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Freedom to choose

Vaccine defenders

RESEARCHERS from the University of California-San Diego have released a 700-page report which downplays the role of vaccines in the development of chronic diseases including diabetes and autism.

In preparing the report, the researchers looked at a large range of vaccines and the majority of their potential side-effects across 12,000 peer-reviewed studies, and found that vaccine complications were extremely rare.

"We're talking about millions of doses of vaccines, and only a few case reports of these rare events," said report co-author, S. Claiborne Johnston.

According to Johnston, the report refutes some common misconceptions including that flu shots can trigger asthma attacks.

On the flip-side the report did find evidence that combined measles-mumps-rubella shots increased the risk of fever seizures.

However overall side effects were most often found to occur in children with known risks.

Future risk discovery

A NEW study published in *Neurology* has found biological changes in the brains of people with no cognitive impairment, that may flag a risk for dementia and Alzheimer's.

The researchers used MRI scanning to detect the changes, which they say may be able to identify at-risk people and in the future, link them up with preventative intervention.

Octagam to return to Oz

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has announced the lifting of a voluntary recall of all batches of Octapharma Australia's Octagam 5%.

The recall took place in September last year after the discovery of an increased incidence of thromboembolic complications associated with the use of the immunodeficiency treatment in Europe and the USA.

Subsequent investigations into the thromboembolic events uncovered a link between the to

manufacturing issues, including increased levels of Factor XIa, an activated coagulation factor that is involved in thrombus formation.

According to the company, the manufacturing issues have since been addressed, with solutions including changes to processes that have lowered the levels of Factor XIa to acceptable levels.

In addition Octapharma has introduced additional testing of the final product to prevent batches with elevated thrombogenic potential from being released to the market.

The new Octagam 5% batch is now set to be independently tested by European Official Medicines Control Laboratories, and the issued certificate will be inspected by the TGA before a new batch is released in Australia.

Additional re-supply conditions from the TGA to Octapharma also include the stipulation that all batches of Octagam released for supply in Australia will be approved by the TGA and that the company must implement a Risk Management Plan that includes post marketing safety studies and the provision of updated information to healthcare professionals and professional bodies.

The TGA has allowed the resupply of Octagam 5% since 08 Aug.

At present, a similar ban on the company's Octagam 10% has not been lifted as the corrective manufacturing changes for this strength have not yet been reviewed by the TGA.

Pharmacy scholarship

PHARMACY Cricket has announced two new \$2,500 scholarships for pharmacy students in any year at any university or pharmacy school in Australia.

The scholarships do not require students to play or watch cricket, and applications close on 17 October.

See www.pharmacycricket.com.au.

Win for bone marrow

THE Government has awarded a three-year \$7.4m funding grant to the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR).

The funding will help the ABMDR to manage and coordinate the national register, benefiting those awaiting a transplant as well as potential donors.

The funding agreement is among the first under the Department of Health's National Alignment (DNA), which aims to increase the use of multi-year funding agreements.

Grab a slice of rural pie

THE Department of Health has allocated \$475m of its \$5b Health and Hospitals Fund to go toward regional health facilities.

The move is part of the next wave of the funding grants, and will see the funds go towards projects in regional hospitals across the country, including new equipment, better buildings, new chronic disease management services and new or expanded mental and dental health services.

Groups wishing to grab a slice of the \$475m can now apply, with submissions set to close on 19 Oct.

For details on the scheme, or how to apply see www.health.gov.au/hhf.

National professions

FROM 01 July 2012 four new professions/groups will join the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

The new members include: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia; Chinese Medicine Board of Australia; Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia and the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia.

Stay and pay less

DELEGATES travelling to this year's PAC11 are still eligible for discounted accommodation at a number of hotels within walking distance to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The rooms are on sale until this Friday 02 Sep, and are available to book through the PAC11 Congress organisers [CLICK HERE].

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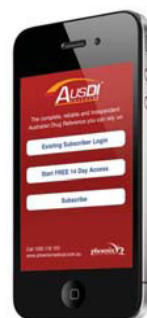
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Just one click away from keeping up to date with all the breaking news as it comes to hand...



Weekly Comment

Welcome to *Pharmacy Daily's* weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Clint Dowdell**, skincare and beauty expert at **HiLife Health and Beauty**.

The Foundation of Your Sales

Women can be fickle creatures, skipping from one make-up brand to the next looking for the perfect red lipstick.

It has been proven that when it comes to colour, the newest, prettiest, flashiest kid on the block will get a great share of the market and women will drop their old like a hot potato.

