

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news plus our latest **Back to School** Spotlight on page three.

Mundipharma Invossa-K agreement

MUNDIPHARMA has announced the acquisition of the exclusive rights for Invossa-K, a non-surgical gene therapy for osteoarthritis pain from Kolon Life Sciences.

The deal covers a range of territories including Australia and New Zealand, along with Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Myanmar.

Mundipharma also has rights to the product in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Japan and Korea, where it was first approved by the Korean Ministry of Drug Safety in 2017.

Invossa-K is an intra-articular injection offering sustained pain reduction and functional improvement for a year following a single treatment, based on a US Phase II clinical trial, as well as a Phase III trial conducted in Korea.

Mundipharma CEO Raman Singh said the firm would now go through the process of conducting trials and getting Invossa-K approved in the additional territories.

"It is very satisfying to think of the millions of patients who will benefit from this revolutionary medicine in the near future," he said.

Invossa-K is a 3:1 mixture of normal human chondrocytes (hChonJ) and human chondrocytes transduced with the human TGF- β 1 gene (hChonJb#7) which works by polarising macrophage to M2 macrophage, which has an immune-regulatory function by producing Interleukin-10, thereby improving the articular immune environment to contribute to self-recovery of a joint.

Robotic research facility

A **NEW** national Drug Discovery Centre is to be funded by the Federal Government in an attempt to turn scientific discoveries into new medicines faster, Minister for Health Greg Hunt has announced.

An investment of \$25 million will see the centre established at Melbourne's Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, equipped with "advanced robotic systems" to speed drug development.

"The robotics equipment will enable the centre's world-class researchers to screen hundreds of thousands of chemicals and rapidly identify which ones can alter

processes in the body implicated in a particular disease or condition," Hunt said.

The new facility is planned for opening in Jun this year with funding courtesy of the Government's Medical Research Future Fund, with the aim of filling a "known gap in the drug discovery pipeline in Australia".

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute is also contributing to the creation of the new centre, with its funding courtesy of philanthropic support as well as \$32.1 million from the sale of royalty rights for venetoclax, an anti-cancer treatment based on a research discovery made at the Institute in the 1980s.

"The discovery and commercial success of venetoclax is a leading example of how Australia can benefit from great discoveries, and how as a nation we can continually excel in health and medical research on the international stage," the Minister said.

Antibacterial consult

THE European Medicines Agency has published a revised guideline on the evaluation of human medicines indicated for the treatment of bacterial infections.

The updated document, which is now subject to a six month public consultation, reflects the outcome of discussions between regulators about alignment of data so developers of new medicines can design clinical trials that meet the evidence needs of multiple governments - ema.europa.eu.

Black Ant tabs fake

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has warned health professionals and consumers that the product sold as Germany Black Ant 2000mg tablets (Zhansheng Weige Chaoyue Xilishi) pose a serious risk to health.

The TGA found they contain the undeclared prescription-only substance sildenafil.

Neither the product nor the place of manufacture have been approved by the TGA.

Benzocaine update

A **NEW** advisory statement for medications containing benzocaine will warn consumers not to give them to children under two years of age, with the change expected to be implemented from 01 Sep 2020.

The move follows a consultation process last year during which the only respondent was the Australian Self Medication Industry.

ASMI commented on the proposed warning statement for medicines for topical oral use that contain benzocaine, noting that there are no benzocaine-containing infant teething products on the Australia Register of Therapeutic Goods, "so the risk of these products being selected by consumers for use in this age group is very low".

Back to school offers

TODAY'S Pharmacy Daily includes a special "Back to School" feature showcasing several products ideal for families as they start the 2019 educational year - see **page three**.

GSK correction

YESTERDAY PD reported on a Chinese Government investigation into the business practices of GSK.

This actually happened in 2013 and has been fully resolved, with GSK responding by establishing a host of effective internal controls.

New UTI app trial

UK PHARMACY chain Boots is trialling a new urinary tract infection (UTI) app-based "test and treat" service across 37 of its branches.

Pharmacies in London, Sheffield and Cardiff are providing the service which allows customers to test for infection at home using a urine kit, following a consultation with a pharmacist or "pharmacy advisor", Boots said.

The £9.99 kit, only available at the Boots stores, is paired with an app, available for free from Apple's App Store or Google Play, and which analyses the customer's sample using the camera on their smartphone.

When the test indicates to a customer that they have an infection, the Boots pharmacist is able to prescribe a £14.99 prescription-only medicine at a second consultation.

Boots explained that the test was suited to women aged 16-64 who have symptoms of a lower UTI and the trial is running for three months, Dec-Feb.

Boots said its service would reduce pressure on GPs, while combating "the rise of antibiotic resistance".

An all natural alternative is here!

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Better Nature.



Dispensary Corner

EATING yoghurt is still considered a healthy option, right?

Well you might think the popular probiotic source has completely jumped the shark following news that Dunkin' Donuts has collaborated with Yoplait on a new limited edition range in the United States.

The four deliciously sickening flavours include: Boston Kreme Donut, Apple Fritter, French Vanilla Latte, and Cinnamon Coffee Roll.

Yoplait, it's French for severe coronary embolism.



HEALING the human body in a hurry can be challenging in a war zone, which is why the UK Government has decided to add maggots to the First Aid kits for soldiers serving in places like Syria, Yemen and South Sudan.

More of an explanation needed here we know.

The larvae of insects such as green bottle blowflies can actually help keep wounds contamination-free by feasting on dead human tissue in the affected area.

The British Government believes the unpalatable therapy may help soldiers with festering wounds stave off infection and may even help military patients save their limbs in the face of secondary infections from operations.

