



NSAID controversy

NON-STEROIDAL anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) have been shown to be associated with up to a 50% increased risk of an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA).

The case-time-control study out of Copenhagen University Hospital, Denmark, investigated the records of 28,947 people with OHCA, 3,376 of whom were treated with an NSAID up to 30 days prior.

The Australian Self-Medication Industry (ASMI) acknowledged the study, with spokesman Steve Scarff saying, "it is important to note that the study was conducted in patients with an average age of 70 years who were prescribed NSAIDs, usually at higher doses and for longer duration than are recommended and available for OTC use.

"These elderly patients had pre-existing health conditions and were on other medications, some of which could have increased their risk factors," he said.

Scarff said consumers should note label warnings on NSAIDs and seek the advice of their pharmacist or doctor if they have certain existing health problems, require longer term treatment or if they are taking other medicines.

\$30m Yasmin patent payout

BAYER will receive more than \$30 million in damages and interest after receiving a favourable judgement in its long-running case with Generic Health over patent infringement for its Yasmin and YAZ oral contraceptives.

The Federal Court of Australia ruling found Generic Health had infringed Bayer's patent on the products by manufacturing and selling the oral contraceptive known as Isabelle.

The original judgement was handed down in 2013 but was stayed pending an appeal, which was later dismissed along with an application for special leave to appeal to the High Court in 2014.

Bayer's claim for damages amounted to \$25 million, based on an assessment of its lost profits where each sale of Isabelle, and of Petibelle, a generic version of Yasmin introduced by Bayer, was taken to be a lost sale of Yasmin.

Nelson Ambrogio, gm of Bayer Pharmaceuticals Australia/NZ, said the decision confirms the company's intellectual property rights relating to Yasmin and YAZ.

"We will always defend these rights whenever this becomes necessary and will continue to do so.

"Without the protection of their intellectual property, research-driven pharmaceutical companies cannot bring new medical innovations to those patients who need them most," Ambrogio said.

Chemotherapy change deferred

THE Health Department has advised of an extension for the mandatory inclusion of the Compounder ID with eligible claims under the Efficient Funding for Chemotherapy (EFC) scheme.

Previously it was intended that the compounder ID would become compulsory for claims lodged effective from 01 Apr 2017.

However according to an update on Fri, "a number of approved suppliers have indicated that the necessary amendments to their dispensing software may not be ready in time to facilitate this".

The department says it will now provide three months' notice before the field becomes mandatory.

Until then claims submitted without the compounder ID will continue to generate a warning but will not be rejected.

Etopophos shortages

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised that supply shortages of Etopophos etoposide 1 g (as phosphate) and Etopophos etoposide phosphate 113.6 mg (equivalent to 100 mg etoposide) powder for injection vials are expected to continue until 01 Aug 2017.

Previously, health professionals were advised that supply would resume next month.

The TGA advises that the alternative product Etoposide 100 mg/5 mL is available.

For more info contact the TGA on medicine.shortages@tga.gov.au.

Vit B protects against air pollution effects?

A SMALL scale human trial has suggested that high doses of vitamin B supplements (2.5mg of folic acid, 50mg of vitamin B6, and 1mg of vitamin B12) may offset the damage caused by fine particulate matter as found in heavily polluted places like Beijing or Mexico.

The most dangerous of these particles is referred to as PM2.5, with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres, coming from diesel cars and wood burning stoves.

CLICK HERE to access the research.

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Reference: 1. Based on the RRP of Numit 30g vs. average RRP of Emla 30g. Data held on file, January 18, 2017.

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SHPA transparency call

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has supported



the concept of full and open transparency on the part of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in its submission to the TGA relating to 'Expedited pathways for prescription medicines'.

"SHPA believes that TGA decisions should be published as soon as possible with as much detail as possible, to support the notion that these are transparent process and consolidate the consumer and industry confidence that the TGA holds," the submission reads.

Further, the hospital pharmacy group said that on a local level the publication of assessment reports

and rationale for regulatory decisions would also be pertinent information

for Drug and Therapeutic Committees (DTC) and Medication Advisory Committees (MAC) of health service facilities.

