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MedView



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus a full page from Pharmacy 4 Less.

New Alzheimer's test

A BLOOD test that can accurately detect the presence of Alzheimer's disease is currently being developed by a team of scientists from Australia and Japan, with details published in *Nature* last week.

The purpose of the test is to see if the patient's blood plasma shows the build up of the protein amyloid-beta, a known precursor to developing the disease.

Researchers are hopeful that if the test is developed successfully, drug companies could use the data to recruit sufferers into clinical trials before irreversible damage to their brains occur.

Many pharmaceutical companies have abandoned the pursuit of drug treatment for Alzheimer's disease on account of the total failure rate in clinical trials thus far.

See www.nature.com for more.

Pharmacy cannabis training

PHARMACISTS, specialists and GPs will be offered a comprehensive medicinal cannabis educational program by fledgling provider MedReleaf as part of the company's entry into the Australian market (PD 02 Feb).

The resources are currently under development by NPS MedicineWise offshoot VentureWise, with the aim of not only educating the sector about medicinal cannabis but also "building confidence in MedReleaf's specific formulations".

MedReleaf Australia was recently granted import licences by the Office of Drug Control, and is now taking orders from Australian pharmacies and hospitals with product anticipated to be available before the end of next month.

The company plans to import medicinal cannabis oils and capsules as well as dried plant, manufactured in Canada, while it constructs its own manufacturing facility in south-east Queensland.

A manufacturing licence is also currently under assessment.

MedReleaf Corp is traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange, while the local operation is a joint venture company headed up by pharmacist Russell Harding.

He said MedReleaf Australia aims to establish itself as a "world class vertically integrated medicinal cannabis company," adding that he hopes the products will in due course become listed on the ARTG and ultimately on the PBS.

See medreleafaustralia.com.au.

Kidney cancer hope

IPSEN has announced the registration of Cabometyx (cabozantinib) by the Therapeutic Goods Administration as a second-line therapy for patients with advanced clear-cell renal cell carcinoma (RCC) who have progressive disease following prior treatment with vascular endothelial growth factor targeted therapy.

This product is an oral tyrosine kinase inhibitor and is not PBS listed - for more info see ipsen.com.

APO-analgesia

TO CUSHION the pain associated with the upscheduling of OTC codeine-containing medicines taking effect, Apotex is highlighting its range of APOHEALTH branded analgesic products, along with in-store promotional opportunities and online training.

Apotex has announced the launch of its APOHEALTH Pain Relief Toolkits – in-store merchandising solutions (counter mats, display units, shelf tags and posters) which encourage self-selection and recommendation, enabling pharmacy assistants to help their customers make easier and better informed decisions involving their pain management.

QCPP-approved online training focusing on non-codeine pain management options are also on offer from the company.

For more information or to receive a toolkit call 1800 276 839 or go to apotex.com.au.

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Are you part of the picture?

By the end of 2018, all Australians will have a My Health Record, unless they decide not to have one.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is supporting pharmacists to integrate use of the My Health Record system into patient care. Find out more at www.psa.org.au/digitalhealthhub

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

Australian Government
Australian Digital Health Agency

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Pharmacy Daily



Dispensary Corner

SOME do-it-yourself orthodontic work has gone horribly awry for one woman from Auckland who accidentally welded some fake fangs to her gums in the pursuit of costume authenticity.

Miss Ruby Riches (we're hoping this is an alias) was making further enhancements to her alter ego as a "purveyor of fine gems" when she purchased some thermoplastic and attempted to mould some fake choppers.

While initially impressed with her handiwork, she quickly became concerned when they wouldn't come out.

A quick dash to the dentist finally saw the item extracted from the woman's mouth, leaving Miss Ruby Riches to recover and reflect on the next costume she can really sink her teeth into.



WHEN somebody is in need of urgent medical attention the instinct is to help out, right?

Well, what if the person wasn't a person at all and was instead a giant Siberian Tiger?

This is what confronted a man from Russia recently who opened his front door to a deep growling noise on his porch which turned out to be the anguished cries of a Tiger suffering from gum disease.

The man promptly called an emergency dentist to attend to the frail feline which reciprocated by promptly eating said dentist.

Advertising assessment tool

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has launched a new "self-assessment tool" to help practitioners and advertisers correct their advertising so it complies with professional and legal obligations.

It's the latest initiative in a series of resources developed by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the various National Board to help advertisers

of regulated health services.

"We are working to make compliance as easy as possible for anyone who is advertising a regulated health service," said AHPRA ceo Martin Fletcher.

"The important thing is to advertise responsibly and within the law so patients receive accurate and reliable information about healthcare services that helps them make informed decisions."

He urged advertisers to try out the self-assessment tool, which is part of a broader advertising compliance and enforcement strategy for the national registration scheme.

See www.ahpra.gov.au.

No change to S2 ibuprofen pack sizes

THE Advisory Committees on Chemicals and Medicines Scheduling have knocked back an application to reduce the size of OTC ibuprofen, with members saying there was minimal risk of misuse or abuse of the products.

The plan would have seen the maximum pack size reduced from 100 down to 30 dosage units.

Of a total of 17 public submissions relating to the proposal, three were in support of the change while 14 opposed the move.

The committee recommended that the current S2 and S3 entries for ibuprofen remain appropriate, saying there had been no evidence provided of excessive use, purchasing or harm through general sale or Schedule 2 availability of the medication.

MEANWHILE a proposal to downschedule clotrimazol for vaginal use from S3 to S2 was also rejected by the committees.

Orphenadrine compounded with paracetamol was also the subject of an application seeking to create a new S3 entry for the relief of pain associated with skeletal muscle spasm, however the committee recommended that the current S4 scheduling of orphenadrine remains appropriate.

Cancer care initiative

SOCIETY of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia ceo Kristin Michaels has been appointed to the Australian steering committee of All.Can, a global initiative which aims to identify improvements to the care pathway for cancer patients through the health system.

All.Can Australia plans to develop a research report this year giving a system-wide evaluation of Australian cancer care, and will also participate in a global patient survey, with the group currently active in Germany, Poland, Sweden and the UK as well as Australia.

Bristol-Myers Squibb is the foundation partner supporting All.Can in Australia, with other committee members including Raymond Chan, Professor of Nursing at Qld University of Technology; Ovarian Cancer Australia ceo Jane Hill; Sharon Millman from Lymphoma Australia and Alison Verhoeven, ceo of the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association.

More at www.all-can.org.

Guild Update

Have your say in the future of community pharmacy

BY NOW all pharmacy owners should have received an email from the Online Research Unit (ORU) and ORIMA Research asking you to complete an online survey about the future of community pharmacy (Community Pharmacy 2025).

As part of the CP2025 project to develop a vision and action plan for the future of community pharmacy, the Guild has commissioned Orima Research (and ORU) to conduct a survey of all pharmacy owners nationally.

This survey asks about the strengths and weaknesses of, threats to, and opportunities for community pharmacy - today and in the near future.

The survey is open until 16th February should take around 20 minutes. The information is confidential and no identified responses will be provided to the Guild at any time.

There is also a survey available for pharmacy students.

For technical queries about accessing the online survey, please contact the ORU - pharmacyguild@theoru.com or 02 8922 9200.

For more information about the CP2025 project: www.guild.org.au/about-us/community-pharmacy-2025 or email: CP2025@guild.org.au.

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