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Polident zinc warning

GLAXOSMITHKLINE this morning advised pharmacists of potential health risks due to "long-term excessive use" of its Polident Extra Hold Denture Adhesive Cream.

The company said in 2009 it had received an increased number of adverse event reports, suggesting that excessive use of the products may lead to the development of excessive levels of zinc in the body, associated with copper deficiency.

GSK said patients who used GSK zinc-containing denture adhesive in excess of product directions for several years (more than once a day or in large amounts), or are concerned about their health, should discontinue use and switch to a zinc free alternative.

Hats on for cancer

THE Cancer Council is set to release a new 2010 range of protective hat-wear for all the family.

Having appointed Greenwich Headwear to produce the new range, the Cancer Council said the hats will feature a UPF of 50+ and will be available for sale in pharmacies from June this year.

"We have got a lot to offer and we can't wait to get these hats on the shelves," said Greenwich's Don Biondi.

Onesight Week

THE Onesight Foundation is asking for Australians to donate unwanted prescription glasses and/or cash as part of its annual donation drive which commences next week between 22-28 Feb.

The not-for-profit charity, provides free eyecare and eyewear to underprivileged people, and also provides free vision screening and eye health check-ups to Australian school children throughout the year.

The charity is hoping to raise \$50,000 and 5000 pairs of glasses to continue its valuable work.

To donate glasses, visit any OPSM, Budget Eyewear, Bright Eyes Sunglasses or Sunglass Hut store - see www.onesight.org.au.

Corum turning the corner

PHARMACY software vendor Corum Health has reported a significant improvement in its financial performance for the six months to 31 Dec, with an overall loss of \$102m, compared to the \$1.24m loss for the previous corresponding period.

The company's revenue increased 12% to \$10.9m, with the Pharmacy Technology division reporting a segment profit of \$508,000 for the half year.

Corum has generated an operating profit after tax each month since Nov, with sales growth due to "increased installations encouraged by the continuing Federal Government investment allowance incentives."

"Corum continues to invest substantial funds in its software product suite incorporating both additional functionality and the ever changing demands of a government supported industry," the half yearly report said.

FDA asthma alert

THE US Food and Drug Administration has issued a warning regarding the long-term use of long-acting beta agonist (LABA) asthma drugs such as Serevent, Foradil, Advair and Symbicort.

The FDA said LABAs should never be used alone in the treatment of asthma in either adults or children, after a review of clinical trials showed that use of the long-acting medicines is associated with an increased risk of severe worsening of asthma symptoms, leading to hospitalisation and even death in some patients.

Labelling on the products must be updated to show they're contraindicated without the use of an asthma controller medication, and LABAs should be used only for the shortest duration of time to achieve control of asthma symptoms and then discontinued as soon as possible, the FDA said.

Corum is under the threat of a major financing shortfall, with Westpac having told the company it must repay its loans on or before a 26 Feb deadline, which has now been extended to 31 Mar 2010.

If the finance issue isn't resolved, Corum warned that it "may be unable to continue realising its assets and discharging its liabilities in the normal course of business."

The directors said they're continuing their discussions with the bank "and are confident in achieving an outcome which will be beneficial to the company."

Since last month Corum has increased repayments to Westpac by \$50,000 per month and is paying all interest as it accrues.

Deb does the iPhone

TRAVEL health specialist Dr Deb has launched a new application for the Apple iPhone, based on her Travelling Well book.

The app aims to provide an easy reference for travellers "who visit places where some of the local hospitals could make you sicker than you already are," she said.

It deals with more than 150 common medical conditions and how to treat them, and also includes a drug reference table with indications, doses, precautions and generic and brand names of medications from around the world.

It will normally be priced at \$4.99 but for the first couple of days can be downloaded at no charge by searching for "Travel Health" in the iTunes App Store.

WIN AN ED HARDY INSPIRED FRAGRANCE



CONGRATULATIONS to Hayley Fejer from High Tech Health who was yesterday's lucky winner of an Ed Hardy Inspired fragrance.

Total Beauty Network has teamed up with **Pharmacy Daily** this week, giving readers the chance to win an Ed Hardy Inspired Designer Brands fragrance.

The Designer Brands Fragrances are based on the top-selling, non discounted fragrances with something for both men and women.

With the essences made in France and designer style glass bottles plus the designer names, it makes DB fragrances a great copy without being a counterfeit product.

The fragrances smell the same (or better) than the original, with a great price point everyone can have the chance to try the big names without the big price.

For your chance to win your very own Ed Hardy Inspired Designer Brands fragrance, simply send through the correct answer to the following question:

Name three other female fragrances in the Designer Brands range.

Send your entries to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

The first correct entry received each day will win.

Hint! Visit the Total Beauty Network website at: www.tbn.com.au.

