

New PAH treatment

THE listing of Tracleer on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme has been hailed as a huge step forward in improving the quality of life for children with congenital heart defects who may develop Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension.

"The availability of Tracleer (bosentan) on the PBS provides a new treatment option for people with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension associated with existing or repaired congenital heart defects," Associate Professor Robert Weintraub from the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne said today.

The medication had previously been reimbursed for PAH associated with other causes and from this month this has now been expanded to include PAH associated with congenital heart defects including Eisenmenger's physiology patients (PAH-CHD).

Volunteers needed

THE Keogh Institute for Medical Research is seeking middle-aged men and women as volunteers for a clinical trial of Phospha-E, a vitamin E supplement that may help treat metabolic syndrome.

People should be aged 35 to 60 with a waistline over 102cm in men and 89cm in women and not currently taking medication.

Info from (08) 9346 2008.

Plunkett new PSA Pres

WARWICK Plunkett has been elected as the new national president of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

Elected at a board meeting held in Canberra yesterday, Mr Plunkett said he aimed to mould the newly unified organisation into a strong base for the future.

"My job is primarily to get us off to a solid start with strong foundations," he said.

Two vice-presidents were also elected: Shane Jackson and Grant Kardachi.

The outgoing president, Brian Grogan, who served a record term of three and a half years, will take up a seat on the Board in an observer's position as Immediate Past President.

Mr Grogan congratulated Mr Plunkett on being elected.

"As a past National President, Warwick brings to the office enormous expertise and experience in representing the profession which will drive the new national organisation forward," he said.

In reflecting on his achievements while in office, Mr Grogan said he was most proud of the success of the process to create a truly unified PSA.

"I can already see benefits from the unification with PSA working to put a greater focus on providing

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better professional development opportunities for members as well as a stronger focus on practice support," he said.

"Over time I can see that there will be a stronger, faster and more united response to issues affecting the profession."

Mr Grogan also paid tribute to the PSA Transitional Authority representatives, PSA staff, his Board colleagues and the Society's members "who collectively make the Society what it is."

Xenical backed

GOLD Cross' endorsement of the weight-loss drug Xenical has been positively received by Pharmacy Guild members, according to a survey.

The results show 63% of members were aware of Gold Cross's endorsement of Xenical.

The survey also revealed that pharmacists were engaging in educating their customers on diet and exercise as part of a holistic approach to weight loss.

Guild President Kos Sclavos said: "It is extremely important that pharmacy promotes evidence-based weight-loss products, and Xenical is the most widely tested and efficacious non-prescription weight product on the market."

"But it is also important that pharmacy take a leading role in promoting diet and exercise and a healthy lifestyle as part of the weight loss regime."

DISPENSARY CORNER

HE'S either exceptional or else takes a lot of multi-vitamins, but one athlete is proving that age is no hurdle when it comes to collecting Olympic gold.

A 67 year old Japanese man has been confirmed as the oldest participant at the Beijing Olympics, starting tomorrow.

The equestrian competitor, Hiroshi Hoketsu, competed in his first Olympics in 1964, when he finished 40th.

Now, after a 44 year hiatus, he's back in the saddle and ready to go for gold, with the 2008 games to be just his second Olympic appearance.

He's the oldest competitor ever to represent Japan.

The oldest ever competitor was 72 year old Swedish shooter Oscar Swahn, who won a silver medal at Antwerp in 1920.

MEANWHILE reports have emerged that Japanese men are worrying more about body odour, with a range of products from odour-eating suits to chewing gums flooding the market.

The trend to anti-odour products was sparked eight years ago by a laboratory who said they'd found a substance that they promptly dubbed 'kareishu', or ageing odour, which apparently sets in at age 40.

WIN A COPY OF 'THE OTHER WOMEN'S MOVEMENT'

EACH day this week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving you the chance to win a copy of Dr Michael Levitt's book 'The Other Women's Movement'.

Congratulations to Helen Gilmour of MIMS Australia who was the first reader yesterday to tell us that the title of Dr Michael Levitt's first book is *The Bowel Book*.

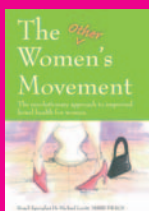
The book is a must read for women who suffer with problems associated with sluggish bowels and disordered rectal evacuation.

Bowel specialist Dr Michael Levitt explodes the myths of good health and shows by example how to overcome problems that can affect women's life and health.

To enter, email your answer to the question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What is the name of the product that has been developed by Medical Specialists as a means of helping people maintain comfortable and healthy bowel function?

The prize will be awarded to the first correct response.
Hint! Visit Dr Levitt's websites - www.michaellevitt.com.au and www.colocappharma.com



HOT Travel Deals

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature.

Each week we plan to highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

Quickbeds.com is offering a desperate housewives escape to Long Island Resort, Queensland. The package includes min. 3 nights accomm, three buffet meals daily, a 30 minute massage and wine and cheese on arrival from \$399 per room per night. For more information visit www.quickbeds.com.

For soccer fans Keith Prowse Australia, has Manchester United 2008-2009 Premium League packages with tickets and accommodation from \$321. The package includes access to the Kit room or Sports lounges

3 hours before kickoff. For more call 1300 730 023.

Or for entertainment lovers Keith Prowse Australia has tickets for big Las Vegas shows at Caesar's Palace. See Bette Midler in her stage extravaganza *The Showgirl must go on*, from \$176. Or catch Elton John's new show *The Red Piano* from \$171. See Cher live on stage performing all her greatest hits in her self titled show, tickets from \$181. For more information on these and other sports and entertainment events visit www.keithprorowse.com.