

## STOCK EXCHANGE

DO you have any excess medications you'd like to offer to other pharmacists?

Today's item is 20 vials of ENBREL, in three batches expiring 02/2009 09/2009.

They're available from Granite Belt Pharmacy in Stanthorpe, Qld and the normal cost price is \$854.34 per four vials.

Contact pharmacist Margot Tannock on 07 4681 2088 or [la33781@bigpond.net.au](mailto:la33781@bigpond.net.au) for more information.

If you have items you'd like to offer through PD's Stock Exchange column please email [stockx@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:stockx@pharmacydaily.com.au).

## FDA OKs heart drug

THE US Food and Drug Administration has recommended approval of a new experimental cardiac drug called vernakalant used to treat atrial fibrillation, from Astellas and Cardiome.

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## Qld pharmacy crime spree

PHARMACISTS on Queensland's Sunshine Coast are batten down the security hatches, after a spate of smash-and-grab drug robberies in the region.

The Qld branch of the Pharmacy Guild has issued a guide for pharmacists entitled *Pseudoephedrine-related Break and Enters: 10 Practical Tips to Reduce Your Risks* in response to the crisis, following the formation of a task force in Oct.

The task force comprises senior representatives from the Guild and Guild Insurance, as well as Qld Police, with the booklet available as a free download from [www.guild.org.au/qld](http://www.guild.org.au/qld).

This week the *Sunshine Coast Daily* quoted Qld Guild President Tim Logan saying "We've got to

get pharmacists to have a good hard look at their security and plug any gaps."

However he cautioned against over-reaction, adding that "we don't want pharmacies to turn into bank vaults."

The newspaper said at least six pharmacies on the Sunshine Coast had been robbed in the past two months, with pseudoephedrine-based products the target.

Logan said the robberies

followed the successful introduction of Project STOP, which was making it almost impossible for criminals to buy the medications at multiple chemist shops.

"It used to be a daily occurrence, but now I can't tell you the last time I detected someone who could have been a drug runner trying to buy these medicines," he said.

Tips in the guide include reducing stock levels, utilising Project STOP and installing CCTV surveillance systems.

## Sigma appoints cfo

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals today announced the appointment of Mark Smith as its new chief financial officer.

Mark will leave his position as an executive director within ANZ Institutional Banking to begin his new role during Jan 2008.

Sigma md Elmo de Alwis said that Smith would be a "key asset in driving Sigma's next period of growth."

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

THE new in-flight liquid rules almost killed a man in Germany this week.

Since an attempted terrorist attack on trans-Atlantic flights last year, international travellers have been restricted from carrying liquids in containers than 100ml on board.

The 64-year-old was waiting in a security line at Nuremburg Airport while transferring flights after a holiday in Egypt.

Rather than hand in his duty-free alcohol, he quaffed a litre bottle of vodka "and was quickly unable to stand or otherwise function," according to police.

A doctor called to the scene diagnosed alcohol poisoning and the man was rushed to hospital.

TWO elephants in Singapore will enjoy Christmas after receiving a gift of new waterproof boots.

Asian elephants Tun and Jamilah were fitted with the special GORE-TEX footwear yesterday, in a bid to relieve chronic foot lesions.

Singapore Zoo vets had previously tried acupuncture and hot compresses to help the pachyderms' pain, but hope for more success with the shoes.

However they're not sure the animals will keep them on, with the clever creatures quickly learning to undo the zippers during trial fittings.

DON'T wash your turkeys.

That's the advice of the UK Food Standards Agency, which is warning consumers that washing turkey meat could ruin Christmas.

A recent survey found that 80% of people wash the birds before cooking them - a practice which can "significantly increase the risk of food poisoning".

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