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CPD Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's*

Continuing Professional Development Calendar, featuring upcoming events and opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

20 Feb 2010: PSA Victoria, Pharmacy Management, Saturday Series, Victorian College of Pharmacy board room - 03 9389 4007.

20 Feb 2010: PSA Victoria, Diploma of Management, Victorian College of Pharmacy board room - 03 9389 4007.

21 Feb 2010: PSA NSW First Aid Course, 9am-3pm - melenyhui@psansw.org.au.

21 Feb 2010: PSA SA, 'Managing Pain in the Palliative Care Setting'; Encounter Bay, Victor Harbour; 4 Group 1 CDP points - Call (08) 8272 1211.

24 Feb 2010: PSA Vic; The Truth about Vitamins, Monash Uni - Call 9389 4007.

11-14 Mar 2010: The 19th Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition on the Gold Coast - appconference.com.

26-28 Mar 2010: PSA NSW March Weekend on the theme of Men's and Women's Health, at Mantra Ettalong Beach. 27.5 CPD credits - www.psa.org.au.

14-18 Apr 2010: Australian College of Pharmacy conference Barossa Valley - 1300 651 239.

28 Apr-7 May 2010: The PSA will hold its 35th annual offshore conference in Beijing and Shanghai - details on 1300 139 293.

26-28 May 2010: The NPS's National Medicines Symposium 2010, Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre - www.nms2010.org.au.

29-31 May 2010: The AACP's annual ConPharm clinical seminar at The Grand Chancellor Hotel in Hobart - details www.aacp.com.au.

15-18 Sep 2010: Pharmacy 2010, the Pharmacy Management Conference on Hamilton Island - www.pharmacyconference.com.au.

ASMI director to stand down

THE Australian Self Medication Industry is set to lose one of its stalwarts when Juliet Seifert retires from her position as executive director in August.

Having been at the helm of ASMI and its predecessor for a staggering 21 years, Seifert cited personal reasons for her departure, saying she plans to spend time with her family.

"I am proud of our record of achievement in building ASMI into a credible and influential force in the consumer healthcare products sector," she said.

"I believe we have established a strong industry voice with links to a wide range of professional and consumer organisations as well as key government policy making committees, while significantly expanding the range and breadth of services to members.

"I would like to thank ASMI members, industry colleagues and my team at the ASMI secretariat for the dedication and support that has made this possible," she added.

According to her colleagues, during her time at ASMI she has transformed the organisation, as well as pushing over the counter medications to the forefront of the healthcare sector.

Stepping up to replace Juliet as ASMI executive director is her current deputy, Dr Dean

Shanghai PSA expo

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has set aside time for delegates at its 2010 Annual Offshore Conference in Beijing and Shanghai (28 Apr-07 May) to visit 'Expo 2010 Shanghai' on 06 May.

The Expo will draw around 70 million visitors this year, with 192 countries and 50 international organisations exhibiting under the theme 'Better City, Better Life'.

See www.psa.org.au/conference.

3D organ technology

AUSTRALIAN medical design, development and manufacturer Invetech has created the world's first commercial "bioprinter" capable of printing human tissue in 3D shapes based on computerised images.

The new technology is said to potentially be able to eliminate the need for organ donation in the future.



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DISPENSARY CORNER

SOME of the world's most unhealthy recipes have been put together in a special online cookbook for people who hate dieting.

Fans of fatty food can submit pictures and recipes of their favourite dishes to the site, which can very appropriately be found at www.thisiswhyyourefat.com.

Recipes include the mind-blowing Bacon Bar (bacon and ground pork sausage baked inside a chocolate bar), the time-saving "Morning Glory" - sausage, egg and cheese in a glazed cinnamon roll, and the well-titled Double Coronary Burger.

Or how about the highly appealing 'Meta Meat Cake' (pictured below) which features a mixture of four types of sausage, ground beef, pork, ham, bacon, pepperoni, wrapped in sausage, bacon and cheese dough and baked, then decorated with cheddar cheese and bacon strips.



Prostate conference

THE Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia's 2010 international conference will be held this year at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre between 6-8 Aug.

Themed 'Advancing Quality of Life' the conference will feature a host of international speakers covering a range of topics including research, management, health promotion, treatment and support.

For more info or to register see - www.prostate.org.au.

Good fats for eyesight

OLIVE oil and other omega-3 fatty oils significantly reduce the risk of blindness in old age.

According to figures released this week by the Centre for Eye Research Australia, people who eat 100 millilitres or more of olive oil per week are 50% less likely to develop old-age related macular degeneration.

The study tracked the dietary habits of 6500 participants aged between 58 and 69 years of age, in 1990, following up in 2003 and 2006, with findings showing a link between a diet rich in so called good fats and better eye health.