

CF treatment advance

NEW research presented overnight at the International Pharmaceutical Federation's Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress in Stockholm has shown significant progress in a more effective cystic fibrosis treatment.

Scientists have developed a formulation that increases the delivery of a novel "antivirulence" agent to the lungs.

About 80% of CF patients suffer from chronic lung infections related to *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* which significantly increase morbidity.

The international group of researchers has been working on a new type of compound called quorum sensing inhibitors (QSIs) which can interrupt communication pathways between bacterial cells, resulting in reduced virulence and decreased tolerance to antibiotics.

The research presented at the congress shows that using certain solubilising excipients allows the product of a multidrug formulation that can deliver the desired amount of the QSI and tobramycin to the lungs of rats with *P. aeruginosa* infection.

The formulation was found to be effective in sensitising the bacteria to the antibiotic.

Maxigesic now licensed in France

NEW Zealand pharmaceutical firm AFT Pharmaceuticals has extended its existing partnership agreements with the addition of a French pharmaceutical company to out-license the product line of its patented paracetamol/ibuprofen painkiller Maxigesic to France, Monaco, Andorra and French dependencies.

The name of the new French partner cannot be disclosed at this stage due to the country's labour laws and the "significant commercial value of the contract".

The announcement follows confirmation of EU approval of Maxigesic in nine additional countries including France (**PD** yesterday), with AFT md Hartley Atkinson saying "this is basically going to fast-track Maxigesic tablet sales in France".

Guild urges budget access

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Queensland Branch has launched a new dedicated Pharmacy Business Support Team, with the aim of supporting members to access funding confirmed in the recent Federal Budget.

The Guild said the team would work one-on-one with members to "help them access resources to improve their business offering".

Qld branch president Tim Logan said the support was included as part of Guild membership, and included use of the Opportunity Analysis Tool to work out the optimal way to implement professional services.

"The Federal Budget has brought certainty to 6CPA funded programs.

"Now is the time for pharmacies to act and ensure they are ready to implement and access these additional income streams," he said.

Measures announced in the budget included an investment from the \$600 million already committed in the 6CPA and held in the Contingency Reserve for new and expanded community pharmacy programs.

Dose Administration Aids will receive \$340 million; there's \$80 million for Staged Supply; \$60 million for Home Medicines Reviews; \$90 million for the expansion of the MedsCheck and Diabetes MedsCheck programs; and \$30 million to incorporate

PSA weight training

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is hosting a presentation on the Pharmacists' Role in Managing Weight, with the event taking place at Sydney's Novotel Parramatta from 8.30am-4.30pm on 01 Jul 2017.

"At 63% the prevalence of overweight and obesity in Australia has never been higher.

"PSA is committed to helping reduce the impact of overweight and obesity on patients through interesting and relevant sessions for all pharmacists," the Society said.

Registration including all meals and course materials is \$190 for PSA members and \$130 for interns and students - psa.org.au.

medication management programs within Health Care Homes.

Certainty for pharmacy going forward was also provided with a government commitment to remove the Sunset Provision for Location Rules.

Logan said the Guild's Opportunity Analysis Tool highlighted how pharmacy businesses could access additional income from 6CPA funded programs, prescription and medication programs and more.

"An expert coach will discuss and analyse the results, providing strategic advice for developing a professional services offer that generates additional income," the Qld branch president concluded.

For more information call the Guild on 07 3831 3788.

Workforce survey submission date

THE deadline for submission of surveys relating to the Review of Pharmacy Workforce Programs (**PD** 05 May) has been extended to 29 May 2017.

Healthcare Management Advisors are seeking feedback from community pharmacists, students, pharmacy assistants, interns and graduates who participated in the various workforce programs conducted under the 6CPA.

The aim of the surveys is to help assess whether the programs, in their current format, effectively address the workforce shortages in rural pharmacy.

More details at 6cpa.com.au.

WHO gets the vote?

THE World Health Organization will have a new leader later today, with health officials from 194 countries set to vote on a new director-general for the Geneva-based agency.

The three key candidates are Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus from Ethiopia; Pakistani cardiologist Dr Sania Nishtar; and UK-born Dr David Nabarro, former United Nations Envoy for Ebola.

Hemp highlighted

THIS weekend's Hemp Health & Innovation Expo taking place at Sydney's Rosehill Gardens will feature a free Medicinal Cannabis Symposium, with "expert speakers from across the globe as well as a number of patients, celebrities, activists and politicians.

