



Merry Xmas from PD

TODAY is the last *Pharmacy Daily* issue for 2010.

PD would like to take this opportunity to thank all our loyal readers for your support throughout the year, and wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

The team will be back on 10 January with the very first issue of PD for 2011.

Until then, happy holidays.

PD reader question

YESTERDAY *Pharmacy Daily* was contacted by a creditor of Pan Pharmaceuticals regarding an alleged lack of information provided to Pan's creditors by the law firm, McLachlan Thorpe Partners, regarding the settlement of the Pan case.

PD contacted the firm who responded that it had sent out an email to 'Group Members' of the Pan Pharmaceuticals action, within which was a link to the full details of the settlement.

The firm refused to supply PD with a copy of the settlement details, but did provide a phone number for creditors who are concerned they haven't received the settlement information - 02 9229 2222.

Pharmacists hold most sway

PHARMACISTS are the most influential healthcare professionals in getting patients to adhere to their medication regimes, according to a new US study.

The meta-analysis study saw researchers from Harvard University, Brigham and Women's Hospital and CVS Caremark, analyse data from research published in around 6,500 medical

Abbott US recall

THE US Food and Drug Administration has issued a mass recall of 359 different lots of Abbott Diabetes Care's glucose test strips.

The strips are used with Abbott's Precision Xceed Pro; Precision Xtra; Medisense Optium; Optium; OptiumEZ; and ReliOn Ultima branded blood glucose meters.

The recall relates to certain lots of the test strips manufactured between January and September 2010 and distributed in the US and Puerto Rico.

According to the FDA, the recall is due to the test strips' inability to absorb enough blood for monitoring, meaning that they may give falsely low blood glucose results.

See www.fda.gov for details.

journals between 1966 - 2008, with the aim of understanding how communications between healthcare professionals and patients can better boost medicine adherence.

Their findings were published in two separate reviews in the *American Journal of Aged Care* and the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*.

"We decided it was important to review the total body of work to determine which communication channel had the greatest impact," said William Shrank of Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Study results also found that nurses play a vital role in medicine management, taking second place, behind pharmacists, in getting patients to adhere to medicine regimes.

Face to face communication between pharmacists and patients in-store was also noted as the most effective way of keeping patients on track with their medications, whilst discussions between patients and nurses before hospital discharge also rated highly.

Conversely, programs which used non-personal communication, such as mail, fax, and brochure-style information leaflets were found to have a relatively low impact on patients' medication adherence.

"We know that pharmacists and nurses are among the most trusted health care professionals," said Troyen Brennan executive vp of CVS Caremark.

"This study shows that trust translates into effective patient communications.

"These findings offer payers, health care providers and policy makers guidance about how to develop programs that improve patient adherence," he added.

Pharmacy Daily Pharmacy Job of the Day!

Jobs4Careers is Australia's leading source for pharmacy jobs ... click here to find out more and see the Pharmacy Daily Job of the Day ...

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New Gardasil approval

THE FDA has approved Gardasil vaccine for the prevention of anal cancer and associated precancerous lesions due to the human papillomavirus (HPV) types 6, 11, 16, and 18, for people aged between 9 - 26 years.

The new approval follows a randomised controlled trial which found that Gardasil was 78% effective in the prevention of HPV 16- and 18-related AIN.

"Treatment for anal cancer is challenging; the use of Gardasil as a method of prevention is important as it may result in fewer diagnoses and the subsequent surgery, radiation or chemotherapy that individuals need to endure," said Karen Midthun, M.D., director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

Pharmacist registration

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia is reminding pharmacists that registration renewal is due by 31 December for NSW, Vic, Tas pharmacists as well as pharmacy graduates seeking provisional registration and interns currently seeking general registration having passed the registration exam and completed supervised practice hours.

See www.pharmacyboard.gov.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

YET another way your fatigue is showing...

A recent Aussie study found that by measuring changes in speech patterns, doctors may be able to determine how fatigued a person is and their suitability to perform certain tasks.

Researchers analysed the speech patterns of 18 young Aussies over a 24 hour period, to quantify changes between relative states of fatigue as opposed to their normal, rested voice.

The results showed that the more tired the subjects, the less their voice deviated in pitch and tone, and the slower they spoke.

"Although remaining awake for 24 hours is physically and mentally exhausting, it's actually a great way to make new friends," said one researcher, who noted that many of the study's participants entertained themselves by chatting amongst themselves.

WIN A DESIGNER BRANDS COSMETICS PACK



Every day this week, *PharmacyDaily* is giving readers the chance to win a Designer Brands Cosmetics pack courtesy of **Total Beauty Network**.

At Designer Brands Cosmetics, we've taken all the ingredients, colour and quality from design label cosmetics and made them available at a more affordable price. Our complete mineral enriched range not only works to create a flawless look, but it's also lightweight, long lasting and great for your skin! With prices starting from only \$4.99, you could pay more for other expensive cosmetic labels, but you definitely won't get better!

For your chance to win, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

Name the 4 products featured in the Natural Ground Minerals starter kit

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

The first correct entry received will win!

Hint: Visit www.dbcosmetics.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Trine Nielsen** from **Manly Vale Pharmacy, NSW**.