

# Pharmacy DAILY

Friday 12 August 2011

PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

## MOH HOLDINGS

Pharmacy career opportunities are available in Singapore's public healthcare institutions.

To find out more, visit [www.ahp.mohh.com.sg](http://www.ahp.mohh.com.sg)

Email your queries and resume to [apply@mohh.com.sg](mailto:apply@mohh.com.sg)



## Roxon names PSR head

FEDERAL health minister Nicola Roxon has named Dr William Coote as the acting director of the Professional Services Review (PSR).

Coote is a GP who was previously secretary-general of the AMA as well as being the inaugural ceo of General Practice Education and Training Limited.

The PSR is an independent authority which looks into cases where health practitioners may have "inappropriately rendered or initiated services that attract a Medicare Benefits Schedule rebate, or inappropriately prescribed under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme," Roxon said.

Coote has an initial three month tenure starting from next Sun, with a permanent candidate for the position currently under consideration by Cabinet and set to be announced in the coming months, the minister added.

## Pharmaxis reports \$45m loss

PHARMAXIS, the Australian-listed manufacturer of the Bronchitol COPD treatment, has released its results for the year to 30 Jun, with an overall net loss of more than \$4.458 million on turnover of just \$4.458 million for the 12 months.

The profit figure was similar to last year's \$46m annual loss, with the company's major costs relating to ongoing research and development.

Key activities during the year included TGA approval of Bronchitol for the treatment of cystic fibrosis in both adult and paediatric patients.

An initial submission for PBS listing was unsuccessful, with the company now having submitted a

revised application.

In Europe the Committee for Medicinal Products "adopted a negative opinion" in relation to a marketing application for Bronchitol based on a view that the product's effectiveness and benefit had not been established.

The Aridol airways inflammation test has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, with sales commencing in late Feb.

## Pfizer African payout

PFIZER has made the first compensation payments to four Nigerian families whose children died of meningitis during a clinical trial in the northern state of Kano fifteen years ago.

During a meningitis epidemic 100 children were given an experimental oral antibiotic called Trovan (trovafloxacin) while a further 100 received ceftriaxone.

Although similar numbers of children died in both groups, it was alleged that Pfizer didn't have proper consent from parents to use the experimental medication.

Pfizer has confirmed initial payments of US\$175,000 to the families of the first four victims.

Trovan is no longer sold in Europe because of liver toxicity concerns.

## Carmex top seller

THE Carmex lip balm squeeze tube was rated as the fourth top selling lip care SKU in Australian pharmacies during Jun this year, according to an ACNielsen survey.

## New TGA openness?

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has today published details of some documents which it has released under Section 11C of the *Freedom of Information Act*.

In response to a "request seeking information in relation to sponsors on the ARTG and the number of Infringement Notices issued by the TGA," the result was the somewhat disappointing document below - a scanned extract with most details blacked out apart from a summary of the total number of sponsors at six monthly intervals between 30 Jun 09 and 31 Dec 2010.

AUSTRALIAN REGISTER OF THERAPEUTIC GOODS	
Total Number of Sponsors	2009
	2010
	2011
	2012
	2013
	2014
	2015
	2016
	2017
	2018
	2019
	2020
	2021

## Herceptin heart link

ELDERLY patients prescribed with breast cancer drug Herceptin (trastuzumab) are likely to have a higher risk of heart problems, according to a study published this week in *Annals of Oncology*.

The Spanish research found a significantly increased incidence of cardiac events in patients aged 70+.

Pharmacy Solutions Australia  
Pharmacy Business Brokers

## PBS-APPROVAL NUMBER FOR SALE

Available for long distance relocation

Contact: Peter Marshall

0417 721 203

[peterm@pharmasolutions.com.au](mailto:peterm@pharmasolutions.com.au)

## WE WILL PAY YOU TO BE A CHEMSAVE COMPLIANT MEMBER

Yes, we pay you! And because we're happy to pay, we offer a number of easy ways to be a Chemsave compliant member!

Plus, as a Chemsave compliant member, we will provide you with a suite of profit-boosting member benefits for FREE!



Full Branding Option with FREE Signage!

With a choice of membership levels to suit all pharmacies, all the way up to full branding, now is the time to join Chemsave!

CLICK HERE

TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH WE WILL PAY YOU TO BE A CHEMSAVE COMPLIANT MEMBER

Chemsave

## WIN an iPhone 4

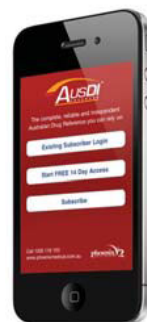
Simply subscribe to *AusDI Advanced* for your chance to win.

*AusDI Advanced* is the independent Australian information resource for health care professionals.



- Simple & fast search
- Updated monthly
- The complete drug reference
- Access saved favourites offline

Don't have a subscription?  
Get it Now



AusDI

\* Promotion ends 16th of September 2011 - Click here for terms & conditions - NSW Permit No. LTPS/11/06546



## NZ pharmacist fraud

A PHARMACIST from the NZ North Island city of Auckland has pleaded guilty to 95 charges of defrauding the NZ Health Ministry.

Wayne Baker from Sandringham Village Pharmacy admitted to making almost NZ\$70,000 in false claims for dispensing prescriptions which were expired, not authorised by the prescriber or not requested by patients.

