

Pharmacy DAILY

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PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

Guild Update

This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia APP 2011

There are just 43 days until the 2011 Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition (APP), to be held from 17 to 20 March at the Gold Coast Exhibition and Convention Centre in Queensland.

The conference once again features an extensive program that covers a diverse spectrum of issues and reflects the conference theme, "Community Pharmacy: Innovation in Health Care". Topics will focus on a range of issues, including the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement. Other professional, political and legislative issues will also be addressed, while practical workshops and education sessions will again be an important feature of the event.

One of the highlight plenary topics will be "The changing primary health care scene – opportunities for community pharmacy". Deputy Secretary with the Department of Health and Ageing Rosemary Huxtable will join Guild National President Kos Sclavos in discussing how increasing costs in tertiary care are motivating governments to examine ways of empowering primary health care providers to better address chronic disease and promote preventive solutions ... and no other health profession is better placed to deliver on these requirements than pharmacy.

The APP2011 program will also feature 30 minute 'Clinical Bites' sessions, which allow pharmacists to earn Continuing Professional Educational (CPE) points.

The conference social program is once again headed by the hugely popular Gala Dinner. Entertainment at this year's dinner will be provided by legendary Australian rock star Jimmy Barnes and a live cover band.

Meanwhile, the trade exhibition will allow delegates to meet with all of their suppliers under the one roof.

No matter what stage of your career, APP will help you stay abreast of the latest issues, technological advances and clinical updates within the industry.

For further information visit
www.appconference.com.au



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Pharmacists lift outcomes

ADDING pharmacists to diabetes primary health care teams can see patients achieve significantly better blood pressure control, according to a study published this week in the *Diabetes Care* journal.

Researchers at the University of Alberta in Canada conducted a randomised controlled trial of 260 patients within several primary care clinics in Edmonton.

Greek pharmacists are revolting

PHARMACISTS across Greece have announced a series of strikes to protest against new legislation which aims to reform the Greek health sector.

Last week most pharmacies were closed for three days, and on Saturday members of the Greek Association of Pharmacists voted in favour of another three day walkout.

The Greek government is under pressure to undertake widespread economic reform as part of moves to handle the country's debt crisis.

The proposed legislation would mandate longer operating hours for pharmacies and also liberalise the granting of licences for new stores.

A major issue of concern for the pharmacists is a change which would allow any qualified pharmacist to obtain a license to operate a pharmacy.

Currently in Greece children of existing pharmacists are given preference when it comes to taking over their parents' businesses.

Drixine recall

THE Therapeutic Drugs Administration has issued a Class III recall notice for Drixine Paediatric Decongestant Nasal Drops 0.25mg/mL, 15mL.

The recall also applies to Drixin Metered Pump Decongestant Nasal Spray & Refill 0.5mg/mL 15 mL, with all existing batches affected.

Sponsor Schering-Plough said that a stability issue had arisen due to closures on some bottles being inadequately tightened to ensure an effective seal.

"The evaporation of liquid components under stability testing conditions is resulting in higher concentrations of active ingredient and preservative in the products," the recall notice said.

Would you like **15 stock turns**
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Pharmacy Daily

DUE to the Australia Day public holiday, there will be no issue of Pharmacy Daily tomorrow.

The next issue of **PD** will be released on 27 Jan.

PD wishes all its readers a safe and happy Australia Day.

Novartis buys US cancer firm

SWISS pharmaceutical company Novartis has announced the US\$470 million purchase of US cancer diagnostics firm Genoptix.

Genoptix has about 500 staff in its operations which specialise in diagnosing bone marrow, blood and lymph node cancers.

Reduce the weighty risk

THE Minister for Health and Ageing has called on Australians to help reduce their risk of chronic health disease, by maintaining a healthy weight.

The comments come as part of the launch of Healthy Weight Week (24-30 Jan).

"Australia has the world's fifth-highest rate of adult obesity and with more than 60 per cent of adults and 25 per cent of children either overweight or obese, there has never been a more important time to tackle preventable diseases", Ms Roxon said.

"Healthy Weight Week is encouraging all Australians to eat better, feel better and move more now!", she added.

Donation floods in

HGL, partners of BLC Cosmetics (distributors of Essie, Thalgo, Grown and Vitaman) has donated \$20,000 to the Premiers Flood Relief Appeal.

Where pharmacists were involved they provided medication assessments and limited history and physical examinations, before making recommendations to optimise medication management.

Control patients received the usual care from health care teams which did not include pharmacists.

Patients treated by pharmacists were "significantly more likely" to achieve a 10% or greater decrease in systolic blood pressure after one year of treatment.

The study's authors concluded that "significantly more patients with type 2 diabetes achieved better blood pressure control when pharmacists were added to primary health care teams, which suggests that pharmacists can make important contributions to the primary care of these patients".

RGH E-Bulletin

THIS week's edition of the Repatriation and General Hospital Pharmacy E-Bulletin provides a comparison overview of dabigatran and rivaroxaban, two emerging anticoagulants which may help take the place of warfarin and enoxaparin.

