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For your chance to win, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the daily question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What 2 ingredients create that famous Carmex tingle?

Hint! Visit www.mycarmex.com.au
Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Elizabeth Treble from Plunkett Pharmaceuticals

UQ partners with Pfizer

AUSTRALIA may become the groundbreaker in peptide-based medicines for the treatment of major diseases, following an alignment between researchers at the University of Queensland and drug giant Pfizer.

The partnership, made possible by a \$2.5m grant from the Australian Research Institute as well as \$2.4m from Pfizer, will see Professors David Craik and David Fairlie from the UNQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience work with Pfizer to develop a new generation of medicines that will bridge the gap between existing orally bioavailable

small molecules and injectable biotherapeutics by delivering a new generation of orally active therapies for diabetes and cardiovascular disease and that will help overcome the limitations of existing treatments.

"We are engineering new types of molecules based on peptides and proteins that are stable enough to be taken orally, yet sufficiently large to be target-specific and help lessen the side effects seen with small molecules," Professors Craik and Fairlie said.

"This project will provide a fundamental understanding for the development of new classes of medicines with the potential to treat a range of diseases," they added.

Speaking on behalf of Pfizer, Dr Dan Grant Head of External Research & Development Innovation (Australia, New Zealand and Singapore) said that peptide research is one of the most promising fields in the development of the new medicines.

"The discovery of these innovative therapies may dramatically improve the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of Australian diabetes sufferers," he said.

New AusPARs

THE TGA has published new Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines (AusPARs) on its website.

The new AusPARs relate to Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia's Orenicia (abatacept) and Helex-A's Oralair Sublingual Tablets (Allergen Pollen Extract of 5 Grasses).

Other new AusPARs include Biogen Idec Australia's Ferric carboxymaltose (Fampridine) and Invida Australia's Sancuso (Granisetron).

Adcetris approval

THE European Medicines Agency has approved Takeda Pharmaceuticals' Adcetris (brentuximab vedotin) for the treatment of relapsed or refractory Hodgkin lymphoma and relapsed or refractory systemic anaplastic large cell lymphoma.

Patients not CVD aware

A RECENT survey conducted by Merck has revealed that four out of five diabetes patients underestimate their risk of heart disease and stroke.

According to researchers, only one out of five surveyed listed heart attack/failure and stroke as their biggest worry regarding diabetes complications.

The survey also found that 40% of physicians surveyed underestimated the number of patients who die from cardiovascular disease.

"Heart disease is the leading cause of death among people with type 2 diabetes," said Dr George Grunberger from the Grunberger Diabetes Institute.

"There is a need for more communication between patients and physicians about the heart disease risks associated with diabetes," he added.

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Guild Update

Don't miss out on PPIs!

THIS coming Thursday 30 Jun is the **LAST CHANCE** for community pharmacies to maximise the benefits offered by Pharmacy Practice Incentives (PPIs).

From 1 July, community pharmacies all over Australia can access a range of PPIs, which reward pharmacies for their delivery of quality health services.

Importantly, though, eligible pharmacies – that is, quality-accredited Section 90 pharmacies that agree to adhere to and display the patient charter – registering by 30 June will also receive significant once-only start-up payments for three of the six PPI priority areas.

It was announced recently (*PD* 24 Jun) that the total value of the start-up payments has been significantly increased.

The total amount for the three start-up payments, based on registration uptake, has now been confirmed at \$8070.

If your community pharmacy is already quality-accredited but has not yet registered for PPIs then you must hurry to ensure that your pharmacy receives maximum benefit from the PPI start-up payments.

Visit www.5cpa.com.au or phone 1300 555 262 to register.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Non-contagious kills more

MORE people worldwide die from non-contagious diseases than communicable diseases and infections, according to a new study conducted by the United Nations and released this week.

Four main conditions: cancer, diabetes, heart and lung disease have arisen as the main killer of two-thirds of the world's population, outstripping other diseases such as HIV.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon said the diseases "have

emerged relatively unnoticed in the developing world and are now becoming a global epidemic."

Researchers found that in 2008 63% (36m) of worldwide deaths were due to a non-contagious disease, around 80% of which were from the developing world.

The main factors responsible for the quartet's dominance, according to the UN, include smoking, unhealthy dietary habits, alcohol abuse, and lack of physical activity.

Other factors include an ageing population, trade globalisation and increasing urbanisation.

Worryingly, UN researchers, using current projections, estimate that by 2030 cancer, diabetes and heart and lung cancer will claim the lives of around 52 million people worldwide each year.

"No health problem in the history of the world has ever gone so hidden, misunderstood and under-recorded," said John Seffrin, CEO of the American Cancer Society, responding to the report.

New malaria drug

THE European Medicines Agency has recommended the approval of a new malaria treatment, Eurartesim.

The fixed combination drug consists of dihydroartemisinin and piperaquine phosphate and intended for the treatment of uncomplicated *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria in adults, children and infants aged 6 months or over and weighing 5 kg or more.

Breast concerns

ACCORDING to a US report, exposure to certain household chemicals early in life may disrupt the development of the mammary gland, and may cause problems with breast development, producing breast milk, and could ultimately lead to breast cancer in both men and women.

The study, conducted by the US National Institutes for Environmental Health Sciences, the US Environmental Protection Agency as well as the Silent Spring institute, called for tougher testing standards in the chemical industry, to include the possible effects on early mammary gland development.

Chemicals under the study microscope included pesticides such as atrazine, fatty food dioxins, bisphenol A (found in water bottles and some canned foods), flame retarding polybrominated diphenyl ether and nonylphenol which is found in laundry detergent.

DISPENSARY CORNER

A USE for all that sink collected hair.

An inventive Aussie farmer, Jonathon Arkins, has found a way to outwit foxes looking to prey on his lambs, by stuffing stockings with human hair.

According to reports, Arkins devised the idea after predators devastated his flocks last year.

To achieve fox-free flocks, Arkins collects hair from hairdressing salons, stuffs it into stockings and ties the stockings to fence posts which surround his lambing ewes and lambs.

So far Arkins has said the stockings have worked, with their human scent keeping foxes out of his paddocks.

"Foxes hate the smell of humans," he said.

SOLVING sleepless nights.

London's Crowne Plaza is hoping to offer its guests a quiet night's sleep, by trialling a 'Snore Absorption Room', for snorers and their suffering partners.

To create the rooms, Crown Plaza, has used egg-shell foam and a sound absorbing headboard.

Guests also enjoy an anti-snoring pillow, as well as a device which encourages the snorer to sleep on their side.

"We've all been there - lying wide awake at three o'clock in the morning burying our head under a pillow to drown out our partner's snoring," said a hotel the spokesperson.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

Annual Medicines Update

This program is being delivered in short course and full day format:

Short Course – Sydney CBD

15 June – Diabetes and Cardiovascular
22 June – Respiratory and Mental Health
23 June – Pain and Neurology

Full Day Program – Parramatta CBD

18 August 2011



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