Pharmacy DAILY
Tuesday 02 Aug 2016 PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a full page featuring the **MIMS August update**.

RA market blows out

WITH the increased use of biologics, drugs with newer mechanisms of action and combination therapies, the biosimilar sector of the global rheumatoid arthritis (RA) market is trending strongly with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 71% according to BCC Research.

While the global market for therapies for RA is expected to grow at a CAGR of 1.3%, to $17.2b by 2020, biosimilars for major biologic products etanercept, infliximab and rituximab are dominating growth.

CLICK HERE to access the data.

Health Care Homes report

THE government's proposed Patient Centred 'Health Care Home' (PCHCH) concept should be extended to all applicable patients, not just those with chronic conditions, according to a report released yesterday by a coalition of organisations including the Consumers Health Forum of Australia and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

The report summarises consensus principles from a roundtable convened in Melbourne last month attended by stakeholders from across the sector, including the PSA.

The PCHCH would place multidisciplinary teams in a one-stop health care hub to help coordinate care and treatment focused around the patient.

In the May 2016 Budget funding for a first stage of the Health Care Home was announced, and from Jul 2017 up to 65,000 patients should be able to voluntarily enrol in a trial of Health Care Homes in up to 200 practices across seven Primary Health Network regions.

The effectiveness of the trial will then be reviewed after two years.

The report, which summarises models in the US and Canada, said an integrated system would "provide patients with more individualised attention including tailored care, alternative consultation modes, and online access to their own health information, tests & appointments.

Recommendations include building IT infrastructure to enable shared care planning and coordinated care, including health care team access to pharmacy, pathology and diagnostic imaging.

View the report at chf.org.au.

Lung health list

LUNG Foundation Australia has developed Australia's first national Lung Health Checklist for the Indigenous community, together with the Qld govt's Indigenous Respiratory Outreach Care Program.

Eight simple questions help recognise symptoms and risks of lung disease and the need to act promptly - for details see lungfoundation.com.au.

MA fines BMS $10k

DUE to Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) being found in breach of sections of the Medicines Australia (MA) Code of Conduct on certain matters relating to a doctor meeting, the company has been ordered to pay a fine of $10,000.

Bizarrely, when rival MSD appealed the sanction as too limited, but lost the appeal, the Medicines Australia Appeals Committee retained the company's $20,000 appeal bond, meaning the matter cost MSD twice as much as the original BMS fine.

CLICK HERE for the ruling.

AHPRA ad sanction

THE Australian Health Professions Regulatory Agency has charged a NSW chiropractor with breaching advertising requirements, alleging his website advertised chiropractic services in a way that was likely to be "false, misleading or deceptive".

Without commenting directly on the matter which is now before the courts, AHPRA ceo Martin Fletcher said the agency took its role of protecting the public very seriously.

"Anyone advertising a regulated health service, regardless of whether they are registered health practitioners or not, must meet the requirements of the law," he said.

AHPRA said chiropractors "must practise in an evidence-based way".

Cincotta Mascot award

ANTHONY Vass, owner of the Cincotta Discount Chemist Mascot was named NSW Pharmacist of the Year for 2016 at a recent PSA (NSW) dinner at Sydney's Oatlands House.

The pharmacy is a reference site for the PSA's Health Destination Pharmacy program.

Vass said a "lightbulb moment" was a turning point for him when attended the AIM High Adherence training program initiated by Cincotta Discount Chemist in conjunction with the University of Technology Sydney.

He said at that point he realised he hadn't fully engaged with patients, but by "Taking a moment to ask customers simple questions about how and when they take their medication has opened up a whole new understanding of how I can become more effective as a health professional."

The Aim High Adherence and HDP programs were an "unqualified success," he said and his store now has growth in all areas and 200 more community Webster-pak customers than before.

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New digital health ceo

HEALTH minister Sussan Ley yesterday announced the appointment of Tim Kelsey as the new ceo of the Australian Digital Health Agency which is responsible for all national digital health systems and services.

Guild Update

Students up and running in semis

THE semi-finalists have been announced for the 2016 Pharmacy Guild of Australia National Student Business Plan Competition, an Australia-wide challenge promoting creative entrepreneurship among students preparing for a career in community pharmacy.

Eight teams, from six Universities - Sydney University, Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology, University of Technology Sydney, University of Queensland, and Auckland University – have been awarded places in the semi-finals of the competition. The teams progress to the semi-finals based on their business plans and their scores in the quarter final round, which consisted of an online quiz and short answer questions.

