

Zytiga on PBS

JANSSEN yesterday confirmed that its Zytiga (abiraterone acetate) will be included on the PBS from the beginning of next month.

Zytiga is an androgen biosynthesis inhibitor which is the first once-daily oral therapy treatment for advanced prostate cancer.

Sigma hit by Harrison's

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals this morning announced that it expects to increase its provision for bad and doubtful debts, with the company owed about \$9 million from the receivership of the Harrisons Group of pharmacies.

Since Deloitte was appointed as receivers to Harrisons in March, Sigma has been "vigorously pursuing its Purchase Money Security Interest Claim (retention of title)," but according to an ASX update says it's unlikely that it will fully recover the amounts owing.

The announcement also includes details of a \$4 million charge relating to litigation over the injectable iron product, Ferrosig.

Proceedings by Vifor (International) Limited commenced in 2008, and the product and the

legal action remained with Sigma after its sale of the pharmaceutical business to Aspen.

The matter has now been settled, with the \$4m impact, which includes associated legal costs, to be included in Sigma's upcoming half year accounts.

Sigma says it has retained the right to sell the Ferrosig product in the Australian market.

The company said that trading in the first half has continued to be in line with expectations, with sales slightly stronger than last year.

However the reported profit result is likely to be lower than the previous corresponding period "as a result of a higher cost base arising from investment in key areas of the business including Multi Channel".

Sigma said that excluding the impact of the Ferrosig litigation and the Harrison's receivership, its "underlying full year EBIT" is anticipated to be up on 2012/13.

ASMI conference

THE Australian Self-Medication Industry has announced that the theme of its conference this year will be *Self Care: Driving a consumer-centred healthcare future*.

Registration for the event on Thu 14 Nov in Sydney will open in the coming weeks, with a range of high profile speakers already confirmed including Nathan Taylor, Chief Economist at the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) and a panel debate on Complementary Medicines.

CLICK HERE for more details.

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Xylitol OK - TGA

THE TGA has announced that Xylitol and oil of wormwood are no longer subject to import controls.

The substances were previously captured under Schedule 8 of the Customs Regulations 1956, but are no longer considered to be high risk goods, effective from 12 Jul 2013.

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WHO preventative health at Syd Uni

LAST night a new World Health Organization Centre launched at the University of Sydney, with the aim of influencing public policy and public health work on chronic disease prevention globally.

The new WHO Collaborating Centre in Physical Activity, Nutrition and Obesity has been established under the auspices of the WHO head office in Geneva, and will focus on physical activity promotion, public health nutrition, obesity prevention and diabetes, and will work in both developed and developing countries.

The Centre is to be based in the university's Boden Institute of Prevention Research Collaboration.

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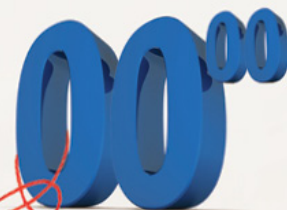
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Breakfast or CHD?

IT'S your choice, according to a study recently published in *Epidemiology and Prevention* where 26,902 US men were followed for 16 years.

Eating breakfast was associated with lower risk of Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) in this sample of men. To read the paper **CLICK HERE**.

Paracetamol recall

ASCENT Pharmaceuticals, in consultation with the Therapeutic Goods Administration, is recalling one batch of Febridol Paracetamol 500mg 100 tablet bottles.

The offending batch is number ACN2134, expiry date August 2014 supplied in NSW & ACT.

The recall is because the batch may contain a foreign tablet that is triangular and peach in colour, with the manufacturer undertaking an investigation to identify the peach-coloured tablet.

Pharmacies and wholesalers are being asked to inspect their stocks to see if they are from the affected batch, and if any such products are found they should be quarantined and returned to Ascent.

Consumers with queries are also being referred to their pharmacist or told to call 1800 678 302.

CHF pushes govt on CPA

THE Consumers Health Forum is urging the government not to provide any indication of support for further Community Pharmacy Agreements until the outcome of the Fifth CPA audit by the Australian National Audit Office (PD 28 May).