But does this suggest disloyalty in general?

It has to be said that in most cases women who find their "perfect" foundation hardly ever switch; or at least are not blinded by new marketing fodder as quickly.

So what does this mean to your stores?

How can you harness this strong loyalty to the perfect base boosting your sales and creating customer satisfaction?

Simple: adopt my favorite sales strategy - find out what people want and give it to them!

So what do women want in a foundation? Flawless complexion, easy application, not over cakey in appearance, formulas that don't congest the skin or have dangerous chemicals, Australian made and owned, quality and value for money.

Sounds like a lot doesn't it?!

And in truth, some of those traits will mean more to some than others.

One brand that continues to cover all these criteria is **Nude by Nature**.

It is a sure way to firm the foundations of your sales in store with products that really work.



Guild urges more of STOP

NATIONAL Guild president Kos Slavos says it's time to "renew pressure on NSW and Victoria to make Project STOP compulsory".

He made the comments following a presentation by WA Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan at a Guild forum in Perth on Friday.

O'Callaghan said that while 133 addiction-based sites had been discovered by WA police so far this year, the size of illegal drug "cooks" was becoming smaller due to the increasing difficulty of acquiring pseudoephedrine.

The majority of sites were using pharmacy-bought pseudoephedrine, with the remainder of the illicit supplies stolen or imported.

"Project STOP helps us identify high use customers and persons of interest," said Mr O'Callaghan, who thanked pharmacists and the Guild for their assistance.

Surprisingly, O'Callaghan, who has previously called for PSE products to become prescription-only, told delegates that a schedule

shift is "not necessarily the solution".

Instead he advocated the exploration of other options and solutions with community pharmacists, stakeholders and law makers, with the WA Guild to be actively involved in the issue.

Slavos welcomed O'Callaghan's constructive approach, saying "the important thing is to work with law enforcement authorities to tackle this problem while at the same time maintaining the availability of an important medicine for the overwhelming majority of Australians who use it appropriately.

"Making these products prescription only would be an unnecessary burden on the health system and a drain on precious health budget dollars," he added.

He said that it was time State and Federal law enforcement and health authorities contributed to the costs of Project Stop "so that ongoing improvements can be made to ensure we stay one step ahead of the criminals".



DISPENSARY CORNER

ANYONE got Stingose?

Flight attendants onboard a plane flying across Russia had to become allergy specialists and pest disposal experts, after a smuggled load of bees escaped mid-flight.

The swarm of bees escaped their cardboard box carry-on during the tedious ten hour flight from Blagoveshchensk (near China) to Moscow.

It is unknown if any passengers suffered any severe reactions to stings, however the hosties did manage to trap the majority of the swarm in a business-class wardrobe.

The hosties then sealed the bees in using sticky tape.

AN Australian traveller in the USA is facing more than just indigestion after a sword swallowing trick left him on the wrong side of the law in New York.

Chayne Hultgren suffered an unpleasant evening handcuffed in a NYC prison cell, after being arrested during a sword swallowing street performance for "disorderly conduct".

Hultgren, no stranger to danger-holding the world record for sword swallowing with 27 swords - braved his imprisonment without a bed or food, and was released back to his adoring public the next day.

THE world's oldest person has turned 115.

Besse Cooper, who lives in the town of Monroe, Georgia in the USA, reportedly enjoyed "two small slivers" of birthday cake as she celebrated at her nursing home with relatives and friends.

Cooper was born in 1896 and has been alone for a long time, with her husband Luther dying almost 50 years ago, in 1963 when she was a sprightly 67.

But she's well loved by her four children, 12 grandchildren as well as scores of great grandchildren and even great-great grandchildren.

WIN A MILKY FOOT PACK

Have you tried the easiest way to exfoliate your feet yet?



Each day this week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving readers the chance to win a pack of **Milky Foot** - Australia's easiest way to exfoliate your feet - no effort required!

Milky Foot is available in regular and large sizes at \$29.95. This innovative product from Japan is truly the easiest way to rid yourself of hardened, dead and tough skin including tough heels and calluses. All you have to do is pop on the Milky Foot pads for 60-90 minutes and 3-4 days after the

treatment, all your hardened skin will just peel away naturally. What's more it costs less than a salon pedicure! So if you want to get milky soft feet the easy way, try Milky Foot!

To enter today, simply send your answer to the following question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What is Milky Foot's active ingredient?

The first correct entry received each day wins
Hint! Visit www.milkyfoot.com.au

