

Congratulations!

THANKS to the scores of PD readers who correctly told us that Kerryn Phelps was pictured with author Sandra Ramacher at the recent launch of her book *Healing Foods: Cooking for Celiacs, Colitis, Crohn's and IBS*.

We were overwhelmed with the response to yesterday's comp, with the quickest off the mark being Susan Britton of Waverley Pharmacy in Bronte and Gina Travas of FM Integrated Pharmacy Services, who will both get a copy.

If you missed out, the book from Elephant Publishing is available at all good bookstores or online at www.cccibs.com.

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Keen quits HIP board

THE parent company of Health Information Pharmacy, Health Corporation, yesterday advised the stock exchange of the resignation of board member Brian Keen, who holds more than 1.5 million shares in the firm.

He follows other recent board departures including Jack Tan and HIP franchisee Lawrence Nguyen.

Keen's departure appears to be unexpected, with Health Corporation chairman Graham Dunkley hailing the "seemingly endless energy displayed by... recruitment director Brian Keen" at the company's annual general meeting just two weeks ago.

Keen is still listed on the HIP website as the company's Business Development Director and his book 'Guide to Buying a Pharmacy' is available on the site as a free download.

Symbion pressure

SYMBION won't release suitor Healthscope from a restriction not to talk to rival Primary Health care about its bid until 26 Jan 08, according to today's *Financial Review*, with the move said to be aimed at maintaining competitive pressure between the two bidders.

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The resignation of Nguyen and Tan from the board occurred when they retired by rotation at the 28 Nov agm, and they didn't seek re-election.

TGA warning

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has updated its alert for health professionals about the "uncommon but important association" of the use of bisphosphonate drugs and osteonecrosis of the jaw.

Risks of developing osteonecrosis associated with the class of drugs are thought to include use of intravenous bisphosphonates as well as pre-existing poor dental hygiene.

NPS on glitazones

THE latest edition of NPS RADAR reviews emerging data on cardiovascular risk, fractures and macular oedema associated with pioglitazone (Actos), rosiglitazone (Avandia) and rosiglitazone with metformin (Avandamet), which are used to treat diabetes.

The December issue also reviews topiramate (Topamax), quetiapine (Seroquel) and sevelamer (Renagel) - see www.npsradar.org.au.

Champix advice

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised that Pfizer has amended the Product Information for its new anti-smoking medication Champix (PD Thu) to reflect additional details mandated by the US Food and Drug Administration.

The new warning says "there have been reports of depressed mood, agitation, changes in behaviour, suicidal ideation and suicide in patients attempting to quit smoking while taking Champix".

The TGA said there was uncertainty about whether the reported effects were due to the drug itself, nicotine deprivation or some other factor.

New RUM chair

VIC Guild President Dipak Sanghvi has been named as the new chairman of the National Return and Disposal of Unwanted Medicines project.

He replaces Warwick Plunkett, who's been chair of the RUM board since 2001.

Two pages today

TODAY'S *Pharmacy Daily* includes our regular Health, Beauty and New Products feature on page two.

December prescribing update

NEW PRODUCTS

Dermatix is a topical silicone gel indicated for the management and prevention of hypertrophic and keloid scars and as an aid for the management of associated erythema and discolouration of scars.

Dermatix is applied to unbroken skin twice daily for a minimum of two months. It is available from pharmacies as a 15 g tube (\$59).

NEW/REVISED INDICATIONS

Zoster virus vaccine (Zostavax) is now also indicated for the prevention of herpes zoster (shingles) in patients 50-59 years.

Gefitinib (Iressa) is indicated for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer, who have previously failed chemotherapy and who

have never smoked or have already been taking gefitinib and have demonstrated some benefit.

SAFETY-RELATED CHANGES

Diltiazem is contraindicated in patients with heart rate <40 beats/minute, left ventricular failure with pulmonary congestion and in breastfeeding mothers. Concomitant administration with dantrolene is also contraindicated. Use with beta-blockers is usually well tolerated, but available data are not sufficient to predict the effects of concomitant treatment in patients with left ventricular dysfunction or cardiac conduction abnormalities.

Administration of diltiazem concomitantly with propranolol may result in increased propranolol levels. Adjustment of propranolol dose may be

required. Due to the possibility of rhythm disturbances, combination therapy with diltiazem and beta-blockers must only be used under close clinical and ECG monitoring, particularly at the beginning of treatment.

Additional drug interactions include rifampicin, carbamazepine, theophylline, rimonabant, lithium, alpha-blockers and antiarrhythmic agents.

• **Fenofibrate** contraindications are extended to include chronic and acute pancreatitis unless due to severe hypertriglyceridaemia.