According to an extract from a letter by CHF chairwoman Karen Carey published in the *Australian Financial Review*, "The CHF believes premature commitment would not be in the interest of Australian health consumers or Australian taxpayers".

The Pharmacy Guild routinely writes to both sides of politics seeking expressions of support

prior to each election, and it's understood that the CHF's letter is a response to this initiative.

According to the *AFR*, current health minister Tanya Plibersek has not yet responded to the Guild, while opposition health spokesperson Peter Dutton has refused to comment on correspondence with stakeholders.

Plibersek said that she would not comment specifically on the letter except to say "the government is committed to the current agreement which runs until 2015."

When the ANAO audit of the Agreement was first announced, the Guild said it welcomed the scrutiny which is "part of the normal work of the audit office".

Extra TGA OCM event

THE TGA's Office of Complementary Medicines will conduct an additional session in Melbourne as part of its current series of road shows.

The extra event will take place on Thu 08 Aug at the City Convention Centre, with registrations accepted by Thu 01 Aug to ocm@tga.gov.au.

There are also sessions in Sydney next Tue 30 Jul and in Brisbane on Tue 06 Aug, but registrations for these have now closed.

GSK Panadol referral

GLAXOSMITHKLINE is referring patients to their local pharmacist for advice on analgesia for kids, in the light of Children's Panadol 1-5 years suspension being "out of stock for a limited period" due to the Reckitt Benckiser patent challenge over the product's dosing device (PD 12 Jun, 19 Jul).

GSK gm consumer healthcare ANZ, Vincent Cotard, stressed that there are no safety, efficacy or formulation issues, with the company "working hard to ensure that Children's Panadol 1-5 years suspension is available again as soon as possible".

Only the 1-5 years suspension is affected, with other Children's Panadol products still available.

FDA OK's TB Test

THE U.S. Food and Drug Administration today approved the Xpert MTB/RIF Assay that can simultaneously detect bacteria that cause tuberculosis (TB) and determine if the bacteria contain genetic markers that makes them resistant to rifampin, an important antibiotic for the treatment of TB.

Pandemic prevention

RESEARCHERS from Australia, Singapore and the US are joining forces, through a AU\$20 million partnership, to help pre-empt and prepare the world for the next human pandemic.

Speaking in Canberra yesterday, before a gathering of Australia's leading biosecurity researchers, Dr Gary Fitt, CSIRO Biosecurity Flagship Director, said recent global events highlighted the need to ramp up research into viruses that spread from animals to humans.

"We now know that 70 per cent of new diseases in people have originated in animals," Dr Fitt said.

"We are lucky to have a strong biosecurity system, backed by world-class science, but we live in an increasingly connected world with trade and people movements putting us at greater risk."

CSIRO and Duke-NUS (an alliance between Duke University in North Carolina, USA and the National University of Singapore) have signed a relationship agreement with a view to forming the International Collaborative Centre for One Health to assist in taking a new approach to tackling these deadly viruses.



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Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

2 Aug: Jeans for Genes day; more info at: jeansforgenes.org.au

10-14 Aug: Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business 2013, Mt Buller Vic - more info at www.medic.com.au.

3-5 Sep: CHC National Conference and Industry Awards; more info at chc.org.au/Conference-2013

04-07 Sep: Navigating the Future - Pharmacy 2013: The Pharmacy Management Conference; Sheraton Mirage, Port Douglas; More details at: pharmacyconference.com.au.

14-15 Sep: PharmacyLIVE 2013; Novotel, Sydney Olympic Park - see www.psa.org.au

17 Sep, 19 Sep: Pharmaceutical Law Summit, Melbourne (17 Sep), Sydney (19 Sep), for info see www.aventedge.com.

19-22 Sep: Medicines Management 2013, the 39th SHPA National Conference, Cairns Convention Centre - www.mm2013shpa.com.

