

## Ructions on Corum board

**ONE** of the independent directors of listed pharmacy software supplier Corum Group has written to investors to "put his case" against a motion seeking his removal at the company's upcoming annual general meeting.

Douglas Halley says that shareholders will be asked to vote on his removal at the 25 Nov meeting, and is urging members to attend and support him.

He says that the motion for removal comes at the instigation of Corum's 54% shareholder, Lujeta Pty Ltd, which is beneficially owned by William Paterson.

Halley says he's being removed because of his "exercise of true independence as a director" and says that although Corum has two other independent directors, he is the only one free of any actual or perceived conflict of interest.

Halley said that he hasn't decided whether or not to resign (because if Lujeta votes its majority shareholding he will be removed), but urged minority shareholders to attend to ensure that their best interests continue to be served.

## NPS hopes for better data

**NPS** says that new legislation before the Parliament is likely to significantly improve the transparency of how the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is working in Australia.

The *National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme) Bill 2010* allows for the capture of information about prescriptions dispensed under the PBS which are priced lower than the co-payment.

"Currently, the cost to consumers for under co-payment medicines is inaccessible and this new measure is a step in the right direction towards improving transparency," said NPS ceo Dr Lynn Weekes.

"For many years, NPS and other industry stakeholders have sought stronger provisions for collecting data about PBS prescriptions that do not attract a co-payment, in order to have accurate information about Australian's medicines use," she said.

"From the perspective of quality use of medicines, access to complete information about prescribing, dispensing and usage of medicines is a key factor in being able to identify areas for

improvement," Weekes added

NPS said improvements in transparency would also help paint a clearer picture for people to understand their medicines choices.

Weekes said NPS was keen to see commitment from across the sector to ensure the sustainability and stability of the PBS.

"The measures for statutory price reductions and price disclosure will not only support the financial viability of the PBS, but through this stability enable the sector to bring quality and safety of prescribing to the forefront," Weekes concluded.

## Cipla horse approval

**INDIAN** generics manufacturer Cipla has been granted approval by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority for introducing its generic omeprazole in Australia for the treatment of equine ulcers.

Introduced under the brand name E-Gardby Cipla, the product is the generic version of Merial's GastroGuard and is currently available in 16 countries across the globe including Singapore, South Africa, Hong Kong and the UAE.

Up to 93% of racehorses experience ulcers, with spokesperson Sanjeev A. Gupte saying "we anticipate a good demand of E-Gard in Australia".

Cipla's Animal Health Division is India's largest veterinary pharmaceutical exporter, with a portfolio comprising more than 500 equine and pet products.

## Coty goes GaGa

**BEAUTY** company Coty has announced a new agreement with iconic pop singer Lady Gaga which will see the "international and multifaceted artistic force" develop and market her first-ever signature fragrance.

Coty ceo Bernd Beetz said the new fragrance "will allow Lady Gaga to intimately connect with her fans on a global scale.

"We look forward to breaking boundaries that will allow people to experience beauty in a different and unique way," he said.

The yet-to-be-named fragrance line, which will be distributed worldwide, is expected to launch in the first half of 2012, and will add to Coty's existing range of celebrity endorsed perfumes.

## Enter for POTY

**THE** Pharmacy Guild is today reminding pharmacies across Australia that there are just three weeks left to enter the 2011 Pharmacy of the Year competition.

Winners will share in a cash prize pool and will also receive a trophy to display in their pharmacy, a professional photo shoot to be used in subsequent promotions, and local press and trade media coverage.

One representative of each category winner will also receive travel and registration costs to attend the APP conference on the Gold Coast in March next year

Three categories are available: Excellence in Business

Management; Excellence in Community Engagement; and Innovation in Professional Services; and each category winner will also be in the running for the overall Pharmacy of the Year award.

Submissions close at 5pm AEDST on Fri 3rd December; entry forms at [guild.org.au/pharmacyoftheyear](http://guild.org.au/pharmacyoftheyear).

## Qld Guild CPD

**THE** Qld branch of the Pharmacy Guild will offer three CPD sessions before Christmas, and is urging interested pharmacists to book now.

The events include a Professional Services Workshop on *Clinical Skills and Implementation*, with four CPD points on offer, which will take place on 17 November.

A 22 November session titled *QCPP Where to Start - Accreditation Made Easy* will also offer four CPD points, while seven points are on offer for a 24 Nov session on Employment of Pharmacy Staff.

## FDA HIV approval

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has approved tesamorelin (Egrifta) for the treatment of HIV patients with lipodystrophy - a condition in which excess fat develops around the liver, stomach and other abdominal organs.

It's associated with many antiretroviral HIV drugs, with Egrifta being a growth hormone releasing factor (GRF) drug which is administered via a once daily injection.

Egrifta was developed in Canada by Montreal firm Theratechnologies Inc, and is marketed in the US by EMD Serono.

## WIN A TRAVEL PALETTE



Every day this week, *Pharmacy Daily* is giving readers the chance to win a Travel Palette from the Perfect Presents range, courtesy of Total Beauty Network.

Designer Brands Travel Palettes are the perfect, portable make-up companion!

The mineral formulation contains skin nurturing ingredients like Aloe Vera and Vitamin E, and the long lasting formulas provide a fabulous finish every time.

Complete with the essential shades for your eyes and lips, this kit is a must-have for this Christmas.

