

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Toraseamide

PLIVA Pharma has launched toraseamide tablets; net price, 5mg 28 £5.94, 10mg 28 £8.74.

SPC CHANGES

Botox SPC update

The summary of product characteristics for Botox (botulinum toxin type A) has been updated (Allergan). It is now contraindicated in patients with Eaton Lambert syndrome. The warning about interaction with anti-coagulants has been removed and a number of general warnings have been added (eg, rare anaphylactic reactions, caution with dysphagia, possibility of resistance to treatment). Other sections of the SPC, including undesirable effects, have also been updated. See SPC.

COPD indication for Seretide

The summary of product characteristics for Seretide (fluticasone propionate plus salmeterol xinafoate) has been updated (GlaxoSmithKline). Seretide is now additionally licensed for the treatment of patients with severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (FEV₁ <50 per cent predicted normal) and a history of repeated exacerbations despite regular bronchodilator therapy. The recommended adult dose is one inhalation of 50µg salmeterol and 500µg fluticasone propionate twice daily.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Dermestril patch

Strakan Ltd will no longer be supplying Dermestril 50 transdermal patch (releasing approximately 50mg estradiol in 24 hours) in the United Kingdom from 1 August. Further information from the company on 01896 668066.

PJ ONLINE

The *Pharmaceutical Journal's* website, *PJ Online*, can be found on the internet at www.pjonline.com.

At the site, visitors can take advantage of a daily news services and can view the contents of the current weekly issue.

The site also contains a searchable archive of *PJ* material (going back to August 1999) and a searchable database of current job advertisements.

There is also a feedback facility, whereby browsers can send e-mails to the editor and to the business development manager.

Pharmacist ordained



Philip Huw Davies, MRPharmS, has been ordained a priest in the Church of Wales. He is now serving as a priest in Ammanford, Carmarthenshire. Mr Davies used to work as a pharmacist at the Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr Tydfil and has continued to do locum work until recently.

The picture shows Mr Davies after the service at which he was made a priest, with his wife Becky, who was ordained as a deacon at the same time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cardiff University

The following candidates have been successful in the Cardiff University postgraduate diploma, certificate and master of science in clinical pharmacy examinations. *Postgraduate diploma in clinical pharmacy*: Zeenat Aslam, Shakila Bi, Frances Bishop, Sze Wing Lucia Chan, Nurroz Dato, Asma Farooq, Kevin James Frost, Jane Elizabeth Gibbard, Anne Elizabeth Graeff, Estelle Natalie Hames (distinction), Rachel Sian Hughes, Farah Jabeen Hussain, Jasvinder Janjuha, David Jenkins, Charlotte Elizabeth Jones (distinction); Elaine Rachel Lawrence, Titilayo Leduwe, Bethan Victoria Monk (distinction), Fiona Elizabeth Moscrop, Farhet Sultana Mughal, Portia Muziringa, Susan Staddon, Lindsey Joy Wade (distinction), Jayne Elizabeth Wageenaar, Jacqueline Sharon Wall, Carys Rhiannon Williams, Jonathan Yates, Frances Vinney. *Certificate in clinical pharmacy*: Danielle Claire Sprason. *MSc in clinical pharmacy*: Helen Matthews.

APPOINTMENTS

University of Bath

Mojgan Sani, MRPharmS, consultant pharmacist, cardiothoracic centre, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Trust, London, has been appointed visiting professor at the University of Bath. Professor Sani's role will be in the development of education and research in cardiovascular pharmacotherapy.

FUTURE EVENTS

PJ conference for community pharmacists

The first conference and exhibition organised by *The Pharmaceutical Journal* for community pharmacists will take place at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's headquarters on Sunday 23 November. The conference will consider the issues surrounding the future of community pharmacy and draw on expert speakers from the profession. There are opportunities for community pharmacists to develop new roles, and the aim of the conference is to explore them fully. Further conference details and booking information will be published in the *Journal* soon.

NPPG conference

Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group annual conference "Making the right start", Cardiff International Arena, 19–21 September. Further information and registration forms from Profile Productions Ltd, Northumberland House, 11 The Pavement, Popes Lane, London W5 4NG (tel 020 8832 7311).

Harmonisation

Biointernational 2003 conference "Towards harmonisation in bioavailability and bioequivalence", London, 8–10 October. Abstracts invited. More details at www.fip.org.

Infection management

United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association infection management group study day on "Perspectives on infection management—basic principles and beyond". Malmaison Hotel, Manchester, 14 October. Cost £95 for members, £150 for non-members. Details from Pat Kennedy on 0116 277 6999 (e-mail admin@ukcpa.com).

ESCP symposium

European Society of Clinical Pharmacy symposium on "The pharmacist in the health care team: standards of practice and systems of care". Valencia, Spain, 29 October–1 November. Cost £650 for members, £750 for non-members. Details at www.escp.nl.

UKCA symposium

United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association autumn residential symposium on "Progress in practice", Hilton Hotel, Blackpool, 21–23 November. Residential cost £290 for members, £360 for non-members. Details from Pat Kennedy on 0116 277 6999 (e-mail admin@ukcpa.com).

Nutrition and health

Fourth Nutrition and Health Conference, with sessions on cancer, obesity, exercise, menopause, ageing, etc. London, 21–22 November. Further information from Tanya Carr (tel 020 8455 6570, e-mail admin@nutritionandhealth.co.uk; see www.nutritionandhealth.co.uk).

Regulatory innovation

International Pharmaceutical Federation Industrial Pharmacy section workshop on "Quality systems and regulatory innovation for the 21st century", Noordwijk aan Zee, The Netherlands, 19–21 November. More information at www.fip.org.

CONCORDANCE ISSUE

Readers are reminded that the closing date for submissions of research papers for our forthcoming theme issue on concordance is 31 July. More general material can be submitted up until 29 August (see *PJ*, 10 May, p649). The issue will be published on October 11.

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• **Editorial** Correspondence concerning editorial contents should be addressed to: The Editor, *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2420 or 020 7735 9141, fax 020 7572 2504, e-mail editor@pharmj.org.uk).

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