

Corum loses \$898k

CORUM Group has announced a consolidated loss after income tax of \$898,000 for the six months to 31 Dec 07.

The company's health division, which sells the Pharmasol and Amfac point of sale and dispensary software for pharmacy, saw revenue up 19% to \$6.7m, with the growth primarily from the new PBS Online services.

This division's profit was \$2.2m, up a healthy 26% from the same period in 2007.

However Corum's other operations, which involve a range of services to real estate agents, dragged down the overall result after a Victorian consumer affairs probe which saw officials request Corum cease all marketing of its real estate products.

The company has now been given a clean bill of health and Consumer Affairs has approved a resumption of its marketing.

On the pharmacy software side, Corum said it continues to invest in the rationalisation of its product suite and the development of additional functionality, "particularly for banner group's head offices."

Corum said it expected to launch its new product in the next financial year, with the software currently being beta tested by four groups.

The company said it expected profit from the retail technology operations to improve in 08/09.

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No shortage of Influvac

SOLVAY Pharmaceuticals has refuted claims that influenza vaccines will be delayed for a month due to low yields of this year's strains (*PD* yesterday).

The company released its TGA-approved, 2008-strain compliant, trivalent, sub-unit influenza vaccine, Influvac, into the Australian market on February 25.

A spokesman for Solvay said all contracted customers have been receiving their supplies since this time, as per their agreed contracts.

"Solvay is, therefore, not experiencing a shortage of stock for its influenza vaccine, Influvac," he said.

He said the company was "not in a position to comment on the situation of other vaccine

PSA NSW weekend

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's annual therapeutic update will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley starting from this Fri.

The Fri optional program is on the topic of "Continuum of Care" with weekend seminars on COPD, sleep, mental health, stroke, holistic health and new drugs.

There's also a pharmacy assistant program on Sun 16 Mar. More info 02 9431 1100.

A good egg

FOR the first time in more than 20 years, the full nutritional profile of Australian eggs has been analysed and updated.

The results confirm that eggs are a nutrient-dense food and a natural source of at least 13 different vitamins and minerals, along with antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids and protein.

The Australian Egg Corporation Limited commissioned the study - the most comprehensive nutritional analysis of Australian fresh shell eggs ever undertaken - in October last year.

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suppliers and why they have experienced delays".

Influvac is the only third-generation influenza vaccine available in Australia.

It consists only of the surface proteins haemagglutinin and neuraminidase of the AIVC determined strains each year.

"This makes the vaccine overall less reactogenic and better tolerated than earlier second-generation split virus vaccines," the spokesman said.

Solvay is now taking Influvac pre-orders for the 2009 and 2010 seasons.

Monogram deal

MONOGRAM Biosciences has signed an agreement with Avexa Limited to be the exclusive provider of HIV resistance and tropism testing technology in support of Avexa's drug discovery and development programs, which include its apricitabine anti HIV drug.

Allergy asthma link

TODDLERS with eczema and allergies are significantly more likely to develop asthma, Melbourne researchers have found.

By testing hundreds of toddlers, specialists discovered the skin-prick tests used to pick up allergies can also identify vulnerability to developing asthma.

Children with eczema who tested positive for allergies were almost three times more likely to have asthma by the age of seven than those with eczema who tested negative to allergies.

They were also more likely to develop hayfever, particularly if their skin test suggested a food allergy, found researchers at the University of Melbourne's school of population health.

The study's findings were published in *Clinical and Experimental Allergy*.



DISPENSARY CORNER

EATERIES in the US state of Minnesota have come up with a creative way to get around a newly implemented smoking ban.

A loophole allows actors in theatrical productions to light up in character as they perform.

Up to 100 bars across the state have now declared themselves to be theatres, relabelling entrances as 'stage doors' and introducing "live performances" - by patrons - with names such as The Tobacco Monologues.

Patrons have also been enthusiastic, dressing up in costume to participate.

The owner of The Rock Bar in the city of St Paul said his smoking guests were "playing themselves" before the ban was imposed, adding: "We call the production 'Before the Ban'."

AN INDIAN man is this week celebrating after being included in the Guinness Book of Records for having the world's longest ear hair (pictured below).

50-year-old Radhakant Bajpai has 25cm-long carefully cultivated strands of hair coming from his ears, saying "God has been very kind to me."

He uses special shampoo to keep the ear hair healthy but is somewhat dismayed at a lack of official govt acknowledgement.

"People consider sporting long hair on ears to be an act of foolishness," Bajpai complained.

"Had the government recommended the feat, society would also have been quick to accord recognition," he said.



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