This will inform their decisions when considering additions and amendments to formularies, individual patient usage applications, as well as stewardship and governance activities.

"Making such information available to DTCs and MACs would also aid in the detection and reporting of adverse events and contribute to post-market surveillance activities," the Society said.

In addition, the SHPA said it believed it was important that the TGA made objective determinations as to what constituted a 'major' therapeutic advantage, when such claims were made by sponsors seeking priority review and provisional approval.

Objective measures suggested by the SHPA were decreases/increases in biological markers, length of remission periods or improved scores for clinically validated tools such as cognition or movement tests - submissions at tga.gov.au.

UK online guidelines

BRITAIN'S Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has updated its guidance for people supplying medicines online to countries across Europe.

The revised document makes it clear that online retailers must comply with the law of the country they are selling to - and in particular that medicines are authorised for use in each country - **CLICK HERE** for details.

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Blackmores China fine

BLACKMORES has been fined almost \$70,000 in China for violating advertising laws, with the penalty related to a social media video featuring tennis star Li Na, in which the company claimed to be "Australia's number one," and that its products could treat conditions such as cardiovascular disease and arthritis, reports *Fairfax media*.

Apparently this type of superlative language is no longer allowed in China, with the company saying it had amended its collateral as soon as it had been made aware of the breach.

China's annual Consumer Rights Day also highlighted a range of other major brands fined, including Nike and Japanese retailer Muji.

FIP abstracts sought

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is reminding delegates to this year's 77th World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Seoul, South Korea, that the deadline for submissions of abstracts is 01 Apr.

The theme for 2017 is *Medicines and beyond! The soul of pharmacy - new ways for pharmacy to provide more than just medicines*.

FIP says one of the congress streams will focus on "Precision Pharmacotherapy" - an emerging model which seeks to harness shared molecular and cellular biomarkers to customise therapy to subpopulation patient groups.

The conference takes place 10-14 Sep - register at fip.org/seoul2017.

Priceline Festival Towers takes the cake

PRICELINE

Pharmacy Festival Towers in Brisbane celebrated its 10th birthday earlier this month.

The milestone was marked with a party in Albert Street, which was closed off for the event with the help of Brisbane City Council and Albert Street Traders.

The store was opened in 2007 by Terry Herefort, James & Carmel Delahunty and Justin Walters, and ten years on put on "an event fit for a decade of good business".

Beauty advisors Krystal Shepherd and Shiraz Tilley held tutorials for



customers, with vendors including Swisse, Avene, La Roche-Posay, Neutrogena and Chemcorp donating goodies and prizes.

The day wrapped with a speech from pharmacist Terry Herefort, who's **pictured** cutting the massive celebratory cake provided by the Cupcake Parlour.

WIN WITH INNOXA

This week Pharmacy Daily and INNOXA are giving away each day the new INNOXA ANTI-AGEING Anti-Wrinkle + Firm Sleep Mask.

INNOXA is proud to introduce their latest product in the skin care range... and one that works while you are asleep. As part of the Anti-Ageing Collection, the new INNOXA Anti-Wrinkle + Firm Sleep Mask is an intense anti-ageing night treatment formulated with active ingredient Reforcyll™ to deliver 7-in-1 anti-ageing benefits while you sleep. The sleep mask also contains natural skin loving ingredients including Jojoba Oil, Evening Primrose Oil, Grapeseed Oil, Olive Oil and Vitamin E. Leave on overnight and cleanse in the morning to remove any excess cream. **CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE** for more info.

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Dispensary Corner

CAT lovers across the globe will be rejoicing this week, after the US release of a new perfume formulated to smell exactly like kitten fur.

The brainchild of New York-based Demeter Fragrance Library, the product (**pictured**) apparently smells just like the "PURRfect spot" behind a kitten's neck, a promotional blurb enthuses.

"15 years in the making, we've captured the olfactory essence of warmth and comfort...cat lover or not, this scent is sure to satisfy your curiosity!" the company said.

Other unusual fragrances available from Demeter include cannabis flower, baby powder and even gin and tonic.

Introducing
Kitten Fur



AN ENTERPRISING Chinese business has come up with an ideal solution to the country's ever-more frequent smog alerts.