The bulletin is available for download at no charge at auspharmist.net.au/ebulletin.php.

New CVS chief

US PHARMACY giant CVS Caremark Corp has announced the appointment of Larry Merlo as its chief executive officer.

Merlo is currently responsible for CVS/pharmacy's day-to-day retail operations as the company's chief operating officer and will move into the top job upon the retirement of Thomas M. Ryan from 01 Mar.



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Hospira stops making execution drug

US pharmaceutical giant Hospira has announced it will stop making anaesthetic sodium thiopental because it doesn't want it to be used for capital punishment.

Sodium thiopental is one of the cocktail of drugs administered during lethal injections in the US.

Manufacturing problems have seen the anaesthetic in short supply for about a year, and Hospira was planning to move production to its factory in Italy.

However Italian authorities will only allow the drug to be made there if Hospira can guarantee it won't be used in executions - which the company says is impossible to ensure because it's unable to track its distribution through several US wholesalers.

SPF moisturisers ineffective

RESEARCHERS in the US have found that many common moisturisers promising to protect from sun damage in fact don't have adequate concentrations of SPF ingredients.

A study published last week in *Archives of Dermatology* examined the performance of 29 top selling facial day creams with claims of broad-spectrum UV coverage.

The products ranged in price from US\$3 to US\$64 per ounce, and the scientists tested each item for active ingredients including zinc oxide, avobenzone, octocrylene and ecamsule.

They found that "few products contain the adequate concentrations and optimal combinations of UV filters necessary to provide reliable UV-A1

protection".

Six had no UV-A1 filters at all, while a further 16 contained avobenzone but in an unstable form which only provided about one hour of protection.

There was no correlation between price and sun protection, with the most expensive item on studied having no UV-A1 filter at all.

The report didn't detail the names of the day creams studied, but they were selected from a list of the top-sellers on US retail website www.amazon.com.

The study's authors concluded that sunscreen labelling should clearly define the degree of UV-A protection, and until then health professionals should "educate their patients and the public to select products with ingredients that contain the appropriate concentrations of avobenzone, octocrylene, and ecamsule and/or zinc oxide."



DISPENSARY CORNER

ONLY in America?

An enterprising soft drink maker in California has announced plans for a special new product range - fizzy drinks enhanced with medical marijuana.

Clay Butler says his new 'soda pot' will contain the psychoactive ingredient THC, and will be marketed in flavour varieties including 'Canna Cola,' 'Doc Weed' (instead of Dr Pepper), lemon-lime 'Sour Diesel,' grape-flavoured 'Grape Ape' and orange-tasting 'Orange Kush'.

The product will be delivered to medical marijuana dispensaries, with a retail price of US\$10-\$15 per bottle.

LET'S hope this doesn't result in a case of severe food poisoning.

A New Zealand woman has sold what she claims to be a 30-year-old piece of the wedding cake of Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

The sale on auction site Trade Me attracted more than 40,000 hits, with the confectionery morsel eventually going to off for \$380.

Seller Katrina Greenslade said the tidbit came into her family after part of the cake was delivered to the Royal New Zealand Air Force and snaffled by her military father.

"For the past several years it has sat in a plastic container in the back of a drawer in my china cabinet," she said.

"The icing had faded and yellowed and I decided to sell it, but not for the money".

The auction attracted a number of comments from website users, including one who quipped "who would have thought the cake would last longer than Diana?"

WIN AN A'KIN ANTI-OXIDANT COMPLEX



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with A'kin this week and is giving 5 lucky readers the chance to win an A'kin Rosehip & Shea Intensive Moisture Anti-oxidant Complex valued at \$39.95.

Reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles with the help of A'kin Rosehip & Shea Intensive Moisture Anti-oxidant Complex, ideal for dry or

mature skin. The natural rich concentrations of certified organic Shea butter, Rosehip oil and penetrating Olive complex, leave skin feeling hydrated and looking youthful.

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

Name 2 active ingredients in the A'kin Rosehip & Shea Intensive Moisture Anti-oxidant Complex

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

First correct entry received each day will win!

Hint: Visit: www.purist.com

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Caitlyn Adsett from Jadin Chemist Group.

Thiazides not so good

A STUDY published in the US this week has found that hydrochlorothiazide is much less effective than other blood pressure drugs, and could give hypertension patients a "false sense of security".

Researchers at the St Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York reviewed previous studies and found that thiazides lowered blood pressure by only about half as much as beta blockers and ACE inhibitors.

In the 19 studies reviewed, low doses of hydrochlorothiazide reduced systolic blood pressure by 6.5 points on average, compared to 11.2 points for beta blockers, 11 points for calcium channel blockers, and ACE inhibitors by 12.9 points.

Lead scientist Franz Messerli said the results showed that hydrochlorothiazide should not be used alone to lower blood pressure.

including Buenos Aires, Iguazzu Falls, Ushuaia (2 nights each), Antarctic Peninsula and Weddell Sea Cruise (11 nights) on board the former ice breaker, Polar Star

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