

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from Zostrix.

European deal for Aussie cannabis firm

AUSTRALIAN listed cannabis firm Creso Pharma has signed an exclusive commercialisation agreement with Swiss pharma company Doetsch Grether for marketing of Creso's hemp based nutraceutical cannaQIX10 in Switzerland as a food supplement.

An ASX statement announcing the deal said the arrangement "lays the cornerstone for Creso's global commercialisation".

The agreement is for a 10 year period, targeting the largest pharmacy chains in both Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Although it is one of the largest pharma/OTC and consumer care companies in Switzerland, Doetsch Grether is actually a medium-sized, family-owned company specialising in the distribution of products in the Swiss pharma, OTC and consumer care market, where it has operated since 1899.

CannaQIX10 is described by Creso as a pharma-grade, CBD-based product in packs of 20, 40 and 60 pastilles, or small sweet lozenges.

Designed for direct buccal absorption into the bloodstream, the pastilles are said to work faster and more efficiently than tablets or capsules that need to be swallowed and therefore cope with stomach acid and other absorption and bioavailability challenges.

Statins still most prescribed

THE top 10 drugs dispensed in Australia during the year Jul 2016 to Jun 2017 were dominated by blood pressure and cholesterol lowering drugs, with atorvastatin and rosuvastatin in positions one and two respectively for both pills popped per-day and prescription numbers dispensed.

Atorvastatin and rosuvastatin account for an enormous 30.45% of all scripts dispensed, with PPIs esomeprazole and pantoprazole comprising the next 23.69%.

The rest of the top 10 are made up of ACE inhibitor antihypertensive perindopril, antibiotics (amoxicillin, the amoxicillin/clavulanic acid fixed combination and cephalexin), diabetes drug metformin and angiotensin II receptor antagonist irbesartan for hypertension.

myCPD site up 40%

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia's myCPD site has recorded dramatic growth over four years, with a hefty 40% lift in the past CPD year in which more than 104,000 assessments were completed.

Guild national president George Tambassis said the results indicated that pharmacists valued "free, easily accessible and quality education resources".

More than 30 new e-learning courses were launched including biosimilars, codeine rescheduling, diabetes education, HIV and more.

The coming year will bring courses in opioid addiction, osteoporosis, bullying and my Health Record, the Guild said.



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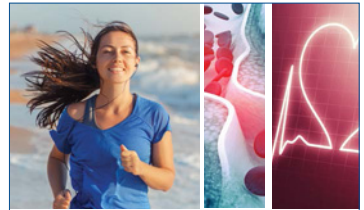
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TESTED PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
Consumer Survey of Product Innovation 2018
Winner of Product of the Year 2018 Foot Care category "Survey of 13,500 people by Nielsen."

New TGA search tool

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has introduced a new online tool for searching newly updated Product Information documents published on the TGA website in the previous 90 days - visit tga.gov.au.



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New Chemists' Own

ARROW Pharmaceuticals has expanded its Chemists' Own product range, with the release yesterday of several new items.

The additions include Chemists' Own Diclofenac 25 which the company says compares to Viclofen; Chemists' Own Diarrhoea Relief Capsules which compares to Imodium; and the Chemists' Own Cough, Cold & Flu PE range which includes Chemists' Own Cough, Cold & Flu Day/Night PE and Chemists' Own Cough, Cold & Flu Relief PE - comparing to Codral Cold & Flu + Cough and Codral Multi Action + Cough, according to Arrow Pharmaceuticals.

These products mark the 114th SKU released by Chemists' Own in the last six months.



Heart research funds

THE Heart Foundation has announced the recipients of 79 new research awards, as part of its commitment to inject \$50 million into heart research over the next three years.

Studies funded include work on the over-consumption of sugary drinks, online support for obese teens and the link between social isolation and cardiovascular disease in older Australians - see the full list at heartfoundation.org.au.

Celecoxib vs ibuprofen

EFFICACY and tolerability of celecoxib has been shown to be non-inferior to ibuprofen for the treatment of knee osteoarthritis symptoms, in a recent study published in the *Journal of International Medical Research*.

Researchers from Portugal, Spain and the UK collaborated for the comparison revealing celecoxib to have at least equal efficacy and marginally superior safety.

CLICK HERE to access the study.

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NSW discharge summaries in MHR

NSW Health has integrated its HealtheNet Clinical Portal with the Federal Government's My Health Record (MHR) system, meaning clinicians are able to view MHR data via the in-house portal.

Effective from 25 Nov, HealtheNet's "missing piece" has been completed, with the iPharmacy dispensing software used in many NSW hospitals integrated with the system to feed data showing medication dispensed on discharge into patients' My Health Record. HealtheNet provides full visibility for all NSW Health clinicians of the National Prescription and Dispense View in My Health Record, which includes prescription records from GPs and dispensing records from community pharmacies nationwide. "This is a significant achievement - by sharing this additional

medication information, NSW Health is helping to support all healthcare providers involved in a patient's care," said eHealth NSW program director Julie Cashin. "HealtheNet saves time for clinicians as they don't need to chase up important information, and

in an emergency it can make all the difference," she said.

