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HIP defends itself

HEALTH Corporation Limited, the parent company of the Health Information Pharmacy group, has responded to concerns raised by the Australian Securities Exchange, regarding the company's continued viability over the next quarter, saying new revenue streams would buoy its performance.

The ASX wrote to the company after it released its cashflow results for the 3 months to 31 Dec, which showed negative net operating cash flows of \$316,000, raising the conclusion that the firm may only have enough money to fund its activities for less than 6 months.

Health Corporation director Ken Lee said the company had forecast the negative result due to a restructure during the quarter, and was also developing additional revenue streams from its Chemconsult system and the pharmacy management model.

He said the restructure and other cost cutting had ensured that the cost base of the business was "substantially below the anticipated revenue streams that are developing," while the company was also reaching final discussions with a number of potential investors.

Dementia approval

THE government has announced it will pour \$21 million in funding for three Dementia Collaborative Research Centres and five Dementia Study Training Centres spread across Australia.

Institutions earmarked for fund injections include Australian National University, University of NSW, Qld University of Technology, University of Wollongong, La Trobe University, Alzheimer's Australia and Curtin University.

ASCOM members named

PARLIAMENTARY secretary for Health, Mark Butler, has announced the membership of the new Advisory Committee on the Safety of Medicines, with one pharmacist included on the eminent panel.

ASCOM, which replaces and expands the role of the Adverse Drug Reactions Advisory Committee, will "provide expert advice on the safety of medicines including the quality and appropriateness of new risk management plans for a medicine over its entire life cycle," Butler said.

He also confirmed that ASCOM recommendations would be published on the TGA website "in line with the continuing implementation for more open and transparent

arrangements for the TGA."

The nine members, who Butler said all had in-depth knowledge relevant to the evaluation of medicine safety, will serve from 2010-2013 and include Professor Emily Banks from the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health as chairperson.

The pharmacist member is Dr Jane Robertson from the University of Newcastle, while other members include registered nurse and consumer health expert Alison Marcus; hepatology expert Associate Professor Simone Strasser from the University of Sydney; and Melbourne Uni Prof of Medicine Duncan Topliss.

There's also UNSW Professor in Medicine Nick Buckley; Melbourne University Director of Clinical Pharmacology, Associate Professor Danny Lieu; University of Western Australia Ass/Professor of Geriatric Medicine Christopher Beer; and paediatric immunologist Dr Kristine Macartney from the National Centre for Immunisation Research.

US meth debate

OFFICIALS in several US states including Missouri are have proposed new legislation to reschedule pseudoephedrine based cold and flu and allergy tablets from OTC products to prescription only.

The move comes in a bid to stem the tide of illegal methamphetamine labs operating within the states.

The US Consumer Healthcare Products Association is fighting the bill, arguing that instead of rescheduling, the states should pay for the installation of electronic tracking systems - similar to Australia's Project Stop - that would highlight excessive pseudoephedrine medication purchases.

Members of the Missouri Pharmacy Association have also come out in opposition to the bill saying that the rescheduling of the drugs would delay members of the public having access to the medications, and would also drive up prices.

Saffron is out of sight

RESEARCHERS at the University of Sydney have seen significant improvements in vision for participants in a trial who took a saffron pill each day for 3 months.

Professor Silvia Bisti, a visiting scholar from Italy working at the university's Vision Centre, conducted the trial which is now being extended to work out optimal doses of the yellow herb.

PSA NSW deadline

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is reminding members that there's an early bird offer for its upcoming Annual Therapeutic Update in NSW.

The event will be held at the Mantra Ettalong Beach resort on the Central Coast 26-28 March, and those who register by 28 Feb can attend the Fri evening Respiratory Short Course session at no extra charge.

The event also features a Pharmacy Assistant program on the Sunday - more information and booking forms at www.psa.org.au.

WIN A PURE SPA PACK



Congratulations to Donna McCann from Medtronic Australasia who was yesterday's lucky winner of an All Pure Spa® baby pack.

Pharmacy Daily is giving readers the chance to win an All Pure Spa® baby pack every day this week, courtesy of Aromababy.

