

Tuesday 11 Oct 2011

PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

### Cialis gains FDA nod

ELI Lilly has been granted a new indication approval by the US FDA for its Cialis tablets.

The new indication allows Cialis to treat men who have both erectile dysfunction and the signs and symptoms of benign prostatic hyperplasia.

See [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov) for more info.

### Freeman and Steindl

THANKS to all our eagle eyed readers who noticed that yesterday's photo was actually of PSA Young Pharmacist of the Year, Chris Freeman, not Pharmacy Student of the Year, Ezekiel Steindl.

### Rural diabetes

A NEW diabetes tool has been launched today by Diabetes Counselling Online, to help people in rural areas manage diabetes.

Titled 'The Farmhouse', the new website will provide information and links specific to farming families living with diabetes.

The site has been funded by a \$45,240 grant from The Aussie Farmers Foundation, with the money also allowing Diabetes Counselling Online to expand its counselling service, via email, phone and skype to connect farmers and families with diabetes.

To view the website [CLICK HERE](#).

### New look for myDr

CONSUMER health information resource, myDr, has launched a new user-friendly site, see [www.mydr.com.au](http://www.mydr.com.au).

## Pharmacy location strife

THE Government should delay the implementation of the new pharmacy location rules to allow affected pharmacists time to prepare for the changes, rather than having just a few weeks between the announcement and the implementation, according to a concerned PD reader.

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily* this morning, the rural pharmacist, who didn't want to be named, said that the removal of the long distance relocation rule will significantly drop the value of his business.

"If the boom ends and the pharmacy is no longer viable, in the past we could have relocated, but now we don't have that option," the pharmacist said.

"As it stands we either wear a significant loss and keep the pharmacy open, or we take a small loss now and close it in just a few weeks.

"I don't believe that was the intention of the new legislation, but that is its result," he added.

The pharmacist has called on the Pharmacy Guild and the Government to delay the implementation of the new rules to allow everyone who is impacted time for further consultation, and to prepare for their impact.

Failing that, the pharmacist has called for compensation for affected pharmacists.

MEANWHILE the *Pharmacy Guild* has responded to industry grumblings, saying that location rules are reviewed by the Government every few years to

take into account the changing environments that they exist within.

"This is the longest period of time that the rules have been in place," said National Guild President, Kos Sclavos, who added the new location rules come almost one and a half years after the review and associated changes would usually have been put in place.

"These changes should come as no surprise to pharmacists," he added.

Discussing the reasoning behind the amendments Sclavos told PD the Government wanted to address "perceived manipulations and rorting of the current rules".

"The rules are there to ensure the equitable distribution of pharmaceuticals to the public.

"It was never their intention to create profitability for pharmacists.

"The Government does not support a trade in licenses, however inadvertently this has been a result of the current rules, but that's not what they were there for.

"It is not surprising that the Government would want to address issues with back filling and license trading," he added.

### Reform for pharmacy

PHARMACISTS will have the opportunity to learn tips from experts about how to implement PPI's in their pharmacies at this year's Reform Conference.

Industry experts lined up to take the stage include Tony Ferguson, John Bronger and Hilary Khan, as well as management from Apotex and management from Sigma.

"The Reform Conference came about from many pharmacists and pharmacy owners talking one on one with me and asking if they can learn more about the impacts of the reforms on their business, the industry and suppliers as a whole," said Reform Management Director, Peter Nelson.

For Conference details see [p3](#).

### Pregnancy and drugs

THE TGA has updated its Prescribing Medicines in Pregnancy database.

The database is designed to provide information to health professionals planning the medical management of pregnant patients or patients intending to become pregnant, see [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

## WIN AL'CHEMY PRODUCTS



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a shampoo and conditioner pack, courtesy of Al'chemy.



With a selection of hair strengthening shampoos, hydrating conditioners and treatments, the Al'chemy range is made with vitamins, protective anti-oxidants and natural botanical actives.

Help restore damaged and colour treated hair with the Al'chemy Ylang Ylang shampoo, scientifically proven to strengthen hair in a single wash without parabens, sulphates and other harsh chemicals.

For more info, visit [www.purist.com](http://www.purist.com).

For your chance to win your very own Al'chemy hair care pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

What is the retail price of the 225ml & 500ml Al'chemy shampoos?

Hint! Visit [www.purist.com](http://www.purist.com)

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Lyn Geale** from **Glossodia Pharmacy, NSW**.



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### Guild Update

This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild

#### PPI Claim Deadline

Pharmacies eligible for Pharmacy Practice Incentives (PPIs) DAA and/or Clinical Interventions periodic payments have just three more days to submit their Pharmacy Practice Incentive Periodic payment(s) application forms (claim forms).

The claim form is now available on the Medicare [website](#) under the PPI Program section.

If you are eligible to receive these incentive payments for the 1 July to 30 September 2011 claiming period you MUST complete and submit this claim form (by fax or mail) to Medicare by this Friday (14 October).

