and dehydrated skin, the company says. With a plethora of skincare awards under its belt, Bio-Oil has become the No.1 selling scar and stretchmark product in 18 countries since its global launch in 2002.

To win, be the first from **QLD** to send the correct answer to:

[comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Name the four botanical oils contained in Bio-Oil.

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

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Sam Morgan from Blooms the Chemist Orange.



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