Pharmacy DAILY -

Tuesday 26 May 2015

PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

Sanofi diabetes push

SANOFI is urging the government to help fund a new diabetes education program for GPs, with the aim of reducing the growing financial burden of the condition on the Australian health system.

Pharmacists are also part of the push, with Sanofi saying they "play a pivotal role in improving adherence to insulin therapy" as well as helping patients understand their treatment and directing them back to their doctor when glycaemic control is sub-optimal.

The Sanofi education program has been developed jointly with a range of medical specialists, GPs, diabetes educators and pharmacists, and outlines how bringing blood glucose levels to target can play a key role in reducing complications from diabetes.

The two-day RACGP accredited program is called the *Insulin Leadership Summit* and more than 1,300 GPs have already participated.

IMS webinar

IMS Health will host an online webinar on "Best Practices for Controlled Substances Inventory Management" covering web-based dashboards to enhance supply chain visibility - register HERE.

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THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) says 2014 was a year of major achievements, with pharmacists across the globe uniting to work towards worldwide "responsible use of medicines and good health for everyone".

The FIP 2014 annual report, titled Together we are stronger details a range of milestones last year where "pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists uniting became a common sight".

In Europe they joined forces to fight against regulation; in the Far East pharmacy colleagues gathered in demonstrating against legislation that could reduce patient safety; and in Latin America they came together to call attention to the possible dangers of the sale of recreational marijuana in pharmacies.

MATES update

THE Veterans MATES service has issued a new educational topic on "Getting the best from your oral corticosteroid medicines".

As well as information for veterans and carers, there's a comprehensive therapeutic briefsee www.veteransmates.net.au.

FIP worked to boost pride in the profession, hosting World Pharmacists Day and also launching a new "international oath for pharmacists," according to FIP president Carmel Pena.

And the Federation acted quickly on the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, developing pharmacyspecific guidelines for the crisis.

FIP also grew significantly in 2014, admitting ten new member organisations bringing its total complement to 132.

The organisation hosted the fifth Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress as well as the 74th World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Bangkok which was attended by over 2,000 delegates.

The report details a range of key global developments including new laws introduced in Brazil which mandate that a pharmacist must be always present in a pharmacy.

Other activity included action on herbal products, antimicrobial resistance, professional development & more - CLICK HERE for the report.

Cancer Eureka

IN WHAT is being described as "uncovering the Rosetta Stone" for prostate cancer, scientists claim to have found that nine out of 10 cases of late stage prostate cancer can now be linked to changes in the DNA of sufferers.

Researchers in the US and UK investigated the genetic make-up of 150 tumours from patients with advanced prostate cancer to find that almost two thirds of the men had mutations in a molecule that interacts with androgen, the male hormone, while 20% also had BRCA1 & BRCA2 genetic mutations.

The findings were reported in the *Cell* journal - **CLICK HERE**.

Synthetic cannabis

AUTHORITIES in New Zealand have warned about a spate of bad reactions to what is suspected to be a synthetic form of cannabis.

Over 30 people have been treated at Auckland hospitals in the last few days, according to the *NZ Herald*.

It's now twelve months since the NZ government banned previously legal "psychoactive substances" such as synthetic cannabis.

Symptoms of the dodgy drug are said to include tachycardia, agitation and seizures, with patients reporting having smoked products labelled "Chocolate Haze" or "Black Widow".

Analysis of the suspect compound is under way, with suspicions it is new to the Auckland streets rather than stockpiled before the ban.

GVK suspensions

THE European Medicines Agency has confirmed its recommendation to suspend a number of medicines for which authorisation in the EU was primarily based on clinical studies conducted at GVK Biosciences in Hyderabad, India.

The EMA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use made the ruling after an inspection of the GVK site by the French medicines agency which raised concerns about some of the data.

Allegations include manipulation of electrocardiograms during the conduct of some studies of generic medicines over a five year period.

"Their systematic nature, the extended period of time during which they took place and the number of members of staff involved cast doubt on the integrity of the conduct of trials at the site generally and on the reliability of data generated," the EMA said.

The list of affected medicines is online at www.ema.europa.eu.



