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Biosimilars delayed

FOUR US Democratic politicians have been pushing for a new bill to reduce the patent period on new biologic medicines from 12 to seven years, following on from Barack Obama's attempts since 2010 to reduce the exclusivity period.

Under the US Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act however, the US Food and Drug Administration still cannot approve any biosimilars within the 12 year exclusivity period.

The Democratic push has failed again on this occasion with international free trade agreements creating complicated sticking points, according to the Regulatory Affairs Professional Society (RAPS).

ACCC awarded costs

SENSASLIM Australia's remaining personal respondents, namely Peter Foster, Peter O'Brien, and Michael Boyle had been ordered on 11 May by the Federal Court under Judge J. Yates to pay the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC's) costs in relation to proceedings against the company.

Boyle appealed but his appeal was yesterday rejected by the court and he was ordered to pay costs of, and incidental to, the proceedings against him.

Judge Yates ruled out all nine of Boyle's written submissions stating that he is in no significantly different position on the question of costs compared to Foster and O'Brien, in spite of "limited financial means".

Superbugs in animals

AMID universal cries for measured behaviour around the use of antibiotics with the increasing risks of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the first nationwide survey of antibiotic resistance in disease-causing bacteria in Australian animals has found low rates of resistance to critically important drugs, comparing very favourably with other countries around the world.

The findings will be reported at a one-day symposium today marking the official launch of the University of Adelaide's Australian Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Ecology (ACARE).

The new Centre will, for the first time, bring together surveillance of both human and animal AMR across Australia, as well as research into the development of resistance and new ways of controlling disease in both humans and animals.

"This survey result is an A-grade report for Australian agricultural industries and animal health practitioners," says Professor Darren Trott, project leader of the

Magna-RX TGA alert

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has tested a product labelled Magna-RX capsules and found that they contain the undeclared substance sildenafil and a small amount of paracetamol.

Safety of this product has not been established and the TGA has warned that a number of people may have bought it online.

Australia-wide survey and inaugural Director of ACARE.

"It shows that concerns over animal antimicrobials contributing to the development of antibiotic resistance in humans may be somewhat overemphasised with respect to the risk posed by Australian meat and other livestock products.

"However, there is no way we should be resting on our laurels.

"Our new Centre will fill an essential gap, attempting to keep us ahead of this looming health issue."

The new Centre will be a national reference laboratory focusing on AMR in gram-negative bacteria such as escherichia coli (E.coli), he explained.

SHPA likes \$22b plan

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) ceo, Kristin Michaels, has lauded the Minister for Health, Jillian Skinner, for delivering a record \$22b commitment to health care and hospitals in the 2016-17 Budget.

Michaels said, "SHPA is pleased to see a record \$10b investment, over ten years, in hospital infrastructure and capital works."

"This level of investment is necessary to ensure healthcare services and operation of health facilities can meet consumer expectations."

With inpatient services to the tune of \$9.2b, "Minister Skinner has announced that up to 900 extra healthcare professionals will be employed," Michaels added.

Samford Chemmart engages community

EXEMPLIFYING the reasons they took out the Community Engagement category in this year's Guild Pharmacy of the Year Awards (PD 16 Mar), the team at Samford Chemmart hosted another significant community event in June, with a focus on health, wellbeing and sustainability.

The pharmacy's Wellbeing Forever Festival which they initiated two year's ago attracted over 80 stalls and 2,000 people this year.

The expo saw wellness groups join together with health professionals including physiotherapists, podiatrists, naturopaths, counsellors and dieticians.

New initiatives included the 'Health Passport', where visitors received a free head-to-toe health check from local health professionals.

App for deafblind

A UNIQUE app has been launched for deafblind Australians to coincide with the start of Deafblind Awareness Week (24 - 30 Jun).

OpenAccess Captions, turns any iPad or iPhone into an accessible phone for people who are deaf and blind or have low vision.

Developed by Brisbane's Conexu Foundation the new app connects callers via a live captioner so phone conversations can be read as they are happening.

The app can also connect via Bluetooth to a braille display so the captions can be read by people who are deafblind.