Valued at \$45, Pure Spa® offers a simple choice in

pure and natural baby skincare and an easy way to care for your precious baby and yourself the way Mother Nature intended.

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Who formulated the All Pure Spa® natural babyCare and pregnancy products?

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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Wood infused with feminine fragrance!

Created from the proverbial rib-cage of its male counterpart (He Wood), the new fragrance from perfumer Daphne Bugey, **Dsquared She Wood**, is not a classically girly perfume. Featuring light, intense and woody accords including lemon, neroli, jasmine, violet, heliotrope, musk, cedar, vetiver and amber, She Wood is aimed at women who prefer an archetypally male smell and could quite easily be classified as a unisex scent.

RRP: \$105- 50ml

Stockist: Trimex

Tel: (02) 9663 4277



Kick start a new skin routine

Designed to get men onto a basic and easy to maintain skin routine ClarinsMen Shave and Go kit includes a soap free purifying Active Face Wash (125ml), an alcohol free Smooth Shave Foaming Gel (150ml) and a 30ml soothing Moisture Balm - with active plant ingredients including Sunflower Auxins and Mourera Fluviatilis.

RRP: \$55

Stockist: Trimex

Tel: (02) 9663 4277

Designer body and lip butters at incredible prices!

Designer Brands has launched a new and exciting Body Butter range, created to the exact standards of The Body Shop. Blended with a range of natural oils and moisturising agents the body butters sooth the skin and lock in its natural moisture. They are available in Olive, Mango, Coconut and Pomegranate and are water-resistant, dermatologist tested and not tested on animals. As an added bonus the Body Butters are available for sale in both pump packaging as well as the more traditional tub pack.

RRP: \$12.99

Stockist: Designer Brands

Tel: 1300 765 332



An Alien has landed - on my pulse points!

Thierry Mugler has launched the fourth instalment in his Alien fragrance range, Alien Eau de Toilette. Packaged in a rather spectacular translucent crystal amethyst-coloured bottle, the perfume belongs to the fresh and fruity classification of scents and features hints of tangerine essence, jasmine grandiflorum, white amber and Kashmir wood.

RRP: \$75-30ml

Stockist: Trimex

Tel: (02) 9663 4277

Rhubarb, rhubarb, rhubarb!

Lanolips has added a new Rhubarb colour to its cult-following lip-ointment product. The new shade combines deep pink rhubarb plant colourings with a hint of gold sparkle, SPF15 agents, 60% medical grade lanolin, moisturising oils and vitamins to create not only an aesthetically pleasing textured and coloured gloss, but a super hydrating and protecting ointment.

RRP: \$13.95

Stockist: Trimex

Tel: (02) 9663 4277



DISPENSARY CORNER

CIGARETTES are very bad for your health, but they don't usually explode in your mouth.

A tobacco company in Indonesia has agreed to pay the medical expenses of a man who lost six teeth when his cigarette went off with a bang.

31-year-old Andi Susanto said the cause of the explosion is still unclear, and he didn't notice anything strange about the cigarette's odour, taste or colour.

He said officials from the cigarette manufacturer had agreed to settle out of court.

"They will pay all the medical expenses," he muttered through his bandaged lips.

It may be good for his health in the long term, however, as Susanto said the incident had prompted him to quit immediately.

IN its ever-intensifying search for the proverbial wellspring of youth, Hollywood has yet again sparked another super unhealthy fad- the illegal injection of prescription-only synthetic human growth hormone, somatropin.

The drug is being touted by several magazines as being the new 'youth elixir', which can fix anything from cellulite to wrinkles.

Somatropin is the synthesized version of a naturally occurring growth hormone that dissipates with age - and is only licensed for use in patients who have a deficiency.

Side effects of its use can include joint and muscle pain, diabetes and cancer.

DON'T blame the baby.

According to new research from The Australian National University, there is no evidence that pregnancy or motherhood effects a woman's memory capacity.

It has long been accepted that pregnancy can cause lapses in memory, causing forgetfulness and absent-mindedness.

But the study proved this to be false, with researcher Helen Christensen saying the myth of 'baby brain' had primed women to attribute any memory lapse to pregnancy or hormones..