20-22 Sep: Pharmacy Business Network, Canberra; see pharmacybusinessnetwork.com

2-4 Oct: Essential Pharmacy Financial Management; Sanctuary Cove Resort, Gold Coast; more info at: www.fmrbusdev.com.au

11-13 Oct: Pharmacy Australia Congress in Brisbane - details www.psa.org.au/pac.

14-16 Oct: Global Drug Safety Conference and Exposition, Brisbane - for more details email qldadmin@psa.org.au.

17-19 Oct: Pharmacy Assistant National Conference, Gold Coast - visit www.pharmacyassistants.com.

Diabetes disease burden

DIABETES Australia has launched a new National Diabetes Strategy and Action Plan on the back of Diabetes Awareness Week last week.

At least 1.5 million Australians have diabetes including all types of diagnosed diabetes as well as silent, undiagnosed type 2 diabetes.

According to Diabetes Australia, 280 Australians develop diabetes every day and approximately 100,000 Australians have developed diabetes in the last year.

At the same time almost 80% of Australians fail to recognise their risk of developing diabetes according to a Newspoll survey.

The survey was part of the new "The Face of Diabetes" awareness campaign (*PD* Wed) which highlights that more than two million Australians have prediabetes and are indeed at risk.

"All types of diabetes - type 1, type 2 and gestational diabetes - show worrying increases in prevalence," Diabetes Australia ceo Professor Greg Johnson said.

The new National Diabetes

Strategy and Action Plan focuses on five main pillars:

1. Prevent complications
2. Prevent more type 2 diabetes
3. Reduce pregnancy impacts
4. Reduce impact on ATSI people
5. Enhance prevention by education

To see more details go to www.faceofdiabetes.org.au

MEANWHILE diabetes is linked to a strong increase in the risk of physical disability according to a paper published this week in *The Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology*.

26 studies were analysed, with prevention and management of diabetes identified as critical to promote healthy ageing.

To see the study **CLICK HERE**.

Medicare cuts gender

HEALTH minister Tanya Plibersek has announced the removal of all gender-specific terms from Medicare, with the changes following consultation with the National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Health Alliance and the Organisation Intersex International Australia.

WIN A SKINCARE PACK FROM CELEBRITY GARDENER JAMIE DURIE

Everyday this week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a **People for Plants** pack - the latest skincare from celebrity gardener Jamie Durie.

Each prize pack includes the People for Plants Mist Toner, Day cream, Face scrub and Eye cream.

People for Plants is a new movement in skincare that has just launched in Australia. The range is one of the first in Australia to contain such a high level of Australian Certified Organic ingredients, with generous proportions whilst still remaining at an accessible price point.

To win this great pack, be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What organic certification does People for Plants have?

Hint: www.peopleforplants.com.au

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DISPENSARY CORNER

PHARMACIES experiencing security issues could take up a novel bird-based option to protect their premises.

Currently being trialled at a remote police station in China, the move involves using a flock of geese instead of dogs to guard the premises at night.

One of the officers said that the farm fowl are better at protection because they have superior hearing, and make more noise when intruders approach.

"Dogs are good, but when thieves came, they would poison the dog first," said an officer.

"Geese are quite alert...as long as there is noise, they will cackle loudly, and large geese are quite aggressive, so when they see strangers they will go forward to attack," he added.

He also noted that geese have poor night vision, "so even if they are exposed to poison they are unlikely to see and eat it".

NO steerage...

A 38 year old man was pulled over in the Adelaide suburb of Gilles Plains on Monday morning for dangerous driving with two blown tyres.

On closer inspection police discovered that the white Holden sedan he was driving had no steering wheel, with the miscreant controlling the vehicle with a set of pliers, which had been attached to the steering column.

The driver was charged with this and a string of other violations including driving an uninsured, unregistered vehicle whilst being disqualified and breaching his terms of bail.

In addition to this the Northfield man allegedly tested positive for methyl amphetamine and cannabis in a drugs test.

Police have hinted that they believe the same vehicle was also involved in a hit-and-run collision, in which there were no casualties, just moments before it was pulled over.