Presenters include US veterinarian Dr Gary Richter who is claimed to be a "world leader on treating animals with medicinal cannabis" as well as Anastasia Suraev from the University of Sydney who is researching the use of cannabinoid therapeutics for paediatric epilepsy. See www.hhiexpo.com.au.

TGA device consult

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) seeks comments from interested parties on marketing approval for a device, approved in an overseas market, to support its inclusion in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

Deadline for input is 30 Jun 2017 - see www.tga.gov.au.



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Dispensary Corner

HERE'S a great way to celebrate a milestone - identical twins Maria Pignaton Pontin and Paulina Pignaton Pandolfi have been snapped celebrating their impending 100th birthday with a beautiful photo shoot.

The Brazilian pair are well worth snapping because living nearly a century is pretty darn impressive!

The duo were treated to a makeover and wore beautiful dresses and did their hair.

They will celebrate their milestone birthday tomorrow, check out the sweet snaps **HERE**.



THOSE wanting to watch their weight are being told not to eat in front of the TV.

Researchers from North Carolina State University have said that purposeful eating without distraction or technology can help you lose weight.

Eighty overweight adults took part in weekly online classes and taught about mindful eating - the art of savouring the flavour of one or two spoonfuls of a chocolate mousse rather than scoffing down an entire serving.

It's easy to eat aimlessly and gain weight- especially when distracted by watching television, the scientists warned.

Those that followed the program lost over 2kg in 15 weeks.

Also don't eat before you're stressed because you're more likely to "eat your feelings".

NAPSA, PSA seal new deal

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) has signed a revised partnership agreement with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, which will continue to see students welcomed to the upcoming PSA17 conference.

Taking place in Sydney 28-30 Jul, the event will offer a range of guest speakers and panel sessions along with other activities which can help students kick-start their careers and improve their knowledge, PSA said.

PSA ceo Lance Emerson said: "PSA has enjoyed a long and proud history of supporting pharmacy students, who make up a vital part of PSA's membership.

"Our role is to ensure the profession has a vibrant future and our members have rewarding and exciting career pathways.

"PSA is delighted to be supporting NAPSA to ensure there is a professionally and financially rewarding and sustainable future for young pharmacists in Australia," Emerson added.

NAPSA will be a key part of the conference's Early Career Pharmacist forum, and a dedicated NAPSA lounge area will be available for NAPSA representatives.



\$2m for vaccines

THE Federal Government will provide \$2 million to support global efforts to fight infectious diseases.

The funding was announced by Minister for Aged Care Ken Wyatt during the G20 Health Ministers Meeting in Germany (**PD** yesterday) with the money to go to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, a new initiative addressing critical R&D gaps for global health security.

Guild Update

Rising to the business challenge

THIS year's fourteen entrants in the Pharmacy Guild of Australia National Student Business Plan Competition include first-time entrants, the University of Otago.

The competition, which commenced in 2006, encourages innovation amongst pharmacy students who will be the future owners of Australia's community pharmacies.

In 2017 the focus on innovation will continue with the aim of ensuring that tomorrow's owners look for highly differentiated services that they can provide to the Australian market.

The competition will progress through several rounds culminating in the finals at the Pharmacy Business Connect conference in Sydney 1-3 September.

representatives.

NAPSA president Shefali Parekh will be a panellist on the first ever Women in Leadership panel during the conference - psa17.com.

iTherapeutics adds

PHARMACY education platform iTherapeutics has launched a number of new QCPP accredited modules, including Dimetapp, Robitussin, Nexium and Advil.

The additions mean iTherapeutics now has seven education modules worth 30 minutes each of approved Refresher Training, along with more than 60 other product education modules on various brands.

Win with australis

This week Pharmacy Daily and Australis are giving away each day a Midas Touch Serum Primer.

Illuminate skin from within with the new Australis Midas Touch Serum Primer that will help you prep and prime skin to achieve a natural and healthy glow. With flecks of gold and a splash of honey, sweep this serum over your face to feel refreshed, hydrated and ready for the day. The water based formula is lightweight and ensures a natural look, and also contains Vitamin E and Gardenia Flora Extract to help soothe and brighten your skin tone. For more information head to www.australiscosmetics.com.au.

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

What is the product?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Amanda Pippia from Leeton Pharmacy Amcal Chemist.