

David Bolton, FRPharmS, celebrates MBE at the Society



David Bolton, FRPharmS, is pictured at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's headquarters in London, shortly after receiving his MBE at Buckingham Palace on 7 November (*PJ*, 21 June, p850). He celebrated his investiture with lunch at the Society. Mr Bolton is director of primary care development at Lothian Primary Care NHS Trust and is a former member (1986–89 and 1990–96) and past chairman (1994–96) of the Society's Scottish Executive.

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Emtriva capsules

COMPOSITION: Emtricitabine.
PRESENTATION: 200mg hard capsules.

CLASS/ACTION: Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor.

INDICATIONS: Treatment of HIV-1 infected adults and children in combination with other antiretroviral agents.

DOSAGE: 200mg once daily. Dosing intervals should be longer in patients with renal impairment.

MAJOR CAUTIONS: Emtriva should be used with caution in patients with pre-existing liver disease or who are also infected with hepatitis B. Therapy should be started by a prescriber experienced in the management of HIV infection.

SIDE EFFECTS: Headache, diarrhoea, nausea and elevated creatine kinase levels were very common (>1/10) in clinical trials. Anaemia, neutropenia, hypertriglyceridaemia, hyperglycaemia, dizziness, asthenia, insomnia, abnormal dreams, vomiting, dyspepsia, elevated liver enzyme levels, skin rashes and general pain were common (>1/100).

LEGAL CATEGORY: POM.

NET PRICE: 30 £163.50.

CONTACT DETAILS: Gilead Sciences, Flowers Building, Granta Park, Abingdon, Cambridge CB1 6GT (tel 01223 897400). See SPC. Emtriva will be available from 1 December.

Gabapentin capsules

APS/Berk has launched gabapentin capsules in packs of 100; net price, 100mg £20.57, 200mg £47.70, 300mg £55.20, 600mg, £95.40, 800mg £110.39.

Salofalk granules

Salofalk (mesalazine) granules have been launched (Provalis); net price 500mg 100 £31, 1,000mg 50 £31.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Cymevene capsules

Cymevene (ganciclovir) 250mg and 500mg capsules are being discontinued (Roche). The company expects stock to remain available until February 2004. Cymevene intravenous infusion remains available.

SPC CHANGES

Sinemet

The summary of product characteristics for Sinemet, Half Sinemet CR and Sinemet CR (levodopa/carbidopa) has been updated (Bristol-Myers Squibb). It now states that a decrease in the bioavailability of carbidopa and/or levodopa has been demonstrated on ingestion with ferrous sulphate or ferrous gluconate, and that the excretion of levodopa in human breast milk has been reported in a single case. See SPC.

Moduret 25 interaction

The summary of product characteristics for Moduret 25 (amiloride hydrochloride and hydrochlorothiazide) has been amended to include increased risk of hyperkalaemia on concomitant administration of an angiotensin II receptor antagonist (Bristol-Myers Squibb). The patient information leaflet has been amended accordingly and the undesirable effects section has been reworded. See SPC.

Levonelle and Levonelle 2

The summary of product characteristics for Levonelle and Levonelle 2 (levonorgestrel) has been revised (Schering). It now states that two tablets should be taken together, as soon as possible, preferably within 12 hours and no later than 72 hours after unprotected intercourse. If vomiting occurs within three hours

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

To mark the end of the year *The Pharmaceutical Journal* is running a photographic competition. There are two categories: "A wintry scene" and "Pharmacy in the 21st century". The best entries in each category will be published in the issue of 20/27 December and the overall winning entry will be considered for use on the cover. The winner will receive a seasonal hamper and the runners-up gift vouchers.

Entries should be submitted as prints (approximately 120mm x 180mm) or high resolution digital images and should be accompanied by an entry form. Entry forms and conditions of entry can be obtained from Lyn McCulloch (e-mail lyn.mcculloch@pharmj.org.uk; tel 020 7572 2414) or can be downloaded from *PJ Online* at www.pjonline.com/xmas.

The closing date for entries is Monday 8 December.

of taking the tablets, another two tablets should be taken immediately (*PJ*, 15 November, p670). Efficacy data from clinical studies and new results from a pharmacokinetic study have been included, and the undesirable effects section has been rewritten. See SPC. Levonelle packs stating the new dosage regimen will be in circulation from mid-December. Meanwhile, for counter sales, pharmacists are advised to continue to recommend the current dosage as stated on the pack.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mucodyne transfer

Responsibility for Mucodyne Paediatric Syrup (carbocysteine) 125mg/5ml has been transferred to Beacon Pharmaceuticals with immediate effect. Further information from Beacon medical information department on 01892 506958.

Tesco pharmacy winners

The Tesco pharmacy at Milton, Cambridge, has been named pharmacy of the year 2003 by the company. Instore pharmacy teams were assessed on product knowledge and company standards before 12

regional finalists were visited by mystery shoppers to assess customer service. The winners were presented with a crystal rose bowl and £500.

Distriphar customer service

From 1 December, Distriphar customer services will be based at the company's Bedford site at Progress Park, Bedford, MK42 9XE (tel 0870 871 0001/2/3).

MHRA telephone numbers

From 8 December, telephone numbers at the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency offices at Market Towers, London, will change to the format 020 7084 2xxx. The final three digits of existing telephone numbers will not change. The central enquiry point number for the MHRA will be 020 7084 2000.

FUTURE EVENTS

Fraud and counterfeiting

Management Forum seminar on "Pharmaceutical fraud and counterfeiting", Harrington Hall Hotel, London, 29 January. Cost £599.25. Details on 01483 570099 (e-mail info@management-forum.co.uk).

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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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