He'll be sentenced on 11 Oct.

## 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).

**14-18 Aug:** Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2011, Mount Buller, Victoria - [www.medicic.com.au](http://www.medicic.com.au).

**26-27 Aug:** SHPA Victorian Pharmacy Managers Meeting and Branch Summit, Parkville; online regos at [shpa.org.au](http://shpa.org.au).

**27 Aug:** SHPA WA Branch Symposium - Transplantation - info 03 9486 0177.

**27-28 Aug:** NSW Pharmacy Assistants Conference, Four Points by Sheraton Darling Harbour Sydney - details at [nswpharmacyassistant.com.au](http://nswpharmacyassistant.com.au)

**15-17 Sep:** Pharmacy 2011 Management Conference, Fairmont Resort Leura NSW - [pharmacyconference.com.au](http://pharmacyconference.com.au)

**17-18 Sep:** PharmacyLIVE! clinical information conference at Sydney Showground. More information 02 9431 1100.

**06-09 Oct:** PAC11, Melbourne Convention Centre [pac11.com.au](http://pac11.com.au)

**13-15 Oct:** Pharmacy Assistant National Conference, Gold Coast - [pharmacyassistants.com.au](http://pharmacyassistants.com.au)

**10-13 Nov:** SHPA's Medicines Management 2011 conference in Hobart - [www.shpa.org.au](http://www.shpa.org.au).

**27 Apr-03 May 2012:** 37th PSA Offshore Refresher Conference, Istanbul Turkey - 1300 139 293.

## New UK professional service

THE UK Royal Pharmaceutical Society has issued a comprehensive guide for pharmacists wanting to implement a professional program called the New Medicine Service.

Focusing on patients with long-term conditions who have been prescribed with new medicines, the scheme aims to improve adherence, increase patient engagement with their condition, reduce medicine wastage and have an impact on hospital admissions due to adverse medicines events.

Community pharmacies wishing to offer the service will receive a one-off payment of £750 for initial implementation, as well as "target payments that are based on the quantity of consultations completed".

The New Medicines Service will primarily focus on four conditions: type 2 diabetes; asthma and COPD; hypertension; and antiplatelet/anticoagulant therapy.

These have been chosen based on evidence from an initial research

project as well as "on the basis that these are areas where community pharmacists are best able to demonstrate the value of the service".

Patients can be offered the service when they present with a prescription for a new medicine in pharmacies, or may also be referred to pharmacists for the service by prescribers.

To be implemented from 01 Oct, the UK Department of Health is budgeting for a maximum annual investment of £55 million in each of 2011/12 and 2012/13.

After then the service will be continued if all parties agree it's provided "demonstrable value" to the UK National Health Service.

Pharmacists will be required to complete a self-assessment form to declare they have the necessary skills and knowledge to implement the services, and a series of associated learning programs are also currently under development including an instructional video.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

LOTS of hospital patients may end up with tattoos in the future, after the creation of a new sensor thinner than a human hair.

Used for monitoring, the creators say the sensor attaches to human skin "just like a temporary tattoo," and is able to stretch, move and wrinkle without breaking.

Developed by researchers at the University of Illinois in the USA, the innovation could be used to replace traditional wires and cables, and can also be made with integrated solar cells to provide small amounts of power.

"It's a technology that blurs the distinction between electronics and biology," said one of the scientists, Prof John Rogers.

A MUSEUM in Austria has sacked one of its employees, after finding out that he regularly washed his hands and face with his own urine.

57-year-old Alfred Zoppelt had had worked at Vienna's Bevedere Castle, which houses a major art collection, for more than 23 years.

He said his notice of termination stated the reason as being because "you regularly rub urine into your skin, particularly the face and hands.

"With this, you soil your place of work...and threaten the health of your co-workers," it said.

Zoppelt said he was upset because his love for so-called "urine therapy" had never been a problem before.

THERE'S certainly money to be made in illicit drugs.

Authorities in Northern California in the USA seized a huge marijuana crop estimated to be worth a whopping US\$800m.

A three week operation targeted the Mendocino National Forest, finding hundreds of illegal gardens amounting to more than 632,000 cannabis plants.

About 150 people were arrested as part of the raids.

## WIN A GAIA BODYCARE PACK



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with GAIA this week and is giving away Bodycare packs to five lucky readers.

Each pack is valued at \$59.80 and contains two body washes and two body moisturisers.

GAIA Bodycare soap-free washes and skin-softening moisturisers contain natural and organic ingredients for naturally soft, beautifully healthy skin every day.

Australian made and owned, GAIA Bodycare has been specially formulated for the skincare needs of women and comes to us from the makers of GAIA Natural Baby. Contact National Pharmacy Manager Rebecca for opening order deals and special offers - m:0418 293 366 or [rebecca@rebles.com.au](mailto:rebecca@rebles.com.au)



For your chance to win this fantastic GAIA Bodycare pack, go to the website: [www.gaia.skinnaturals.com](http://www.gaia.skinnaturals.com), then email your answer to the question below by COB on Friday to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**In 25 words or less tell us why you stock GAIA Bodycare products – or why you should!**

Five most creative entries will win this great prize and their names will be announced in *Pharmacy Daily* on Monday 15th Aug.