Forget inhalers for asthma symptoms - Sanquin Forest Industry is selling bottles of simple fresh air, gathered from a remote forest in western China.

Sales manager Zhai Wenjun said "we set up a factory in Ningdong Forest Park in Shaanxi province and compress air directly into the bottle...consumers will feel like they are breathing in the forest".

The luxurious fresh air doesn't come cheap, costing 48 yuan (about A\$9) for a bottle which is good for just two minutes of uninterrupted use.

Diabetologist accused

BRITISH consultant diabetologist Paul Grant, who edited the *British Journal of Diabetes* from 2014 to 2016, is facing allegations by the General Medical Council that he fabricated research data.

Grant was also appointed editor in chief of *Clinical Medicine*, the journal of the Royal College of Physicians, before the allegations emerged but never took up the post.

At a four week hearing of the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service that opened on 13 Mar, the GMC accused Grant of a range of research misconduct, including forging the signatures of coauthors, listing doctors who had not significantly contributed to papers as coauthors, and fabricating data.

NZ cold sore trial

A NUMBER of pharmacies in New Zealand are participating in a national clinical trial of "medical grade Kanuka honey" for the treatment of cold sores.

Patients presenting with herpes simplex virus are blindly allocated either the standard treatment or the honey, and will also be compensated NZ\$25 at the end of the trial which aims to enlist 950 patients nationally.

Pharmacies also receive a payment for each patient enlisted. Study lead Dr Alex Semprini said earlier small scale trials had shown a positive response for the honey, which must be applied to the cold sore five times per day over a 14 day period.

MyDNA reveals dairy intolerance at APP

ABOUT 40% of the 300 APP delegates who were tested at the myDNA stand during the conference learnt that their stomachs may not cope well with more than one glass of milk per day.

The myDNA pop-up lab and "swab squad" tested attendees (**pictured above**) and returned their results less than 48 hours later.

myDNA ceo Lior Rauchberger said the APP appearance was a sneak peek at the company's new wellness and nutrition genetic tests which would soon be available on pharmacy shelves.

He said the tests also found one in six of the APP delegates risked negative side effects if taking certain anti-inflammatory medicines - explaining why certain medicines may not work the way



they should to relieve a headache.

"Our easy-to-understand reports reveal exactly what a person's genetic code is telling their bodies to do - in response to different medicines, different foods, or to lifestyle factors like alcohol or exercise," he said.

"There was genuine excitement at seeing this DNA technology in action," Rauchenberger said.

The new myDNA wellness and nutrition genetic test kits will be added to the company's existing suite of pharmacogenomic tests from next month.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is

Teresa Di Franco, Pharmacist and CDE, Perth Diabetes Care.



Implementing the New Golden Rules of Injection Technique in Pharmacy

RECENTLY, U.S journal Mayo Clinic Proceedings published new insulin delivery recommendations for healthcare professionals who care for patients who inject their diabetes medication.

A number of recommendations - and subsequently the 'Golden Rules' of injection technique - have been developed for adults and children with diabetes.

The Golden Rules outline the key considerations for correct injection technique and optimised medication delivery for customers (or parents of children) who inject diabetes medication. We can't assume these conversations are happening with their GP or diabetes educator so it is a great opportunity for pharmacists to get involved.

The Golden Rules also challenge the current use of larger needles (such as 8mm and 12mm) and calls on pharmacists to review needle length suitability in each individual patient.

By taking on the Golden Rules as clinical best practice, pharmacists will be better placed to support their customers who inject their diabetes medication.

The FITTER* recommendations, including the Golden Rules of Injection Technique, can be accessed **HERE**.

*FITTER stands for the Forum for Injection Technique & Therapy Expert Recommendations and is an international program sponsored by BD.

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Postal address: PO Box 1010, Epping, NSW 1710 Australia

Street address: Level 2, Suite 1 64 Talavera Rd, Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

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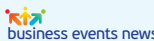
Reporter: Mal Smith

Contributors: Matt Bell, Rebecca Le Bas, Jasmine O'Donoghue

Advertising and Marketing: Sean Harrigan and Melanie Tchakmadjian advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Editorial: info@pharmacydaily.com.au



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