

## CAM grants

THE University of Queensland will lead the establishment of a National Institute of Complementary Medicine-funded Collaborative Centre for Transitional Preclinical and Clinical Research in Nutraceuticals and Herbal Medicine, which aims to support complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) with evidence-based research.

Other institutions involved in the \$660,000 project, which was announced by Senator Jan McLucas late last month, include Monash Uni, Garvan Institute, Griffith Uni, UNSW and Epworth Medical centre.

UQ's Associate Professor Luis Vitetta said it was "important to fully investigate the efficacy and safety" of complementary therapy.

The National Health and Medical Research Council also awarded a \$450,000 grant to UQ's Dr John Adams to look at CAM use among middle-aged women across the urban-rural divide.

## API supply chain revamp

API has this morning announced that it will consolidate the two separate supply chains for its Priceline and Pharmacy divisions, investing \$60m in the project.

The new distribution network is projected to save \$18m a year once it's fully implemented in 2011, with the move said to reduce inventory holdings and freight costs.

Dubbed 'Revitalise', the project will involve increased automation and bigger distribution centres and a new management system which will allow both divisions to access all products.

"Revitalise will make API highly efficient, enabling us to meet growth targets and competitive or industry changes," said API ceo Stephen Roche.

## NPS appointments

NATIONAL Prescribing Service has officially announced who'll be filling the executive manager roles in its new organisational structure (*PD* yesterday).

Karen Kaye will be Deputy CEO and have responsibility for Quality Use of Medicines Programs while Jonathan Dartnell is in charge of Innovation and Learning.

Strategy and Communications is headed up by Julie Eisenberg, with Sharene Jackson responsible for Information Design and Management at NPS.

Chris Champ will head up Business and Corporate Services while Monique Heighes is in charge of People and Development.

The new structure has been established as NPS celebrates its tenth anniversary, with upcoming projects and activities including the National Medicines Symposium in Canberra 14-16 May and the Complementary Medicines Survey of pharmacists and doctors, due 05 May.

## Acupuncture lecture

A PUBLIC lecture, to be held this evening at RMIT University in Vic, will explore alternative ways to manage chronic pain.

Dr Zhen from RMIT's Division of Chinese Medicine will present clinical examples to illustrate how Chinese Medicine, in particular acupuncture, treats pain.

The lecture starts at 6pm - see [www.rmit.edu.au/chinese-med](http://www.rmit.edu.au/chinese-med).

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## Pharmacist awarded NICS Fellowship

A PHARMACIST is among 10 people in Australia awarded a National Institute of Clinical Studies Fellowship for 2008.

Kevin McNamara, Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice, Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University, and Research Fellow, University Department of Rural Health, Flinders University, can now add *NICS-National Prescribing Service Quality Use of Medicines Fellow* to his list of titles.

The National Health and Medical Research Council today announced the 2008 NICS Fellowships to help improve the use of evidence in key health areas.

The two-year program provides Fellows with funding, new skills and networks to undertake an evidence implementation project in their workplace.

McNamara's project will look at how community pharmacists can advise patients and work with other primary care providers to achieve optimal control of blood pressure.

He will deliver a professional development program with strategies to help pharmacists fulfil this role in the community setting.

The NICS project confirms a push for community pharmacy to be involved in blood pressure, with the Pharmacy Guild, through the Fourth Agreement R&D Program, also soliciting applications from researchers to develop a project to improve blood pressure management service through better medicines compliance (*PD* yesterday).

## Sleep project

COMMUNITY pharmacies could become a key part of screening for sleep disorders, under a project funded by the Fourth Agreement R&D program.

Dr Bandana Saini from the Sydney Uni Pharmacy faculty will explore the role of pharmacists in managing sleep disorders in the community, with NSW community pharmacies to be recruited from Jul onwards for an initial trial.

The use of community pharmacy "has the potential of a cost effective mechanism," for sleep disorder screening, said Dr Saini.

## Bipolar gender differences

NEW research shows Australian women with bipolar disorder have a lower quality of life and poorer physical health than men with the same condition.

Kate Filia, of the Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre at The Alfred and Monash University in Melbourne, is today presenting a study of 239 Australians with bipolar disorder or schizoaffective disorder at the Health Outcomes Conference in Canberra.

The study's 107 females were on average two years younger than the men when they first experienced a major affective episode.

Women also reported significantly more physical symptoms of depression than the males, and they had much lower rates of employment, earned less and smoked more.

## New products today

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



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### Glow in the dark

For anyone who's tried to apply lipstick in the dark, this new product is a must have for every girl's purse this season. Miki's new lip-gloss range is available in six cheerful colours, each with its own mirror on the side and a light that turns on when you open it, so lips can be touched up anytime, anywhere.

RRP: \$9.90

Stockist: Sax International

Tel: (03) 9568 5999



### Metallic lips, nails and eyes

Revlon's new looks for winter are expressed through gold and platinum. Golds include warm to rich golden browns, and the platinum are cool to grey with marble tints. The range contains a Super Lustrous Lipstick, Classic Nail Enamel and a ColorStay 12 Hour Eyeshadow.

RRP: \$12.95 - \$23.95

Stockist: Revlon

Tel: 1800 025 488

### Contour and control curves

Clarins Body Shaping Supplement, with its seven key botanicals, can be easily slotted into a daily body care regimen or as a time-specific treatment. The product aims to slow down the extension of adipose tissue and fat storage, stimulate fat removal and optimise the elimination of excess substances from the skin.

RRP: \$78 (2x25ml)

Stockist: Trimex

Tel: (02) 9663 4277



### Instant deep care

Garnier Fructis' new instant melt-in mask provides the luxury of intensely strengthened and nourished hair but without the waiting time. It acts as a nourishing mask but is quick and weightless as a conditioner. An ideal quick treatment for mornings in a rush, just apply and rinse.

RRP: \$10.39

Stockist: Garnier, Tel: 1300 659 259

### Mother's Day gift set

Tabu's Black Pearl limited edition gift set is bound to be a favourite with mums. With a total value of \$37.90, it contains Tabu Black Pearl Limited Edition Parfum Spray 50ml and a perfumed Hand and Body Lotion 125ml. The fragrance has top notes of purple freesia, red plums, middle notes of sweet jasmine and notes of vanilla bean.

RRP: \$24.95

Stockist: Trimex, Tel: (02) 8709 8800



### DISPENSARY CORNER

RESEARCHERS in Switzerland have found that computers could be a key aid in the fight against dementia.

The scientists compared the mental performance of subjects who underwent a series of daily computer-based brain exercises, with those who didn't.

The results found that those who had done the brain teasers performed better in a series of other unrelated problems, according to the write-up in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Nintendo is certain to make the most of the results to promote the 'brain training' software on its DS consoles.

One of the researchers, Dr Susanne Jaeggi, said it appeared that regularly stretching the brain appeared to be the key.

"It's the same in sports - you cannot expect to get better in football if you merely run around a little bit," she said.

AN American prison inmate is suing the state because of his massive weight loss.

Broderick Lloyd Laswell is awaiting trial on a murder charge, and has lost more than 45kg after eight months in the Benton County gaol.

Now weighing a svelte 140kg, Laswell has filed a federal lawsuit alleging that authorities don't provide inmates with enough food.

"On several occasions I have started to do some exercising and my vision went blurry and I felt like I was going to pass out," he wrote in his official complaint.

"About an hour after each meal my stomach starts to hurt and growl. I feel hungry again.

"We are literally being starved to death," he said.

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