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Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

- 11-12 Jul:** 11th Asia Pacific Diabetes Conference and Expo; Brisbane; visit: www.conferenceseries.com
- 14-16 Jul:** 5th Global Pharmacists Annual Meeting; Brisbane; details at: www.conferenceseries.com
- 22-24 Jul:** Foundation Clinical Pharmacy Practice Seminar; InterContinental Adelaide Hotel; for more info visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 29-31 Jul:** PSA16; Four Points by Sheraton Darling Harbour Sydney; more info at: www.psa.org.au
- 13-14 Aug:** Infectious Diseases Seminar; InterContinental Adelaide Hotel; for more info visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 20-21 Aug:** Fitness & Health Expo; Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre; details at: www.fitnessexpo.com.au
- 27-28 Aug:** 2016 Pharmeducation Clinical Update Seminar; Crowne Plaza Coogee, Sydney; details at: www.pharmeducation.com.au
- 27-28 Aug:** Cardiology Seminar; Rydges Sydney Central; see: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 9-10 Sep:** Pharmacy Connect; Four Points by Sheraton Darling Harbour Sydney; see: pharmacy-connect.com.au
- 9-10 Sep:** The Friendlies Conference 2016; Old Woolstore Hotel, Hobart; visit: pharmacyconference.com.au

PSA Board appoints ECP

HIGH-ACHIEVING pharmacist Taren Gill (pictured) is the first Early Career Pharmacist (ECP) to be appointed as a National Board Director to help shape the future of the profession, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) said today.

Gill's appointment followed an "extensive recruitment process, which attracted a significant number of applications".

The NSW-based rural hospital and community pharmacist has been posted to the role of ECP PSA director.

Gill currently works in several areas of practice including as Deputy Director of Pharmacy at Orange Hospital, as a community pharmacist at Blooms the Chemist Orange and she is a pharmacy lecturer at Charles Sturt University supporting students at Orange and Wagga Wagga.

Newly re-elected PSA national president Joe Demarte (PD yesterday) said Gill is widely respected as a leader among ECPs in Australia through her tireless work with pharmacy students and she was also awarded PSA's Young



Pharmacist of the Year in 2014.

Demarte said he was delighted with the 12 month appointment saying the PSA Board has made a strategic decision for the future needs of the profession, now with a stronger focus on ECPs.

"This is an historic and important milestone for the organisation, which proudly represents all pharmacists in Australia, including our young, rising stars of the profession," Demarte said.

"Ms Gill will make a wonderful addition to PSA's National Board as she brings plenty of passion, enthusiasm and experience to the organisation."

SA on CO poisoning

SA Health has today issued a reminder around the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning as South Australia heads into its coldest months.

Director of Public Health Services, Dr Kevin Bucket, said there have been 25 hospital admissions in the past year through CO produced by combustion fires.



DISPENSARY CORNER

Y'ALL know how distinctive a Texan accent can be.

So would you believe a woman born and bred in Texas could wake up after jaw surgery with a proper plum-in-mouth British accent?

That's exactly what happened to Lisa Alamia (pictured below) of Rosenberg who developed the well known Foreign Accent Syndrome after she underwent surgery to fix an overbite.

At first her family thought it was a joke, but six months on she still sounds like a UK national import.

She has adopted the foreign accent despite never travelling outside of the US, except for one trip to Mexico.

Alamia's neurologist, ran tests to determine what led to the change but they were unable to find any scientific explanation.

You can watch an interview with her **HERE**.



A SWEDISH footballer is in shock after he was sent off the field for breaking wind during a match.

The referee claimed the natural bodily function was "deliberate provocation" and "unsportsmanlike behaviour".

"I had a bad stomach, so I simply let go then I received two yellow cards and then a red, it's the strangest thing I have ever experienced in football," Adam Lindin Ljungkvist who plays for the Swedish team Pershagen SK told media.

He denies claims he was using the stench to provoke the opposition.

WIN WITH NUTRI-SYNERGY

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Plunketts are giving away each day a pack including NS Protective Hand Cream, NS Cuticle and Nail Repair and two NS Lip Balms.

Nutri-Synergy (NS) is natural dermatology, formulated for dry, sensitive and problem skin. NS contains natural active ingredients that work together with your skin and doesn't contain potential irritants like petrochemicals, parabens, colours or fragrance. This pack has everything you need to give your hands the treatment they deserve, and make your lips soft and smooth during the cold winter months.

To win, be the first person from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

In which country are NS products made?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Vicki Whalland from Green Dispensary Pharmacies.



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