

FDA OKs Accu-Chek

THE US Food and Drug Administration has given clearance for a new Accu-Chek Combo system for insulin pump therapy.

The Accu-Chek Combo combines a blood glucose meter with an insulin pump, with both devices able to exchange data in both directions via Bluetooth.

Already available in Australia plus France, Germany and the UK, it enables quick testing of blood glucose levels and allows remote operation of the insulin pump, supporting more targeted therapy and discreet insulin administration without having to touch the pump.

Pain petition political push

A NEW "10,000 Faces of Pain" campaign next week will urge Australians to sign a petition which asks federal parliament to initiate a discussion to raise awareness of the impact of chronic pain in Australia.

A website created for the promo at www.nationalpainweek.org.au also asks MPs to "investigate the merit of a mass education campaign" to help Australians understand chronic pain and the need to destigmatise the condition.

As well as petitions to the Senate and House of Representatives, sufferers are asked to upload a

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Events 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.

07 Aug: Guild Business MasterClass: Retail Solutions for Pharmacy, 9am-4.30pm, St Leonards, NSW
guild.clinical@nsw.guild.org.au

08 Aug: Pharmacy financial health, Matthew Harris - Crowne Plaza Surfers Paradise. Details 07 3831 3788.

11-15 Aug: Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Mt Buller - www.medici.com.au.

03-05 Sep: Essential Pharmacy Financial Management 3-day Workshop, Sydney, fmrcbusdev.com.au/pharmacy-2

13-16 Sep: Pharmacy Business Network, National Convention Centre Canberra, pharmacybusinessnetwork.com.

02-06 Oct: Pharmacy Guild of Australia Offshore Conference 2012, Waikiki, Hawaii - pgahawaii2012@arinex.com.au.

19-21 Oct: PSA Pharmacy Australia Congress, Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre - www.psa.org.au/pac.

01-04 Nov: SHPA 38th annual conference - Medicines Management 2012, Canberra - mm2012shpa.com.

Good looking at home and away



ABOVE: This lovely pair of ladies are Jade and Angela from Marlin Coast Amcal in Smithfield, Qld. They've just returned from an Amcal PAAC conference and just had to show off their new uniforms. They're posing with new Amcal point of sale material which

features TV celebrity Georgie Parker as the Amcal brand's new campaigner.

The pharmacy's retail manager, Noelene Morris, said the girls gained loads of great ideas at the conference which they are already implementing.

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More EMA transparency

THE European Medicines Agency has announced a plan for the publication of agendas and minutes of its scientific committees.

It's the latest move to enhance the EMA's transparency, with the first wave commencing this week with the publication of the agenda and minutes of the EMA's Paediatric Committee.

The next off the block is the new Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee, which is having its inaugural meeting today, while the Committee for Orphan Medical Products will also publish its proceedings shortly.

EMA Executive Director, Guido Rasi, said that the agency will "systematically publish all of its committees' agendas and minutes before the end of 2013.

"I have made increased transparency one of my key priorities...this latest initiative is an important part of opening up our operations, to reinforce the trust and reputation of the Agency as a public health body," Rasi said.

Top diabetes pharmacies

HIGH Wycombe Pharmacy in WA, Chemmart Mount Barker SA and Annandale Pharmacist Advice in Queensland have all been named as finalists in the Pharmacy Care Award category of the 2012 Sweet Talk Awards.

The awards program, sponsored by Roche Diabetes Care & Diabetic Living, aims to celebrate the "successes and achievements of everyday Australians affected by Diabetes".

The Pharmacy Care Award category is open to all pharmacies across the country and recognises the important role that community pharmacy plays in the management of diabetes.

High Wycombe Pharmacy has organised a Diabetes supermarket tour and Heartmoves exercise program for local patients, and also offers a private counselling room.

One of its pharmacists is undergoing further study to become a Credentialed Diabetes Educator so the pharmacy can

provide an extra service to the local community.

Chemmart Mount Barker is led by pharmacist Kirrily Chambers, who is a Diabetes Educator and has helped create Beat It, a special twelve week course giving patients access to a fitness program while obtaining further information about their disease.

And **Annandale Pharmacist Advice** offers an on-site Diabetes Educator alongside a range of health check services, while some staff maintain an active community presence through being volunteer presenters on behalf of Diabetes Australia.

The overall winner of the category will receive the coveted "Sweet Talk Trophy" and an educational grant to the value of \$1000.

Voting on the awards is live now at www.sweettalkdiabetes.com.au.

TGA device seminar

THE Therapeutic Goods administration will hold a seminar in Sydney on 03 Aug about the reclassification of hip, knee and shoulder joint replacement implants as Type III devices which became effective 01 Jul.

The seminar will cover how the two year transition period will work, data required to transition device applications and more.

RSVP to devices@tga.gov.au.

UK Botox changes

HEALTH officials in the UK have announced new rules regarding prescriptions, including a stipulation that doctors will no longer be able to remotely prescribe injectable substances.

The General Medical Council has made the decision to ban doctors from prescribing "anti-ageing drugs" such as Botox over the telephone unless they have already met the patient.

"There are good reasons why these are prescription-only medicines, and we believe doctors should assess any patient in person before issuing a prescription of this kind," said GMC ceo Nial Dickson.

DISPENSARY CORNER

THE tooth, the whole tooth and nothing but the tooth...

A Sunshine Coast man was yesterday ordered by the Noosa Magistrates Court to pay \$6543 to the Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane, after he conducted an "online tooth auction" last year.

Peter Michael Finn, who describes himself as a "Fat Aussie Barstard" [sic] and has 36,000 subscribers on his YouTube channel, offered a tooth he had pulled for charity to the highest bidder, with the funds raised to be donated to the hospital.

However it turns out that none of the money actually made it to the charity, with Finn claiming expenses including "100 hours of my time...answering comments, editing videos and liaising with the bidders".

He said that after taking these into account there was only \$1500 left from the \$6543 top bid, which he doled out to local homeless people in \$50 notes.

The court disagreed and ordered the full amount to be paid to the hospital as well as giving Finn a six month suspended prison sentence.

RESEARCHERS from the University of Innsbruck in Austria have made an extremely uplifting discovery - women wore brassieres in the late Middle Ages.

The archaeologists unearthed four linen bras dating from more than 600 years ago, with the revolutionary discovery contradicting conventional beliefs that the bra only emerged in the early 1900s when women abandoned the corset.

The ancient underwear "resembles modern-time bras," the scientists said, with "distinct cups" as well as intricate lace and other ornamentation.

The garments were found among more than 2700 textile fragments intermixed with dirt, wood and straw discovered in an Austrian castle.

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Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners, **Abbey Butler** of **Flinders Medical Centre** and **Jessica Bui**, pharmacy student from **University of Sydney**.

