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AFT losses improve

AFT Pharmaceuticals has reduced its annual operating loss from \$14.8 million to \$10.1 million in the last twelve months, with the company reporting a growth in operating revenues and improved margins.

Total income increased 16% to \$81.9 million, with the year seeing several key milestones reached including licensing or distribution agreements for Maxigesic in a total of 125 countries.

The company successfully concluded a phase 3 study for the intravenous form of Maxigesic, and launched clinical studies in Australia and NZ for NasoSurf.

CEO Hartley Atkinson said the FY2018 results reflect "significant progress on development and commercialisation of our key innovative products".

He noted that further key product development advances were made during the year, adding "while these are not immediately apparent in FY2018 income, again they are important building blocks for future sales growth and profitability".

Most of the operating revenue growth came from the Australian market which surged 33% to almost \$50 million in sales.

Hartley said the company was confident of break-even in FY2019.

DDS checks hearing

DISCOUNT pharmacy group Discount Drug Stores (DDS) has announced its fourth year of partnership with Australia's leading independent provider of hearing healthcare products and services, National Hearing Centre, to provide free hearing checks to adults aged over 26 during Jun.

The free 15-minute, non-invasive clinics are conducted by qualified National Hearing Care hearing experts, DDS said - see more info at discountdrugstores.com.au.

Coroner urges S3 laxatives

SOUTH Australian coroner Mark Johns has recommended that laxative medications be removed from pharmacy front of shop and only made available with pharmacist advice, after an inquest into the death of an anorexic woman who was reportedly taking up to 800 tablets each day.

The 28-year-old died in 2014 from complications associated with laxative abuse, with the inquest hearing evidence that she and her husband spent about \$500 per week on up to 30 boxes of Dulcolax at the Chemist King in the Adelaide suburb of Hectorville.

Tragically the woman had told friends and family she was suffering

from ovarian cancer to cover the symptoms of her anorexia.

She also told her husband an oncologist had injected chemotherapy drugs into the laxatives to treat the cancer.

The pharmacy's retail manager Jessica Cutting testified during the hearing, confirming that she had approved bulk orders of the laxative, with the coroner rejecting her claims she had sought approvals from the pharmacist on site.

Cutting said she wasn't aware the recommended daily dose of Dulcolax was two to three tablets per day for less than a week, saying she believed the product was being purchased to manage the patient's cancer symptoms.

The coroner recommended Dulcolax and other laxatives be classed as "pharmacist-only medications," adding: "I draw this finding to the attention of the Pharmacy Board of Australia, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine".

The full findings can be viewed at www.courts.sa.gov.au.

Eagle flies China TCM

A NEW range of Tradition Chinese Medicine (TCM) products is being launched in China by listed Australian company Eagle Health Holdings (EHH) as it announces its foray deeper into the colossal Chinese consumer market.

The novel TCMs are being presented in consumer-friendly formulation and packaging, the company said, and will be sold through Eagle Health's pharmacy distribution channel throughout China, including its Education and Experience stores as part of the initial launch.

Eagle Health says this launch is a key milestone as it comes after approximately two years of development and regulatory approval work with Fujian Province's China Food and Drug Administration (Fujian CFDA).

Eagle ceo Zhang Mingwang said the new products combine TCM with the Western way of consuming supplements, saying the new format has "the potential to revolutionise this category".

Cosmetic classification

NEW legislation in NSW has amended the state's Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act to create a new classification for medicines used in cosmetic procedures, such as botox and dermal fillers.

There are special rules around the storage, access and use of the medicines, along with fines of up to \$110,000 for "lax operators".

UK election smears

BRITAIN'S Royal Pharmaceutical Society has warned candidates in the recent English and Welsh National Pharmacy Board elections about their future conduct, saying "certain behaviours have fallen considerably short of the professional standards I believe most members would expect".

The elections have wrapped up, with some candidates saying they were the victims of "online false smears" and social media attacks.

One of the pharmacists, Sultan Dajani, who was elected to the English Pharmacy Board, wrote an opinion piece in the UK's *Pharmacy Business* magazine saying "any election has political pyrotechnics and caterwauling, but this year has been particularly bad" due to dirty fighting, trolling and online bullying.

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Dispensary Corner

SCOTLAND'S mythical Loch Ness monster has been warned - it is about to be exposed.

A team of researchers is heading to the iconic site to trawl for traces of genetic material from the lake, and use that to catalogue organisms living there.

While *Newsweek* thought this approach could resurrect the mysterious monster, it could also identify others that live there who may have been posing as Nessie.

Neil Gemmell from the University of Otago said not many people are interested in his team's DNA research, but Nessie is a great hook to raise interest.

"Large fish like catfish and sturgeons, have been suggested as possible explanations for the monster myth, and we can very much test that idea and others," Gemmell said.

Keep on swimming, Nessie!



AN AMERICAN jogger is feeling a little sore - as well as very satisfied - after accidentally running a full marathon rather than just half of the course.

26-year-old Mike Kohler says he wasn't really paying attention at the start of the Fargo Marathon, and "so when they said 'go', I went," he said.

Unfortunately he was part of the full marathon contingent and only realised his mistake after about 12km, by which time it was too late as he was on the longer course, so he "just kept going".

Swisse Wellness excels in China

SWISSE Wellness has won The Business Excellence Award for Consumer Services at the 25th Annual Austcham Westpac Australia-China Business Awards.

The awards recognise Australian and Chinese businesses in Greater China

across a broad spectrum, who have demonstrated strong commitment and leadership to Australia-China business.

Swisse Wellness md Oliver Horn said, the award "provides great recognition of the commitment and effort of our teams in Australia, China and elsewhere to building a strong Australia-China business.

"After operating in Australia for almost 50 years, Swisse officially launched in China in Mar 2016 and rapidly grew to become the number one vitamins brand on major Chinese ecommerce hub, TMall, and was the biggest selling



brand on Alibaba on China's biggest sale day, 11:11, last year."

Horn highlighted the critical importance of the Chinese market saying "the preventative health focus in the Healthy China 2030 policy presents us with a tremendous opportunity".

Pictured L to R are Austrade deputy ceo David Hazlehurst and Australian ambassador to China Jan Adams with Swisse Wellness team members Justin Howden (group head, Global Government Affairs and Industry Development) and Emily Dunn (China Government relations manager).

WIN WITH EMTRIX

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Emtrix Nail are giving away the Emtrix Nail 10ml tube, valued at \$44.95 RRP.

Emtrix Nail is an easy to apply topical treatment, that is clinically proven to restore healthy appearance, normalise thickness and reduce discolouration of nails affected by onychomycosis (nail fungus) and psoriasis.

For more visit www.emtrix.com.au. Always read the label, use only as directed, if symptoms persist speak to your health care professional.

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

What is the percentage of patients experiencing improvement after a 4-week treatment?

Check here tomorrow for today's winner.

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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