



MA gene alert

MEDICINES Australia is calling for public input into the legislation on the patenting of human genes and biological materials following the introduction of the legislative amendment proposed in a new private member's bill.

According to Medicines Australia the proposed amendment "would exclude biological materials which are identical or substantially identical to such materials as they exist in nature, however made, from patent protection".

"This would have far-reaching and possibly dire consequences for patient access, medical research and the biotechnology and medicines industry," a statement from Medicines Australia said.

The Bill has been referred to Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee with their decision set to be announced in June next year.

At present the Committee has opened the gates for "those with an interest or relevant contribution to make" to submit their views until 25 February.

New AusPARs

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has released two Australian Public Assessment Reports for teriparatide (Forteo) and zomacton (Somatropin).

MEANWHILE the TGA has also updated its website to feature the delegate's decisions regarding the scheduling of medicines and poisons for: Afamelanotide and Melanocyte stimulating hormone; Asenapine; Belimumab; Linagliptin; Nitisinone; Nomegestrol; Roflumilast; Rupatadine; Sapropterin; Tafuprost; Tapentadol; and Tuberculin.

For info see www.tga.gov.au.

CSL set to grow in 2010

AUSTRALIAN pharmaceutical company CSL has said it expects it will grow its research and development sector between 5-7% over the next few years.

Speaking to media yesterday Dr Andrew Cuthbertson, chief scientific officer at CSL, said that key areas of investment focus would be new product development, market development activities (pushing out the geography and medical use of products), making products more user friendly, and product life cycle management.

The five medicine focus areas of CSL's R&D strategy include immunoglobulins, haemophilia therapies, specialty products and breakthrough medicines.

"We would anticipate that we could continue to grow our R&D investment probably in the range of 5-7%," he said.

"I'm confident with our portfolio that we have put forward, that we can fund over the next few years, and maintain that R&D funding within the envelope that the company can afford," he added.

Last year CSL poured over \$300m into R&D.

This year CSL launched Hizentra in the US, the first 20% concentrate sub-cutaneous immunoglobulin therapy for the treatment of primary immune deficiency, allowing patients to self-infuse.

CSL said it expects to launch Hizentra in the EU, Canada, Switzerland and Japan next year.

Amongst many drugs set to kick into phase IIa study next year is CSL 362, a cancer killing antibody, which is designed to treat acute myeloid leukaemia by binding to and killing AML blasts and

leukaemic stem cells; whilst phase two studies of CSL's reconstituted cholesterol therapy, high density lipoprotein for potential use in acute coronary syndrome will also commence in 2011.

Heavy investment into the life cycle of Gardasil from CSL's US partner Merck, has also seen worldwide trials of a 9-valent vaccine, with CSL saying it expects Merck will file regulatory papers for the expanded HPV vaccine sometime in 2012.

In terms of its facilities, Cuthbertson said that because a lot of CSL's programs are now going into later stage clinical development, CSL is spending "a lot of money" on making biotech candidate products with contract manufacturing organisations, and as such, it is committed to expanding its own worldwide facilities.

This expansion project includes a \$230m investment over the next 4-5 years at CSL's Broadmeadow facility in Victoria, the centrepiece of which will be a new biotech manufacturing facility capable of making products at high quality international standards, in large enough scale to do phase three and commercial launches.

Applications go off

THE regional priority round of the Australian Government's Health and Hospitals Fund has so far seen more than 230 application submissions totalling around \$5 billion.

The focus of the program is essentially to provide extra funding to rural community health projects, and to support upgrades to health infrastructure, hospitals and to expand clinical training in rural hospitals.

Emerflu withdrawn

SANOFI Pasteur has withdrawn its marketing authorisation application with the European Medicines Agency, for Emerflu, a pandemic influenza vaccine (split virion, inactivated, adjuvanted) A/Vietnam/1194/2004 NIBRG-14, 30 µg of haemagglutinin + aluminium hydroxide adjuvant, suspension for injection.

The move follows the finding by Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use finding that there was a lack of data on the vaccine's risk/benefit profile.

The EMA said the drug's withdrawal would not prejudice new applications later down the track.

WIN AN AROMABABY PURE HAIR CLEANSE



Every day this week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a Pure Hair Cleanse from **Aromababy**.

Aromababy's Pure Hair Cleanse has been soothing Babies' scalps for more than fifteen years now. As the first sulphate-free baby shampoo enriched with natural oils, this mild shampoo-substitute is also suitable for older children and for those with dry scalps. The uplifting aroma of natural geranium and orange ensure this product doubles as a great shower gel for adults too. Now available Nationally at Priceline.

For your chance to win this great product, simply be the first person to send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

Is Pure Hair Cleanse suitable for dry scalps?

