

## Alzheimer's guide

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has urged researchers to focus on the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, with a formal proposal on developing drugs to treat the condition.

"The scientific committee and the FDA believe that it is critical to identify and study patients with very early Alzheimer's disease before there is too much irreversible injury to the brain," said Russell Katz, director of the Division of Neurology Products in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

A new document released yesterday explains the FDA's current thinking, and the way researchers can identify and select suitable patients for participation in clinical trials.

"This draft guidance is intended to serve as a focus for continued discussions between the FDA and pharmaceutical sponsors, the academic community, advocacy groups and the public" Katz said.

He said the FDA is committed to vigorously addressing the condition, "and will work with industry to develop new treatments in this early population as expeditiously as possible".

A key difficulty is that patients with early-stage Alzheimer's have little impairment of global functioning so it's very difficult to assess changes in these people.

The FDA is seeking public comment on the draft guidance for 60 days, with the proposal part of US Department of Health efforts under the government's National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease.

## Pharmacy sports drug link

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia says it's disappointed at revelations in the Australian Crime Commission's shock report into drugs in sport which confirm the involvement of some compounding pharmacists.

The report says the commission "has identified that anti-ageing clinics, supplement suppliers and online stores in Australia are sourcing peptides and hormones through domestic compounding pharmacies".

A statement from the SHPA urges pharmacists to follow and abide by relevant Codes of Ethics, guidelines from the Pharmacy Board of Australia as well as industry standards such as the SHPA guidelines and the TGA code of Good Manufacturing Practice.



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## Celebrity chef for DDS

**DISCOUNT** Drug Stores will next week hold a major diabetes awareness event in Brisbane, in partnership with celebrity chef Michael Moore, who also happens to be a diabetic.

The action will take place at Mid City Discount Drug Store in the Brisbane CBD, with attendees able to test their risk of developing diabetes and learn about the latest management tools.

The move is part of DDS's 2013 plans to further expand its range of professional services, and guests will also be able to meet Moore and buy autographed copies of his latest diabetic-friendly cookbook 'Blood Sugar, The Family'.

"Pharmacists and pharmacy services who prepare medicines for other organisations should undertake a thorough risk management assessment, and investigate if the TGA license exemption is applicable to the pharmacy service under these circumstances," the SHPA said in a statement issued in the wake of the ACC revelations.

The Society also recently released a position document stating that pharmacists and other health providers should ensure that medicines compounded on their behalf are being made by TGA-licensed manufacturers or FDA-accredited compounders.

## Novartis US recall

**THE** US Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued a formal recall for Novartis Consumer Healthcare's Triaminic and Theraflu products, which are OTC syrups to treat coughs and colds.

According to the Commission, child-resistant caps on the bottles can fail to operate properly, enabling the caps to be removed by a child with the tamper-evident seal in place.

This poses "a risk of unintentional ingestion and poisoning", with the company confirming 12 reports of children unscrewing the locked caps, including four where they ingested the products.

About 2.3 million units sold between May 2010 and Dec 2011 are affected, with 24 different types of products included in the recall.

## Female reps sue

**A \$100M** class action has been filed in California against Japanese drug maker Daiichi Sankyo, by six female pharmaceutical sales reps.

The company employs about 3000 people in the US, and the complaint alleges that Daiichi Sankyo pays its female sales staff less than men doing the same work.



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## Guild Update

### PPI Program Update

AS notified in November 2012, the Pharmacy Practice Incentive (PPI) Program Specific Guidelines have been updated.

- **Primary Health Care** – still includes five elements, however within these elements pharmacies can provide various services. Participating pharmacies must now provide at least three services across at least two elements.
- **Community Services Support** – now includes eight elements and participating pharmacies must now provide at least three of these elements. Requirements under the Staff Training element have also increased.
- **Working with Others** – all registered pharmacists employed for more than two full time equivalent days per week by the participating pharmacy, are now required to document specific cases where they have undertaken inter-professional collaboration with other recognised health professionals from at least three different health professional groups.

These PPI priority areas attract a prospective annual incentive payment and therefore pharmacies due for accreditation assessment/ anniversary on or after 1 July 2013 are required to have provided the increased number of elements and/ or services in accordance with the PPI Program Specific Guidelines (November 2012).

There have been no changes to Dose Administration Aids, Clinical Interventions and Staged Supply.

The PPI Program Specific Guidelines, in conjunction with the 5CPA General Terms and Conditions, detail the PPI Program requirements and obligations and it is essential that participants review, understand and adhere to these documents.

To access the 5CPA Terms and Conditions and/or PPI Program Specific Guidelines visit [www.5cpa.com.au/ppi](http://www.5cpa.com.au/ppi).



**The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia**

## Seaborn life ACP member

THE Australian College of Pharmacy yesterday announced that it had granted life membership to Derick Seaborn, after his longstanding commitment to the organisation.

The now retired former community pharmacist, who practised on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, joined the College about 35 years ago, in 1978.

He was one of the first six pharmacists named as Fellows of the College in 1980, with his career also including extensive involvement with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, as a member of the Qld state branch committee.

Seaborn was also chairman of The Gilseal Company and spent some years as the Guild's representative on the state Poisons Advisory body.

A PSA member since 1960, Seaborn is also a life member of that organisation.

The College also cited Seaborn's extensive community involvement, including sporting, business and charitable organisations.

Seaborn thanked the ACP for the

honour, saying he had "always believed the work of the College to be important to the future of the profession and to enhancing the delivery of quality pharmaceutical services to the community."

"I am pleased to see this commitment continuing and I thank the Board for this honour and wish the College well in its future endeavours," he added.

### Supplement shutdown

A COURT in the USA has ordered California-based Titan Medical Enterprises to immediately cease manufacturing and distributing its range of drugs and supplements, due to a failure to follow Good Manufacturing Practices.

Affected products include RAD Block K1, which claimed to be able to block the action of nuclear radiation, with the judge also finding that the company had illegally distributed unapproved new drugs.

The case followed multiple failures of FDA inspections.

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Pure Therapy by **Purist** is giving away five gift-sets (pictured left) to **Pharmacy Daily** readers valued at \$72.75. These gift sets are

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This set has been carefully selected to combine Pure Therapy products that work together for low irritancy, even on the most sensitive skin.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

HOW about these for polaroids...

An annual pole-sitting contest in icy northern Sweden has seen six numb-bummed contestants share a prize worth about \$3000.

The 48-hour contest saw the two women and four men sit on top of 3m-tall blocks of ice for 48 hours non-stop, apart from 10 minute toilet breaks every two hours.

According to *Associated Press* they said the worst part was not the -28 degree temperatures, but the monotony.

**COLOUR-BLINDNESS** could be a thing of the past, according to a group of US scientists who have invented special lenses which cure red-green confusion.

The Oxy-Iso lenses were initially created to help doctors spot hard-to-see veins and bruises, but tests since have shown that they also significantly improve the ability to differentiate between reds and greens.

However unfortunately they aren't suitable for drivers, because they also reduce the ability to perceive yellows and blues, according to the *BBC*.

**NOT** so healthy ageing.

A report published last week in the *Prevention* journal has found that motorbike riders aged over 60 are three times more likely to be hospitalised after a crash than younger riders.

The most common injuries reported include serious chest and rib cage fractures, with reduced bone density blamed by the researchers - along with seniors' ability to afford more powerful bikes.

Interestingly, arm, hand and shoulder fractures were much more common in younger motorcyclists, with the authors of the study suggesting this could be because their faster reaction times meant that they were more ready to stick their arms out to protect their falls.