The semi-final round will be underway until 15th August 2016, with the top three teams progressing to the finals at the Pharmacy Connect Conference, Sydney 9-11 September 2016.

Pictured are the University of Auckland team - from left: Philip Cabasag, Akhila Puthigae, Surbhi Patel, and Sean Turner.

Emerging drugs challenge

FUNDING new and expensive medications is an "emerging challenge" for Australia, according to the latest issue of NPS MedicineWise's *Australian Prescriber*, which is now a fully digital publication (***PD*** 06 Jun).

An article lists the top ten drugs used in Australia by daily dose, prescription counts and cost to government, with the highest impact on the PBS being adalimumab, which cost taxpayers more than $300m in 2014-15 for just over 176,000 scripts.

For the first time in 20 years statins have not topped the list of most costly drugs to government - however while atorvastatin has dropped out of the top ten by cost, it still topped the lists for daily dose and prescription counts.

Rosuvastatin was the second most expensive drug overall, costing the government $206 million for more than 7 million scripts.

Other costly items included new entrants macular degeneration drugs aflibercept at $193 million and ranibizumab at almost $180m.

Fluticasone and salmeterol came in fifth place at $175 million for just over 3 million scripts, just ahead of esomeprazole for 7.1m scripts.

Others in the top ten by cost included etanercept ($164 million/93,000 scripts), rituximab ($156 million/46,700 scripts), insulin glargine ($142m/347,000) and fingolimod ($134m/58,800).

For details see nps.org.au.

New strep vaccine

RESEARCHERS from the Institute for Glycomics at Griffith University have confirmed human clinical trials of a new needle-free vaccine targeting Streptococcus A infection, the cause of strep throat and rheumatic heart disease, with trials funded by China's Olymvax Biopharmaceuticals.

Mi Show TGA alert

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued a safety advisory warning that capsules labelled Mi Show Slimming pose a risk to health and contain the undisclosed and world-banned substance silbutramine.

Sibutramine was withdrawn globally in 2010 due to an increased risk of cardiac events and stroke.

Win with MOR

This week Pharmacy Daily and MOR are giving away each day the Essentials Collection in Sugar Rose worth $149.65.

The Essentials collection presents five memorable fragrances in an assortment of quality products to embrace everyday self-indulgence. Experience the collection with Triple-Milled Soaps, Vitamin enriched Hand Creams, Hand & Body Washes and Lotions, regenerating Body Polish and fragrant Candles and Reed Diffusers.
For more information visit **morboutique.com**.

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

What are the five memorable fragrances available in MOR's Essentials collection?

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

Dispensary Corner

THAT awkward moment when you mistake hair removal cream for shampoo.

A Massachusetts woman has uploaded a picture of her sister (**see below**) to Twitter with the sly comment: "There's only one person in the world that would mistake NAIR for shampoo and that's my sister".

The photo has gone viral, with some sceptics claiming the image has been Photoshopped.

Whether it's legit or not it's a timely warning to check the label!

FICTION feeds empathy, according to research out of the University of Toronto published in *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*.

If you ever felt reading fiction was a waste of time, think again.

Fiction readers have been found to have larger vocabularies and greater general knowledge than non-readers, even comparing people with otherwise similar intelligence and education.

Significantly, readers also have more empathy for a broader range of people, with their reading experiences enabling them to "live many lives".

Young readers of Harry Potter books have been found to have more empathy for the stigmatised in society, a recurring theme in the books, while readers score better on interpreting people's feelings from their facial features.

So there is time to take a fiction-read break from the real world - for more on the study **CLICK HERE**.

