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## Go Offshore with PSA

**PHARMACY Daily** has started to receive entries to this week's PSA Win a Post-Conference Cruise competition, which offers the chance to win a free place on the PSA's upcoming Post Offshore Conference River Cruise.

Travelling down the Danube from Budapest to Bucharest onboard *MS Amadeus Diamond* the seven-night voyage includes all meals, sightseeing, workshop sessions and a Bucharest transfer.

To be in the running simply tell us in 50 words or less why you think learning at the PSA's Offshore Refresher Conference would be fun.

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

## Pharmacy Alliance API split

**THE** longstanding relationship between buying group Pharmacy Alliance and Australian Pharmaceutical Industries appears to have broken down, with the Alliance today advising its members of an "interim supply arrangement" with another wholesaler.

The move follows a tender process initiated by Pharmacy Alliance seeking a better deal for its members, which saw API retaliate by approaching some Alliance pharmacists direct.

API's existing commercial terms for Pharmacy Alliance expire effective today, but Alliance spokesman Matt Pollard told **PD** this morning that it will continue with the tender process despite the "precipitous" API action.

"We are absolutely intent on getting the best deal for our members," he said, with the Alliance disappointed at API's reaction.

Pollard said feedback from Alliance members over the controversy had been very positive, with the continuing supply arrangements on better commercial terms than previously.

"We've told our members not to be bullied," Pollard added, confirming that the 8 week tender process will continue on schedule and will "deliver plenty".

API was approached for a comment but wasn't able to respond before **PD**'s deadline today.

## Restless legs approval

**THE** US FDA has approved Horizant Extended Release Tablets (gabapentin enacarbil), a new once-daily treatment for restless legs syndrome.

The medication was developed by GlaxoSmithKline in partnership with Californian firm Xenoport.

## WIN A BLUE STRATOS PACK



This week **PD** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a fantastic male

toiletries pack valued at \$30, courtesy of **Blue Stratos**.

The pack includes Blue Stratos body spray, an Anti-Perspirant Deodorant and deodorising Talc Powder.

For your chance to win this great male toiletries pack simply be the first person to send in an answer to the question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Name the three products in order of suggested use:

1. BS Jumbo Talc
2. BS Anti-Perspirant Deodorant
3. BD Deodorant Body Spray

Hint! Visit [www.keysun.com.au](http://www.keysun.com.au)  
Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Cathy Campbell** from **HNE Pharmacy Services**.

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SOMETHING  
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**iMIMS**  
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Available on the  
App Store  
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MIMS

## Easy aged-care access

**FROM** 01 July the Department of Health and Ageing is introducing a single phone number to help older Australians and their carers access and navigate the aged care system.

The number will be a consolidation of all existing 1800 numbers, and will act as a single point of entry for people seeking info and access to aged care services.

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DAVID PATTON: 0432 515 717

## Business Development Managers



*Your Pharmacy Partner*

On the back of an extremely successful launch at APP, APhS Packaging is recruiting for passionate and committed pharmaceutical sales professionals, with a demonstrable track record in achieving results.

APHS Packaging is a leading supplier of dose administration aids for pharmacies and aged care facilities across Australia. Through state of the art packaging and inspection systems, APhS Packaging produces easy-to-use medication sachets within a highly regulated manufacturing environment. With APhS Packaging poised for strong growth, this role will play a key part in the organisation's overall success.

Reporting to the National Sales Manager, these hands-on roles will focus on the new customer acquisition, as well as promoting the expanding product offerings to the existing customer base. You will achieve this by owning the customer relationships from origination to initiation.

Register your interest by contacting Peter Maloney,  
0408 705 662 or [peter.maloney@aphspackaging.com.au](mailto:peter.maloney@aphspackaging.com.au).

**Need help with the Pharmacy Industry Award?**

[www.guild.org.au/pia](http://www.guild.org.au/pia)



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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](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**10 Apr 2011:** Practical Diabetes Management for Pharmacy; Newcastle; for details call - 02 9431 1125.

**17 Apr 2011:** Interprofessional Collaboration: Overcome Psych Barriers; Gosford RSL Club; for details call - 02 9431 1125.

**01-23 May:** 36th PSA Offshore Refresher Conference, Venice, Salzburg, Rome, Bucharest - [www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au).

**11 May 2011:** Diploma of Management, Pharmacy Skills Centre, Hawthorn, Vic; for details call 03 9810 9988

## Corum reveals \$766k debt

**THE** board of Australian pharmacy software supplier Corum Group says it "regrets" its failure to disclose the details of a lawsuit it is currently appealing in the NSW Supreme Court (**PD** breaking news).

The company yesterday confirmed that it had received a demand for payment of damages in the case, which amount to a total of \$766,000 plus costs, after an adverse judgement on 25 Mar.

