

## Happy 50th, Heart Foundation

THE Heart Foundation says its research funding into cardiovascular disease tops more than \$200M as it celebrates its 50th birthday this year.

In 2009 the foundation will increase its national spending on research to \$13.5m including 99 new heart-focused projects.

Despite significant improvements in the understanding, prevention and treatment of heart problems, Heart Foundation ceo, Dr Lyn Roberts, said ongoing research into this "largely preventable disease" has never been more important.

"We are still fighting a disease which kills 125 Australians each day and is responsible for 34% of all Australian deaths," she said.

## IAD treatment

EXPERTS on incontinence associated dermatitis (IAD) are advocating a management plan that helps patients avoid incontinence-related skin issues.

Hartmann has developed Australia's first range of hypoallergenic & dermatologically-tested continence products for IAD using new technology that improves absorption and comfort and helps eliminate skin problems associated with pad-wearing.

The Molicare Premium and Comfort lines have odour-neutralising molecules, a three-part absorbent core, breathable air-active panels, elasticised tapes and integrated leakage barriers.



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## SSRI's available online

THE alarmingly high rate of prescribing antidepressants in children has prompted authorities to collaborate on a one-stop-shop of information for health professionals.

The Federal Government, Medicare Australia and the National Prescribing Service have drawn together existing data about selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors and made it centrally available on the NPS website.

"Health professionals seeking evidence-based information about management of depression in children can go to [www.nps.org.au](http://www.nps.org.au)," NPS CEO, Dr Lynn Weekes said.

The web page includes previously published NPS documents, Beyond Blue resources and RACGP guidelines on best practice in this area."

Another resource is the Therapeutic Advice and Information Service, a free medicines information telephone

## Breath fresheners

BREATH fresheners have joined the debate about the link between alcohol-based mouthwash and oral cancer.

According to a spokesman from Myerton, "the potentially harmful results of long term exposure to a variety of alcohol based mouth wash... also applies to certain breath fresheners."



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line specifically for pharmacists, doctors and nurses.

TAIS is staffed by specialist drug information pharmacists, who can answer health professionals' questions about medicines.

"During 2007-08, 15.6% of the 5,865 calls to TAIS related to nervous system (psychiatric) medicines, second only to questions about antibiotics. So clearly there is a need for more easily accessible information about these medicines."

"This webpage goes some way in addressing the problem, and will be updated as new resources are developed," Dr Weekes said.

## Skin drug test

MELBOURNE-based Clinuvel Pharmaceuticals has achieved positive interim results of its photoprotective drug, afamelanotide, in a Phase III trial.

The 12mth study investigated the medical benefits of afamelanotide in erythropoietic protoporphyria, a genetic disorder causing absolute ultraviolet radiation and light intolerance in the skin.

Results showed that the maximum severity of phototoxic reactions for patients on the drug was significantly reduced, compared to patients on the placebo, and it also increased melanin density in the skin.

## 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.

Freestyle Holidays is offering three ngt fly/stay packages to Hawaii travelling on Hawaiian Air from \$995pp plus tax.

To book, contact your local travel agent.

The Manly Pacific Novotel in Sydney is offering a special Valentines Day package incl a bottle of Bollinger champagne, a bowl of strawberries plus chocolate dipping sauce and whipped cream, overnight accom, and breakfast in bed, for \$460 per couple.

For info, or to book, call Novotel direct on: (02) 9977 7666.

The Novotel Forest Resort

Creswick is offering a 'Valentines Day Romance Package', including overnight accom in the 'Fairway Suite', 2 course dinner and complimentary in-house movie; a bottle of sparkling wine and chocolate truffles; and couples can choose either a buffet breakfast or room service.

For bookings call 1300 780 411.

Fiji's Treasure Island Resort is offering an EarlyBird special of \$53pp, per day including breakfast, lunch and dinner for travel between 20 Apr and 15 Dec 2009.

See your local travel agent.



## DISPENSARY CORNER

A NEW Zealand asthma sufferer is celebrating after spending his holidays walking down every street in the South Island town of Dunedin.

In fact it's the ninth time that Dave Henry has covered the territory despite having only 40% lung capacity.

Dunedin includes the world's steepest street - Baldwin Road - and Henry said the healthy walk had given him unique experiences.

"You're out there in rain, hail and not often snow in Dunedin, and you get out there and enjoy it," he said.

He plans to complete the feat one more time before moving onto his next challenge.

HERE'S an unusual health-related hobby - an 84-year-old British woman spends her days knitting woollen breasts.

Audrey Horncastle gives her creations to her daughter, a community nurse, who uses them to help teach new mothers how to breast-feed.

When it comes to what wool to use, "I try to keep the basic fleshy tone," said Horncastle.

"But sometimes people ask if I can put in a bit of colour as well to make things a bit different."



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