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Sixth Community **Pharmacy** Agreement (6CPA)

THE Guild has being working extremely hard on behalf of all our Members to secure the best possible outcome in the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement (6CPA).

At all times, our goal has been to achieve the certainty and security required for continued investment in pharmacies, staff and the health care of patients.

From the start of the negotiations, the Guild has insisted that per prescription official dispensing remuneration must be at least the average of the 5CPA in real terms. I am pleased to say this has been secured through the Administration, Handling and Infrastructure Fee (AHI), which will mean pharmacies will be less susceptible to the ongoing impact of price disclosure. The Government has also committed to nearly double its investment in community pharmacy programmes.

Most importantly, the 6CPA provides five years of certainty for our Members, both in relation to dispensary remuneration and location rules.

Our task now is to help transform pharmacies so that they are strong, vibrant businesses with a more diversified revenue base that is less reliant on government and others in the supply chain. The Guild is your trusted partner on this vital journey, committed to providing practical and valueadding tools and support in areas like industrial relations, training and business enablement.

Competency standards review

THE Pharmacy Practitioner Development Committee (PPDC) has announced the appointment of Kerry Deans as a consultant to conduct the next stage of the Competency Standards Review.

According to a communiqué issued following the May 2015 meeting of the PPDC, the next stage will involve a detailed revision of the content of the competency standards.

This will be informed by feedback received through a report from the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA), as well as the expert advice of PPDC member organisations which include the PSA, SHPA, Guild, PDL, the

RGH E-Bulletin

THIS week's Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy E-Bulletin summarises issues around the use of Icatibant in ACE-Inhibitorinduced angioedema, citing a trial comparing icatibant with the current off-label standard therapy which consisted of intravenous prednisolone and clemastine.

CLICK HERE to access.

Australian College of Pharmacy, the Australian Pharmacy Council and the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

The AHHA findings indicate that fundamental change is not required to the competency standards, but some revisions are needed for contemporary practice and emerging and future pharmacist roles to be reflected.

"An even greater emphasis on patient-centred care and enhancing flexibility of the framework were also suggested," the communiqué reported.

At the PPDC meeting there was also an update on the Australian Pharmacy Council credentialing of advance practice pharmacists pilot program which is currently under way, with the first cohort of pharmacists currently undergoing practice portfolio evaluation.

PHARMAC Abbott nod

NEW Zealand's Pharmaceutical Management Agency (PHARMAC) has announced the approval of an agreement with Abbott Laboratories NZ to supply a range of Interventional Cardiology products.



DISPENSARY CORNER

anthogenol

THIS mystery was not exactly a no-brainer.

Residents of the small northern New York village of Governeur were intrigued when they discovered nine brains scattered along one of the streets.

Police were alerted, but after an investigation concluded there was no criminal activity involved.

A local veterinarian, Dr Timothy Monroe, examined the brains and found that they were from either dogs or sheep, and had been professionally removed and preserved in formaldehyde.

"I suppose it was somebody's collection that had outlived its usefulness and been disposed of," he concluded.

Officers said their only concern now was that someone had littered in a village roadway - and at the same time caused some degree of public alarm.

AN eminent French obstetrician has warned that the ongoing "medicalisation" of pregnancy could mean that one day women will lose the ability to give birth naturally.

84-year-old Michel Odent's new book Do We Need Midwives cites the intriguing statistic that women are taking much longer in labour than 50 years ago, with interventions such as drugs and surgery behind the change.

Women giving birth between 2002 and 2008 took two and a half hours longer in the first stage of labour than those who gave birth between 1959 and 1966.

To me it demonstrates the obvious - that women are losing the capacity to give birth," he said.

Odent, who pioneered the use of birthing pools in hospital and has been critical of the surge in caesarean deliveries, said he believes that the "human oxytocin system is growing weaker".

WIN A NEW PRODUCT PACK

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Innoxa** are giving away a new product pack including Organic Gentle Cleansing Gel (\$14.99 RRP), Organic Hydrating Daily Moisturiser (\$24.99 RRP) and Organic Brightening Eye Cream (\$19.99 RRP).

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