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

**What other palettes are available from Designer Brands?**

Email your answer to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

The first correct entry received will win!

Hint: Visit [www.dbcosmetics.com.au](http://www.dbcosmetics.com.au)

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: Jenn Tor'ielle, pharmacy student from University of Sydney.



## Govt Mental Health commitment

**THE** Federal Government says its Mid-Year Economic Fiscal Outlook released earlier this week signals a "renewed commitment to mental health" in Australia.

The minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, said the govt "recognises that there is more to do in mental health and we are committed to reform".

In a statement this week Butler said that current initiatives include a comprehensive suicide prevention package, more sub-acute mental health beds and significant investment in promoting good mental health in young people.

## Pharmaceutical lawyer charged

**OFFICIALS** in the USA have charged a lawyer for an unnamed pharmaceutical company with making false statements.

The US Department of Justice charged Lauren Stevens of Durham, New Carolina, with one count of concealing and falsifying documents to influence a federal agency, one count of obstructing an official proceeding and four counts of making false statements to the Food and Drug Administration.

The case relates to an Oct 2002 incident in which the FDA asked for information about the company's promotion of a prescription drug during a probe into whether it was being used incorrectly.

In response to the FDA inquiry it's alleged that Stevens sent a series of letters to the FDA which "falsely denied that the company had promoted the drug for off-label purposes, even though she knew...that the company had sponsored numerous programs for unapproved uses".

"There is a difference between legal advocacy based on the facts, and distorting the facts to cover up the truth," said US Attorney Carmen Ortiz.

"Federal agencies such as the FDA cannot protect the public health if the entities and individuals they regulate provide false information and conceal the true facts," she added.

The unidentified pharmaceutical company has not been charged.

## TGA biological consultation

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration is seeking written submissions on proposed amendments to the Therapeutic Goods Regulations which will implement the long-planned Biologicals Framework.

A consultation paper is currently online at [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au), which incorporates a number of amendments to a version sent by email to registered stakeholders late last month.

Issues canvassed include the proposed biologicals classification system, separate and distinct criteria for biologicals, clinical trial requirements, exemptions in relation to medical practitioners, adverse event reporting timeframes, patient information for biologicals and an "exceptional release scheme" for biologicals.

Information sessions on the proposed amendments are planned over the next few weeks in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Canberra, as well as videoconferences in Perth

and Adelaide, at which details of proposed fees and charges for biologicals will also be discussed.

A separate consultation on the fees and charges is expected to be undertaken in the coming weeks.

Interested parties are invited to provide comment by close of business on Friday 3rd December.

**MEANWHILE** the TGA has also released the submissions that it received earlier this year relating to its draft Code of Good

Manufacturing Practice and five proposed Therapeutic Goods Orders for blood and blood components, human tissues and human cellular therapies.

The feedback has seen significant revisions to all five standards, meaning that there will be a second round of stakeholder consultation.

Areas which have changed include timing and requirements for the examination and consent of living donors, as well as assessment of microbial contamination.

See [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**RURAL** communities across Australia should try this approach to recruit local health workers.

A small German community which has been left without a GP after their local doctor retired earlier this year is offering a range of benefits to any potential replacement - including free sausages.

The northwestern village of Lette has banded together, with offers from various suppliers including the local butcher, Niko Ringhoff, who's offering any doctor willing to move there "free meaty lunches" as well as a complimentary "sausage-themed feast" when the new surgery opens.

"Everybody wants to do something to help get a doctor," he said, adding "We all want to give him a warm welcome and make sure he feels at home here".

Other services to entice a new doctor include free haircuts, complimentary bread rolls and free flower arrangements from the local florist.

**ONLY** in Japan.

Lingerie maker Triumph has unveiled a special brassiere in Tokyo which aims to provide a big lift - both for busts and the country's tourism sector.

The 'Yokoso Japan!' support garment (pictured below) is said to be inspired by a tour guide's uniform, and features an in-built display to highlight attractions.

It can greet visitors in English, Chinese and Korean, and incorporates in-built tour guide flags which "act as side stays, providing good support and creating an attractive bust line".

Triumph said it was "identifying and making good use of abundant tourism assets that still remain untapped in Japan".

An optional, rather risqué, feature is a short skirt attached to the bustier which flips up to reveal a map of Japan.



## Travel Specials

**WELCOME** to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature.

Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

**BENTOURS** has an earlybird deal with savings of up to \$1522 per couple on its new Volga Dream Russian River cruise/tour, when booked by 10 January.

The nine night package is now priced from \$4298 per person twin share and includes private airport transfers, accommodation in St Petersburg and Moscow, a six night cruise, most meals, and private tours.

Available for travel until 29 August 2011 the package can be booked by calling 1800 221 712 or visiting [bentours.com.au](http://bentours.com.au).

**LAKE** Crackenback Resort is offering a number of packages over the festive season, including a buffet and beverage package

for adults and children on Christmas Day priced from \$148pp and \$50pp respectively.

On New Years Eve the resort has 'The Lamplighters' an R&B, soul Rock and Roll band to bring in the New Year, and a southern feast in the restaurant priced from \$165pp, along with a range of accommodation packages.

For info call 1800 020 524.

**SKIMAX** has a stay 7/pay 6 deal at Big White, British Columbia including a six day lift pass priced from \$539pp.

The package, available for travel between 02 - 31 January 2011, needs to be booked by next Monday to get the saving.

More deals at 1300 136 997.

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