Corum is being sued by its former Executive Director, Michael Rowley, who is claiming payment under a four year consultancy agreement which was meant to span from 2005-2009 but was terminated by Corum in 2007.

Chairman Michael Shehadie said the company had not made any provision in its accounts for the payment, but "is in a position to pay the judgement damages" if it does not appeal, or an appeal fails.

He stressed that the company had returned to profitability under its new management, had cut debt by

\$3.5 million over the last 18 months and had solid cash flows.

Shehadie added that the company is "putting in place steps to ensure the market is kept fully informed about the case in future".

## Plan B no longer a rule

**PHARMACISTS** in the US state of Illinois have been granted the ability to refuse to sell the Plan B morning after pill.

The ruling comes after six years of hearings, following a law put in place by the state's former Governor, Rod Blagojevich in 2005 which required pharmacists to distribute Plan B to women who asked for it.

Two years later pharmacists won the right to personally refuse the Plan B sale, however the owner of the pharmacy was then required to make sure the order was filled.

The new ruling means that all Illinois pharmacists now have the right of refusal, without having to find someone in their pharmacy to dispense the pill.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

**HEALTHY** ageing in action....

A 75-year old Armenian woman has been found responsible for single handedly cutting Armenia and neighbouring Georgia's internet connections.

According to reports, thousands of people were left without the internet, after the woman went scavenging for scrap metal with a shovel and dug up the fibre-optic internet cable which runs from Armenia to Georgia, cutting into it in an attempt to steal it.

**BUT** does it stop foot odour?

A 'Super Smart Boot' has gone on display this week at the world's largest invention show in Geneva, which is claimed to be able to detect air temperature, humidity, location and the wearer's blood pressure, via inbuilt sensors.

The boot's creator says he hopes it will become the "Swiss Army Knife" of boots.

## April MIMS Monthly Medicine Update

### NEW PRODUCTS

**Vagicare (ascorbic acid)** is a pessary that lowers the pH of the vaginal microenvironment and helps relieve symptoms of high vaginal pH by promoting normal vaginal flora (lactobacillus). VagiCare works locally at the site of administration to reduce vaginal pH. It is indicated in chronic or recurrent bacterial colpitis (bacterial vaginosis, non-specific colpitis), of moderate or intermediate severity and to normalise disturbed vaginal flora. Vagicare provides natural protection of the vaginal microenvironment by: regulating and maintaining the natural pH balance of the vagina; promoting

and supporting normal vaginal flora (lactobacillus); helps relieve symptoms of high vaginal pH. It is contraindicated in patients with candidal colpitis. Vagicare is acceptable for use during pregnancy and lactation. The recommended dose is one 250 mg pessary intravaginally at preferably at bedtime.

### NEW FORMULATIONS

**Aranesp (darbepoetin alfa)** is now available as a single use prefilled syringe with automatic needle guard. It is available in a pack containing 4 syringes, in the following doses: 20 µg/0.50 mL, 30 µg/0.30 mL, 40 µg/0.40 mL, 50 µg/0.50 mL, 60 µg/0.30 mL, 80 µg/0.40 mL, 100 µg/0.50 mL, 150 µg/0.30 mL.

### NEW INDICATIONS

**Qlaira (oestradiol valerate/ dienogest)** is now indicated in the treatment of heavy and/ or prolonged menstrual bleeding in women without organic pathology who desire oral contraception. Qlaira is available on private prescription in wallets containing 28 tablets consisting of 2 dark yellow tablets (3 mg oestradiol valerate), 5 medium red tablets (2 mg oestradiol valerate + 2 mg dienogest), 17 light yellow tablets (2 mg oestradiol valerate + 3 mg dienogest), 2 dark red tablets (1 mg oestradiol valerate) and 2 white placebo tablets.

### SAFETY RELATED CHANGES

**Mydriasis and increased intraocular pressure** has been seen with **Buscopan (hyoscine butylbromide)**.

Coadministration of terfenadine is contraindicated in patients receiving **fluconazole** (Dizole and Dizole one) at multiple doses of 400 mg per day or higher based upon results of a multiple dose interaction study. Coadministration of other drugs known to prolong the QT interval and which are metabolised via the enzyme CYP3A4 such as cisapride, astemizole, pimozone and quinidine is contraindicated in patients receiving fluconazole.

**Premarin (conjugated oestrogen)** is now contraindicated in known thrombophilic disorders (e.g. protein C, protein S or antithrombin deficiency).

Rarely, acute febrile neutrophilic dermatosis (Sweet's syndrome) has been seen with **Velcade (bortezomib)**.

*This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing always refer to the full Product Information.*