Claim form tips are available online [here](#).

Bookmark the page and refer back to it as required.

Please note - it is important to keep records of all DAAs and Clinical Interventions that you are claiming.

These records will be required to validate your claims for auditing purposes by QCPP and/or Medicare to validate your claims.

For further information about PPIs, phone 1300 555 262, email [support@5cpa.com.au](mailto:support@5cpa.com.au) or visit [www.5cpa.com.au](http://www.5cpa.com.au).



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

## Cholesterol is good for you

**INCREASING** levels of high-density lipoproteins reduces the risk of heart attack and stroke in diabetic patients, according to a new study published in *The American Journal of Cardiology*.

The study looked at the medical

### Removal of plaques

**ROCHE'S** monoclonal antibody gantenerumab has been found to remove amyloid plaques from the brain of patients with Alzheimer's disease.

The Phase I trial finding, published in *Archives of Neurology*, marks the first time that clinical data has been published for gantenerumab, an investigational fully human anti-amyloid beta monoclonal antibody which is designed to bind to amyloid plaques in the brain and remove them.

"These results and especially the rapidity of the effects observed on amyloid removal are very encouraging and pave the way for the development of a novel treatment for Alzheimer's disease," said Luca Santarelli, Global Head of Roche Neuroscience Disease Translational Area.

### Aspirin volunteers

**RESEARCHERS** undertaking the ASPREE (ASpirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly) study are calling for Australian volunteers.

The study is the largest primary prevention clinical trial to ever take place in Australia, and will test whether taking daily low dose aspirin contributes to good health in the elderly and if all healthy older people should take aspirin.

So far 4,000 Aussies have signed up to take part in the study, however more are needed to reach the 12,500 participant target.

The study is led by Monash University, and is a collaboration with the Melbourne University, ANU, the Menzies Research Institute of Tasmania and Adelaide University.

See [www.aspre.org](http://www.aspre.org) for details.

records of more than 30,000 patients with diabetes, and found that when their lipoprotein, better known as HDL or "good" cholesterol, levels dropped the rate of heart attack and stroke rose.

Patients involved in the study had had at least two HDL measurements between six and 24 months apart, and were followed for eight years.

HDL levels in 61% of patients were found to have no significant change between tests, whilst 22% had a HDL increase of at least 6.5mg/dl and 17% clocked a drop in HDL levels of at least 6.5mg/dl.

Results of the surveyance found that patients whose HDL levels increased had 8% fewer heart attacks and strokes than patients whose HDL levels remained the same, while patients whose HDL levels decreased had 11% more heart attacks and strokes.

"Our study adds to the growing body of evidence that raising HDL levels may be an important strategy for reducing heart attack risk," said study lead author Gregory Nichols, PhD, senior investigator with the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research in Portland.

### Radiology feedback

**SYDNEY** University has partnered with BreastScreen NSW and Ziltron, to release a new web-based programme to monitor the performance of radiologists in detecting and diagnosing abnormalities in breast x-rays.

The BreastScreen Reader Assessment Strategy is based on a world-first web-based programme of digital screen-reading test sets designed to assess the performance of the user in correctly identifying abnormalities on mammograms and in interpreting whether or not the lesions identified pose a risk of breast cancer.

"The strength of the project is the comprehensive collection of breast x-rays which form the test sets," says Prof Brennan.

### DISPENSARY CORNER

**JUST** send the robots in.

The Wallabies will be interested in a new robot in the lead up to their clash with the All Blacks, which proved itself equal to former All Black legend Andrew Mehrtens.

According to report, Mehrtens (who until recently held the title of all time leading NZ points' scorer), went head to head in a rugby contest with three robots at the Massey University campus.

Mehrtens comfortably beat the first two robots converting 11 out of 12 attempts on goal, compared to the robots who only converted around 50%.

The third robot however, Robo Dan, was able to match Mehrtens score.

"We realised very early that it's not about how much power you put behind a rugby ball, it's all about timing, so we spent a lot of time with slow camera capture footage, frame-by-frame analysis of kicking positions and how you strike a ball and I think that was the secret on the day," said Robo Dan's creators.

**MAN** of steel becomes plastic man.

A 35 year old Filipino man, Herbert Chavez, has spent the last decade in and out of plastic surgeons theatres, sculpting his face and body to resemble his comic book hero Superman.

So far Chavez has undergone chin augmentation, to give him Superman's cleft chin, rhinoplasty to emulate Christopher Reeves' nose, silicone injections to shape his lips, and thigh implants to make his legs appear more muscular.

"I have been a life-long fan of Superman after being given the costume when I was a child," Chavez told local media.

"As I am only 5ft 6 and Superman is 6ft 2 I wouldn't rule out surgery to make me taller," he added.





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See you at the *REFORM CONFERENCE*, 29th of October 2011 at Penrith Panthers.