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New Products

Fraxiparine (nadroparin calcium) is a low molecular weight heparin made by depolymerisation of standard heparin. It is a glycosaminoglycan with a mean molecular weight around 4,500 daltons. It possesses a high ratio of anti-Xa activity to anti-IIa activity between 2.5 to 4.0 compared to unfractionated heparin for which this ratio is one. Nadroparin has both immediate and prolonged antithrombotic action. Nadroparin exhibits a high-affinity binding to the plasma protein anti-thrombin III (ATIII). This binding leads to an accelerated inhibition of factor Xa and to a lesser extent, factor IIa (Anti-Xa:Anti-IIa ratio of 3.6:1), which contributes to the antithrombotic potential of nadroparin. Fraxiparine is indicated for prophylaxis against deep vein thrombosis (DVT) associated with general or orthopaedic surgery and for treatment of DVT and in the prevention of clotting during haemodialysis. Fraxiparine is contraindicated in patients with: a history of thrombocytopenia with nadroparin; an increased risk of haemorrhage including those with bleeding disorders (except for disseminated intravascular coagulation not induced by heparin); active bleeding or organic lesions likely to bleed (such as active peptic ulceration), haemorrhagic cerebrovascular accident or infective endocarditis and severe renal failure (creatinine clearance < 30 mL/min) receiving treatment for DVT. Fraxiparine is available as 1900 IU/0.2 mL, 2850 IU/0.3 mL, 3800 IU/0.4 mL, 5700 IU/0.6 mL, 7600 IU/0.8 mL and 9500 IU/1 mL in single use prefilled glass syringe, packs of 2's.

Herceptin SC (trastuzumab (rch)) is a recombinant DNA derived humanized monoclonal antibody that selectively targets the extracellular domain of the human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 protein (HER2). Herseptin SC is indicated for the following. The treatment of HER2-positive early breast cancer following surgery, and in association with chemotherapy and, if applicable, radiotherapy. The treatment of HER2-positive locally advanced breast cancer in combination with neoadjuvant chemotherapy followed by adjuvant Herceptin. The treatment of patients with metastatic breast cancer who have tumours that overexpress HER2: as monotherapy for the treatment of those patients who have received one or more chemotherapy regimens for their metastatic disease; in combination with taxanes for the treatment of those patients who have not received chemotherapy for their metastatic disease; or in combination with an aromatase inhibitor for the treatment of post-menopausal patients with hormone-receptor positive metastatic breast cancer. Herceptin is contraindicated in the treatment of early or locally advanced breast cancer. It is also contraindicated in patients with a left ventricular ejection fraction of less than 45% and those with symptomatic heart failure. It is also contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to Chinese hamster ovary cell proteins. Herceptin SC is available as a ready to use solution (600 mg/5 mL) in a single use vial in packs of 1's.

Lonquex (lipegfilgrastim (rbe)) is a long acting form of recombinant human granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF). Human G-CSF is a glycoprotein that regulates the production and release of functional neutrophils from the bone marrow. Filgrastim is an unglycosylated recombinant methionyl human G-CSF. Lipegfilgrastim is a sustained duration form of filgrastim due to decreased renal clearance. Lipegfilgrastim binds to the human G-CSF receptor like filgrastim and pegfilgrastim. Lonquex is indicated for reduction in the duration of neutropenia and the incidence of febrile neutropenia in adult patients treated with cytotoxic chemotherapy for malignancy (with the exception of chronic myeloid leukaemia and myelodysplastic syndromes). Lonquex is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to other G-CSF products including lenograstim, pegfilgrastim and filgrastim. Lonquex is available as a single use prefilled glass syringe containing a solution volume of 0.6 mL with 6 mg of lipegfilgrastim, for a 10 mg/mL solution in packs of 1's.

Sylvant (siltuximab) is a chimeric (human murine) immunoglobulin G1k (IgG1k) monoclonal antibody against human Interleukin-6 (IL-6) produced in a Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cell line. Siltuximab prevents the binding of human IL-6 to both soluble and membrane bound IL-6 receptors (IL-6R), thus inhibiting the formation of the hexameric signalling complex with gp130 on the cell surface. Overproduction of IL-6 has been hypothesised to play a central role in driving plasma cell proliferation and systemic manifestations in patients with Castleman's disease. Sylvant is indicated for the treatment of patients with multicentric Castleman's disease (MCD) who are human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) negative and human herpesvirus-8 (HHV-8) negative. Sylvant is available as a 100 mg and 400 mg powder for infusion in a single use glass vial in packs of 1's.

Safety Related Changes

Eviplera (300 mg tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/200 mg emtricitabine/25 mg rilpivirine) should not be coadministered with rilpivirine unless required for dose adjustment (e.g. with rifabutin).

Humira (adalimumab (rch)) is now indicated for the treatment of active moderate to severe hidradenitis suppurativa (acne inversa) in adult patients with an inadequate response to conventional systemic hidradenitis suppurativa therapy.

Nolvadex (tamoxifen citrate) is now indicated for the primary reduction of breast cancer risk in women either at moderately increased risk (lifetime breast cancer risk 1.5 to 3 times the population average) or high risk (lifetime breast cancer risk greater than 3 times the population average).

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.