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Hint: Visit: www.aromababy.com

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: Justin Rolls from Ascent Pharmaceuticals.



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DISPENSARY CORNER

ROUGHAGE?

A corrupt Russian policeman copped a dose of fiber after he scoffed down a 2,000-ruble bribe in order to conceal his crime.

According to reports, the officer was a traffic police captain, who managed to extract a 2,000 bribe off a motorist who he pulled over for committing an illegal take-over maneuver.

All was seemingly going his way, until the motorist reported the extortion to the police.

As such, when he arrived at a pre-designated spot and collected the fine, he was busted in the act.

The dodgy officer, faced with the prospect of arrest, ran and locked himself in his police car where he proceeded to eat the bribe money.

Unfortunately for him, his windows were not tinted, and the arresting officers were able to watch him munch down the evidence.

The officer has since been handed a three-year suspended sentence.

GRANDMA can kick butt!

An 82-year old Chinese grandmother, Zhao Yufang, has taken the world by surprise by continuing to show up youngsters as a master of Shaolin kung fu.

Yufang told media that as a girl she had been turned away from a kung fu school, and ended up teaching herself.

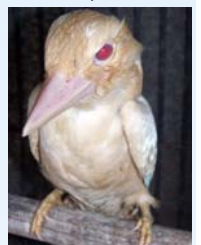
"Then I went back to the school and beat the master until he apologised," she said.

ONCE in a lifetime pair.

A pair of baby albino kookaburra sisters have been handed into the Eagles New Wildlife Park in Cairns, after they were found on the ground after a storm.

Believed to be the only albino kookaburras in the world, the pair will now live in the park

because they would not be likely to survive in the wild, given their lack of camouflage and poor eyesight.



True hold lip colour

Clairns new Rouge Prodiges lipstick range is created using 'high fidelity pearl' - a polymer composed of transparent molecules which trap the colour pigments that adhere to the lip surface, effectively extending lipstick hold. The formula also includes laminaria (an alga) which helps to soften lips, as well as ceramides and waxes to seal in moisture, and plant oils to provide shine. The lipstick formula comes in 24 shades.

RRP: \$42.00

Stockist: (02) 9663 4277



Supa Secrets

Slim Secrets is expanding its range of 'healthy' snack options, to include Supa Secrets Crunchy Potato Chips, a nutritionally balanced chip created for kids. The chips come in 25g bags, in three flavours: honey soy chicken, nacho cheese, and sweet chilli @ sour cream. The range is baked not fried, and is said to provide a source of fiber, and have around 90 calories per bag. The chips are also preservative and msg free.

RRP: \$1.50 per bag

Stockist: 03 98223121



Ban cellulite with Birch

Wella's three pronged Birch Body range is made for people wanting to improve the look of cellulite, and those who just want a good detox. The range includes a Birch Body Scrub, which is infused with organic birch, and soft exfoliating beads made of beeswax, carnauba wax and castor-oil plant wax (which slough away dead cells whilst leaving the skin soft). Next up is Wella's Birch Cellulite Oil which contains rosemary leaves to stimulate circulation and metabolism, and the anti-inflammatory organic ruscus, as well as apricot oil, wheatgerm oil, Vitamin E oil and jojoba oil. The range rounds off with Birch Juice which acts as a lymphatic cleanser.

RRP: \$19.90 (150ml body scrub), \$33.90 (100ml cellulite oil), \$24.95 (200ml birch juice)

Stockist: (03) 9723 7278



Supa Secrets

Medihoney has launched a new Gentle Body Wash, which is created using antibacterial Manuka honey, as well as hydrating jojoba, grapeseed and sunflower oils (which also act to support the skin's natural barrier). The soap-free formula is designed for people prone to eczema and dermatitis, and also includes hydrolysed wheat protein to condition skin.

RRP: \$19.95 (200ml)

Stockist: 1800 466 392



Have a Texas Lone Star Christmas

OPI's new Texas Lone Star nail polish collection features a mix of bright and bold Texas themed colours with classic neutral tones. Colours included in the range are: It's Totally Fort-Worth It (shimmery lavender grey); Don't Mess With OPI (forest green); Austin-Tatious Turquoise (blue-green teal); I Want To Be A-Lone Star (pale blue grey); You Think I'm Tex-y (berry); Houston We Have A Purple (red-violet); San Tan-tonio (fawn nude); Big Hair... Big Nails (peach); Suzi Loves Cowboys (chocolate); Guy Meets Galveston (coral); Too hot Pink To Hold'Em (pink-red) and Y'all Come Back Ya Hear (vibrant tangerine).

RRP: \$19.95

Stockist: 1800 358 999