"Project Maggot" will aim to have field hospitals breeding maggots within 12 months.

Full scope of practice call

THE Victorian branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has highlighted a shortage of GPs in Ballarat as another reason for pharmacists to be given the right to "operate to their full scope of practice to relieve pressure on doctors and ensure better health outcomes for patients".

Victorian branch President Anthony Tassone said the situation in Ballarat was dire, and reflected a general trend across the nation.

"As reported last year by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, more than one million Australians were putting off seeing a doctor in one year because they could not afford it," he said.

"Add this situation to a shortage of GPs and it is clear there is a crisis – a crisis that pharmacists can help to address," Tassone said.

Local pharmacist Hugh Millikan, proprietor of the Eureka Medical Centre Pharmacy in Ballarat, said "Quite simply, pharmacists need

to be able to operate to their full scope of practice and governments in all jurisdictions must act on this as a matter of urgency.

"Allowing pharmacists to operate to full scope of practice will maximise the benefits for patients by using pharmacists' expertise in medicines which is already acknowledged by regulatory authorities.

"Already patients are benefitting from pharmacists providing more services under their scope of practice and these include vaccinations, medicine reviews, and a wide range of health screening services – to name just a few."

Millikan said full-scope pharmacist services could involve a form of controlled pharmacist supply that would allow access of patients to ongoing treatment of medicines for management of chronic disease or treatment of an acute infection under a validated protocol.

He added that pharmacists already have the skills and training to do a lot more to ease the huge pressure on GPs and full utilisation "will deliver better health outcomes for all Australians."

TGA video release



THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has released a one minute consumer video describing its function in society.

"We make sure products are safe, high quality, and do what they're supposed to," says the script.

"We keep an eye on medicines, and if we find a problem, we'll tell you...we're for the better health and wellbeing of all Australians through regulatory excellence."

The video can be viewed online at pharmacydaily.com.au/videos.

Health connections

THE Government has announced \$1.5 million in funding for a new pilot program that will help patients suffering from serious and rare diseases connect with the best health services and treatment.

The International Centre for Community-Driven Research will deliver the new Patient Pathways Program over the next three years, helping those diagnosed with the conditions better navigate the health system.

The scheme will also inform future research and expanded support for patients.

PBS cost recovery

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) will be hosting information forums in Sydney and Melbourne regarding amendments to cost recovery arrangements and improvements to PBS listing processes - see pbs.gov.au for more.

Guild Update

Rural pharmacy video

ONE of the most popular parts of the APP Rural Pharmacy Forum, the rural pharmacy video competition, is back with the theme of 'What My Rural Pharmacy Will Look Like in 2025'.

The 30-45 second video should show how this vision applies to rural, regional and remote pharmacies and how pharmacists and staff in these areas have taken their futures into their own hands.

It should also show how working and living in rural Australia offers amazing and unique opportunities, and excite people enough so they want to come and work with you.

Entries close 4 February 2019 and the competition is open to employees or owners of a PhARIA 4-6 pharmacy.

The Rural Pharmacy Forum has compiled some tips to help get the best video results from phone cameras. These can be accessed on the Rural Pharmacy Video Competition page - www.guild.org.au/resources/rural-and-indigenous-health-policy/rural-pharmacy-video-competition.

Back to School

Pharmacy Daily presents

Pharmacy Daily's Back to School spotlight is your guide to all the essential products for starting the 2019 school year. To feature here email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Hedrin Liquid Gel and Spray Gel From \$18.99 RRP

Hedrin is offering one lucky family the chance to win a holiday to the Gold Coast. This fabulous trip includes luxury 5 star hotel stay for 7 nights, return airfares for 4 people, \$500 spending money and 7 day theme park super pass.

The first 200 entries to describe in 25 words or less about their most frustrating headlice story, will receive a complete back to school stationery pack, valued at over \$35 each, FREE!

Enter at www.hedrin.com.au/win

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Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist, see your healthcare professional.



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From \$12.95 RRP

Flo Baby and Kids Saline Nasal Sprays are helpful in relieving nasal congestion as a result of colds and allergies. Returning to school and day care means children may be further exposed to the common cold virus and airborne allergens like dust, pollen and mould spores. Daily nasal washing with a gentle, preservative-free, non-medicated saline like Flo Baby or Flo Kids can help thin excess mucus and wash away germs and allergens breathed into the nose.

Stockists: ENT Technologies 1300 857 912 | www.flo.com.au

*Flo Baby - highest baby healthcare product by Tell Me Baby parents. Always read the label. Follow instructions for use. If symptoms persist, talk to your healthcare professional.



Flordis Keen Mind 60 capsules \$39.95

Help support memory + concentration

Flordis KeenMind is a natural medicine that's clinically proven to support memory, concentration and learning retention. Beneficial during times of stress, KeenMind can also help provide calm focus.1-5 Suitable for adults and children over 7, KeenMind is well tolerated based on clinical research and years of use making it an ideal recommendation for your customers.

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Visit: www.flordis.com.au

Always read the label. Follow the directions of use. If symptoms persist, consult your health professional.



IsoWhey Clinical Nutrition KIDS COMPLETE \$34.95 RRP

IsoWhey Clinical Nutrition KIDS COMPLETE, has been specially designed to support the nutritional needs of children who cannot meet their diet needs through diet modification alone. It can be consumed as a delicious shake (available in vanilla and chocolate), with high quality protein, vitamins and minerals, probiotics and DHA to support children's growth and development.

Contact: 1300 476 943

More info visit www.isowhey.com.au

