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Cracks in the ice

NATIONAL Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) scientists are developing a new online toolkit to provide up-to-date, evidence-based information about crystal methamphetamine ('ice') for HCPs and consumers.

The toolkit will include information about the drug's effects and harms, as well as information on services and advice for people seeking help.

For project details [CLICK HERE](#).

Win with MILANI

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and Milani are giving away everyday a prize pack including Transparent Anti-Feathering Lipliner, Tuscan Toast Matte Lipstick and Venice Fierce Foil Eyeshine.

Milani Cosmetics is a cruelty-free brand. They do not test products on animals, nor do they allow others to test on their behalf. The brand is certified by both PETA and The Leaping Bunny Program (CCIC) as cruelty-free. Milani also has a ton of Vegan options also. For more info visit www.milanicosmetics.com.au

To win, be the first from SA or NT to send the right answer to the following question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

How many Illuminating Face Powders are there?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Rebecca Bak from ToLife Technologies.

Moonshot cancer research

CANCER is the second most common killer of Americans and estimated to become the leading cause of death within the next decade and these data have prompted US President Obama to commit to a "cancer moonshot" to tackle the issue.

Obama was giving his State of the Union address when he announced the research investment, with the reference to the 1961 moonshot commitment made by President John F. Kennedy.

Legal drug driving

ILLEGAL drugs are well-known to impair driver's reactions but what is less widely understood is that legal medications can also impair drivers, according to the Australian Drug Foundation (ADF).

National president of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia George Tambassis said that legal drugs most frequently implicated in inhibiting a person's reactions on the road include benzodiazepines, antihistamines and antidepressants.

Medication is most likely to affect driving skills and cause an accident during the first two weeks a person is on the course of medication, the ADF said.

Although the new commitment, originally proposed by vice president Joe Biden, has a focus on new treatments, there will also be support for research in prevention, screening and the dissemination of new research findings.

The National Institute of Health, which already has a \$5.3b budget, may receive a 7% injection of funds, while some drugmakers including GSK, Amgen and Celgene have joined a coalition convened by billionaire Patrick Soon-Shiong to work together on combination immunotherapy treatments.

Earlybird registration

THE 4th BioCeuticals Research Symposium, *Revolutionary Strategies for Complex Diseases*, will take place 22-24 Apr in Sydney, with registration now open.

Functional medicine experts will conduct a three-day masterclass offering health care practitioners an exploration of the drivers of disease and the proven clinical approaches.

CPD/CPE accreditation is being applied for and entries for the BioCeuticals Integrative Medicine Awards are now being accepted.

For more information [CLICK HERE](#).

UK e-cigs experience

THE United Kingdom has a liberal policy on e-cigarettes with the Royal College of Physicians saying the "nicotine itself is not especially hazardous" making them a suitable substitute for cigarettes.

Consequently 38% of smokers have used the devices to quit with about one fifth achieving one-year abstinence, a recent study has shown, reports the *MJA*.

The best results have been achieved in conjunction with behavioural support, the study said.

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Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Cruise Weekly*.

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Aust Day Cruise Deals

Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruises are celebrating Aussieness in the lead up to Australia Day, offering reduced fares and up to \$500 onboard spending money on four Round Australia sailings onboard local favourites, *Radiance of the Seas* and *Celebrity Solstice*, when booked by 31 Jan 2016.

Spend about a month circumnavigating Australia and visiting a few ports in New Zealand in two segments that can be combined.

Fares start from \$1,599 per person per segment twin share.

For details call 1800 754 500 or contact your travel agent.

Tempo 2 for 1 deal

Tempo Holidays is offering a 2 for 1 deal on a range of luxury European cruises.

Travellers who book between 18 Jan and 29 Feb will receive this special deal on the Classical Rhine and Across Europe cruises.

Across Europe starts at \$4,817 cruising Budapest to Amsterdam for travel on 28 Apr, 08 May, 25 Jun or 28 Aug.

The Classical Rhine river cruise starts at \$2,511 cruising Basel to Amsterdam for travel 01 Aug, 08 Aug, 05 Sep, 27 Sep or 27 Oct 16.

Call 1300 558 987 or contact your travel agent.

Prescription to OTC push

SWITCHING prescription medications to over-the-counter (OTC) status is the basis of future growth of the OTC drugs market according to recent research released by Global Business Intelligence (GBI) research.

While the work was referencing the European and US markets, the data is clearly indicative of application into similar markets such as the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the report said.

The two main challenges identified in the transition from prescription to OTC status are "self-selection and side effects."

While pharmaceutical companies see the switch as a means of evergreening their bigger prescription products upon expiry of patent, challenges remain around regulatory issues, legal exposure, margin trimming and economies of scale.

PSA test agreement

AFTER 20 years of disagreement, the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) and Cancer Council Australia, which have held opposing views on the subject, have agreed on guidelines for prostate specific antigen (PSA) testing.

The NHMRC and The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) have both endorsed the guidelines.

For those companies with a well established generic and OTC divisions, the transitions are obviously smoother, but even smaller organisations are taking advantage of outsourcing arrangements to achieve the same objectives, the researchers found. Ultimately the fate of drugs moving into a different segment is dependent on the data and the regulator, the report said.

"Beyond basic efficacy data, potential benefits of a switch could include increased access to treatment options, improved quality of life, improved public health, enhanced consumer awareness and involvement, or greater worker productivity."

CLICK HERE to access the report.

Hormones for addicts

UK RESEARCHERS are launching a study to determine whether hormones found in the gut could help manage addictions, and support those who have given up smoking or drinking or who are trying to lose weight, from relapsing.

Imperial College scientists in London are calling for 90 volunteers, 30 overweight, 30 ex-drinkers and 30 ex-smokers, to help them discover if the six-hour infusion could stop bad habits.

DISPENSARY CORNER

HERE'S a new one - North Korea is claiming to have invented a hangover free alcohol.

Scientists in the communist state say they have created a liquor between 30 to 40% alcohol that you can consume all night long without the fear of a pounding head in the morning.

So how is this possible? They put it down to the use of a six-year-old indigenous ginseng called insam which is combined with scorched, glutinous rice.

The science behind it exactly? Mmmm, we're not sure either.

It's not the first time North Korean media has made extraordinary claims about national achievements.

Last year, the country's official KCNA news agency said scientists had developed a drug, with ginseng again a major component, that could cure AIDS and Ebola.

LABELLING issues here? Cheeky hand sanitisers that say aloud what we were secretly thinking?

There's 'Bitch Slap those Germs' for all occasions and 'Maybe You Touched Your Genitals' for when you have to shake hands with a shady looking character.

'Cleaner Than Sh*t' is pretty self explanatory, along with 'I Just Sh*t in the Woods' for those hiking and camping adventures.

Great advice, shame about the wording choices.

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