The first sites to begin sharing dispensed medication records from iPharmacy with HealtheNet and My Health Record include South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, Sydney Children's Hospital at Randwick and The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

NSW Health said other districts would follow suit in the wake of the successful integrations of these initial sites.



14 AstraZeneca products now distributed via DHL

Effective 1 December, order cut off time moved to 3.00pm

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- Lynparza™** (olaparib) 50mg
- Tagrisso™** (osimertinib) 40mg
- Tagrisso™** (osimertinib) 80mg
- ZolaCos CP®** (goserelin-bicalutamide) 10.8/50 (84)
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Dispensary Corner

THERE'S been a breakthrough in nutrition in space this week, after astronauts at the International Space Station produced a video showing how they make pizza in zero gravity conditions.

Forget Space Food Sticks - space station chief Kirk Shireman managed to get the required ingredients into orbit after a casual comment by Italian astronaut Paolo Nespoli saying that he missed pizza.

The stunt sparked plenty of social media-worthy puns including US astronaut Randy Bresnik who tweeted "Flying Saucers of the edible kind".



ODOR-EATERS were sorely needed on a bus in India last week, where police ended up arresting a man because of his stinky feet.

The offender caused a near-riot when he removed his shoes and socks on the coach travelling between Himachal Pradesh in the Himalayas and New Delhi.

Other travellers protested at the stench and asked the man to throw away the socks, which sparked a "heated confrontation" when he refused.

The bus driver eventually stopped at a police station, where officers boarded in an attempt to quell the chaos.

The man was arrested on charges of "causing public nuisance," before being released later on bail.

MHRA targets online diet pills

BRITAIN'S Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is urging people wanting to lose weight to turn to "safe, legitimate and appropriate routes," as part of a campaign against illicit diet tablets.

MHRA said online sellers of potentially dangerous slimming pills containing withdrawn pharmaceutical ingredients are "putting desperate dieters' health at serious risk," by seducing them with promises of quick-fix weight loss and discreet deliveries that bypass discussions with their GP and pharmacist.

The campaign, conducted in partnership with healthy weight loss promoter Slimming World, found one in three dieters had tried pills purchased online.

Of those who bought online, 77% were enticed by promises of rapid weight loss, 57% liked being able to order products discreetly, and 44% ordered online to avoid speaking with a health professional.

However a whopping 63% suffered unpleasant side effects after taking slimming pills bought online, with symptoms including diarrhoea, uncontrolled bleeding,

blurred vision and heart problems.

Even more worryingly, 81% failed to report the side effects to anyone.

The MHRA noted that last year it seized over 4.6 million fake medical products, and shut down more than 5,000 websites that were selling medicines illegally.

Consumers looking to purchase medicines online can check if the seller is registered via an online system at gov.uk/fakemeds.

Paragon CSL buy

MELBOURNE-BASED listed medical devices and consumables company Paragon Care has announced the acquisition of the immunohaematology business unit operated by CSL's vaccine offshoot Seqirus for \$8.5 million, with the deal expected to settle by Mar 2018.

The immunohaematology unit is said to be one of Australia's leading manufacturers and distributors of red blood cell reagents and blood grouping reagents, and also distributes automated testing systems used by blood donor centres, hospitals and pathology centres to identify antibodies and antigens in the blood.

Guild Update

Member guide on supplier trading terms

THE Guild has released a guide for members on supplier trading terms. The purpose of the guide, which is accessible through the members' only portal on the Guild's website, is to provide practical advice to members on how they can secure the best cost-of-goods for their community pharmacies. It focuses on how the supply chain works, the trends in trading terms and the practical actions that community pharmacies can take to safeguard their interests. These actions relate to choosing suppliers, monitoring supplier performance, renegotiating trading terms, and introducing better procurement, replenishment and category management practices in your pharmacy.

With the cost of goods being the largest input for any community pharmacy, their effective management is critical to the success of our businesses. Understandably, owners are concerned about a number of trends in the supply chain, including the continuing loss of trading terms, the prospect of surcharging by wholesalers and the increasing incidence of exclusive direct supply arrangements.

WIN WITH DESIGNER BRANDS

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Designer Brands are giving away 3 x shades of the Absolute Brow Pencil – valued at \$36.

Designer Brands Absolute Brow Pencil is the do-it-all brow hero. This versatile product includes a precision, triangular tip to define and feather-in brows and an integrated spoolie to groom and shape, before and after applying. With a soft, yet smudge-proof formula this brow pencil can transform brows, adding natural-looking thickness for all day wear. Available in 3 shades; Taupe, Hickory and Chocolate.

CLICK HERE to see more.

To win, be the first person from QLD to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What is on each end of the Absolute Brow Pencil?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Roharni Salleh from Branxton Pharmacy.



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