• The administration of **paroxetine** with MAOIs, including the antibiotic linezolid, is contraindicated, including within two weeks of treatment cessation.

• Concomitant administration of

venlafaxine and **metoprolol** may result in increased metoprolol concentration without altering that of the active metabolite, α -hydroxymetoprolol.

Venlafaxine appears to reduce the blood pressure lowering effect of metoprolol. Caution should be exercised with co-administration of venlafaxine and metoprolol.

OTHER PRODUCT CHANGES

The **bisacodyl** (Dulcolax Tablets, Suppositories and SP Drops) product range has changed its trade name to Dulcolax.

PBS CHANGES

Restrictions for **topiramate** (Topamax) have changed from Authority required to Authority required (STREAMLINED).

Restrictions for **quetiapine fumarate** (Seroquel) have been extended to include Authority

Required (STREAMLINED) 2765 Monotherapy, for up to six months, for an episode of acute mania associated with bipolar I disorder.

Sevelamer (Renagel) is now available as an Authority item [Hyperphosphataemia in an adult with chronic kidney disease on dialysis whose serum phosphate is not controlled on other products and where: (a) serum phosphate is greater than 1.6 mmol/L; or (b) the serum calcium times phosphate product is greater than 4.0].

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.

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New product to promote?

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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy! Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.



Australia's first OTC pre-conception supplement

Blackmores Conceive Well Gold is the first pre-conception product available over the counter in Australia. Formulated to supply nutrients associated with healthy ovulation and conception, it also helps protect the female reproductive system from free radical damage. The launch is supported by a website: www.preconception.com.au.

RRP: \$39.95
Stockist: Blackmores
Tel: 1800 803 760

Clinically proven clear skin in 8 hours

Neutrogena's new Rapid Clear range is clinically proven to give you visibly clearer skin in as little as eight hours - so you could go to bed and wake up spot-free in the morning! The scientific breakthrough is Microclear technology, which dissolves the oil barrier on the surface of the skin; then micro-spheres of salicylic acid and oil dissolver quickly remove oil, dirt and bacteria. The range includes a cleanser, cleansing pads and spot gel.

RRP: \$13.99
Stockist: Johnson & Johnson
Tel: 1800 648 975



Stronger, longer, lusher lashes

Elizabeth Arden Ceramide Lash Extending Treatment Mascara contains the Ceramide Triple Complex plus vitamins A, C and E to help reinforce and restore eyelashes' natural protective barrier. Keravis, a conditioning ingredient helps strengthen and fortify lashes. Available in two shades, the formula does not smudge, flake or clump.

RRP: \$45
Stockist: Elizabeth Arden
Tel: 1800 015 500

Boss of lip gloss

Glam Shine 6Hours claims to stay on for six hours keeping lips moist and supple. Premium new silver packaging adds elegance, and the heart-shaped wand not only holds more of the product, but also contours the lips for unified colour with a no-mess application. Choose from 12 shiny shades.

RRP: \$23.95
Stockist: L'Oréal Paris
Tel: 1300 659 259



Delicate detailed pleasures

Estée Lauder has released the Art of Pleasures limited-edition artist bottle and scented candle created by renowned textile designer Kazumi Yoshida of Clarence House. Containing the popular Pleasures perfume, the bottle has detailed artwork of colourful flowers, birds, butterflies and dragonflies set against an opaque background.

RRP: \$115
Stockist: Estée Lauder
Tel: 1800 061 326



DISPENSARY CORNER

COULD coffee be the secret to longevity?

The world's oldest stage performer, 104-year-old Johannes Heesters celebrated his birthday in Berlin this week with his normal breakfast of two cups of cappuccino.

Described as a "living legend" the heavy smoker said his birthday wishes were to live until 110 and have Germany revoke its recently introduced ban on smoking in restaurants.

"Im turning 104," he quipped "but, you know, I feel as if I'm still only 100".

SANTA looks to be contributing to the global obesity crisis.

A survey of 4,000 children in Spain has found that most kids think the jolly red man is "too fat" and should go on a diet.

59% said Santa Claus should eat better to lose weight, while another 19% recommended that he head to the gym when he's not too busy delivering gifts.

Many also said he should update his mode of transport from a sleigh to a motorbike or a four-wheel-drive to speed up his trip around the globe on Christmas eve.

THE rapidly growing population in Tanzania in Africa has been sharply brought into focus by a series of multiple births this week at the country's Muhimbili Hospital.

Shellshocked nursing staff were put onto double shifts as two sets of quadruplets were joined by two lots of triplets plus a pair of twins, with local paediatrician Augustine Massawe saying: "Five mothers delivering a total of 16 babies at the same time is a big surprise to us".

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