

NCC "Fit for the future" award winner

Kay Lodge, pharmacist manager at the Co-op pharmacy in Ravensthorpe, West Yorkshire, was awarded the National Co-operative Chemist's "Fit for the future" award after organising a diabetes awareness day which identified 11 undiagnosed diabetes patients. Ms Lodge won a £1,000 travel voucher and is pictured (right) receiving the award from Yvonne Rankin, the Co-operative Group's chief operating officer. The new award aims to recognise achievements of pharmacists who have developed innovative patient services



Aventis Optipen Pro insulin pen injection

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has received reports of difficulties in the use of Aventis Optipen Pro insulin pen injection system, including plunger jams, dose setting difficulties and confusion about the dose delivered. Health care professionals should be aware of the potential for these difficulties and report problems to the MHRA. Patients should be encouraged to report any problems with the system to their GP or diabetes nurse. Replacement pens can be obtained from Aventis Pharma on 01732 584493.

Celesio management

Stefan Meister, currently chief financial officer at Celesio (formerly Gehe AG, which includes AAH and Lloydspharmacy) will assume managerial responsibility for the company's retail division in the new year, replacing Michael Ward. Mr Meister has been a member of the Celesio management board since 1999.

ABOUT PEOPLE

University of East Anglia

Miriam Caske, MRPharmS, has been appointed teacher practitioner at the University of East Anglia school of pharmacy. Mrs Caske, has been a pharmacy manager at Lloydspharmacy since 2001.

Entrepreneur award

Fiona Cruickshank, MRPharmS, managing director of The Specials Laboratory, was named north-east woman entrepreneur of the year at a recent awards ceremony in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Ms Cruickshank was a runner-up in last year's awards.

FUTURE EVENTS

Clinical trial supply

Vision in Business Clinical Trial Supply summit, Barcelona, Spain, 17-18 February. Cost £1,408.83. Pre-conference workshop on "Optimal supply design" on 16 February, cost £586.33. Details from customer services on 020 7098 0400 or at www.visioninbusiness.com.

Parallel trade

Management Forum conference on "Parallel trade and the pharmaceutical industry", De Vere Cavendish Hotel, London, 26 February. Cost £599.25. Details at www.management-forum.co.uk (tel 01483 536424).

Medical devices

Medical device technology exhibition, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, 11-12 February. Free entry for

preregistered visitors. Details at www.mdtevents.com. Contact Chris Mott on 020 8987 0900 (e-mail cmott@advanstar.com).

NICE and the industry

Management Forum in association with the National Institute for Clinical Excellence conference on "NICE and the pharmaceutical industry", Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, London, 19 February. Cost £622.75. Details from Sarah Spanswick on 01483 570099 (e-mail sarah@management-forum.co.uk).

Deciding doses

Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin symposium entitled "Deciding the dose to prescribe", Woburn House, Tavistock Square, London, 11 March. Cost £120. Details from Alex Hornby on 020 7770 7571 (e-mail dtb@which.net).

Circulation support

United Kingdom Clinical Pharmacy Association surgery and theatres practice interest group event entitled "Keeping the circulation going", Novotel Hotel, Birmingham, 15 April. Cost members £99, non-members £155. Details from Marie Matthews on 0116 277 6999 (e-mail admin@ukcpa.com).

CORRECTIONS

Council report

In our most recent Royal Pharmaceutical Society Council report (*PJ*, 13 December 2003, p819) the word "six" in the second line on p822 should have read "seven".

Isolation of petaline

There was an error in the article "Drug discovery at the Royal College" (*PJ*, 20/27 December 2003, p877). In the penultimate paragraph it is indicated that a group at Glasgow University had isolated petaline. In fact, the first separation of petaline chloride from other constituents in the crude drug was achieved by Peter F Nelson working in a pharmacognosy laboratory in the Royal College building.

PRESCRIPTION PRODUCTS

Torsemide tablets

APS/Berk has added torsemide tablets to its range; net price, 5mg 28 £5.88, 10mg 28 £8.65.

Frusumide tablets

Frusumide tablets have been added to the Almus Pharmaceuticals range; net price, 20mg 28 65p, 40mg 28 78p.

DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS

Maxolon tablets

Maxolon (metoclopramide hydrochloride) tablets 84 X 5mg are being discontinued (Shire). Other Maxolon presentations remain available.

Mintec capsules

Mintec (peppermint oil) capsules packs of 25 are being discontinued (Shire). Packs of 84 capsules remain available.

Prednisolone EC tablets

Prednisolone enteric-coated tablets 5mg X 100 have been discontinued (Alpharma).

Feldene suppositories

Feldene (piroxicam) suppositories 20mg are being discontinued and will not be available after February (Pfizer).

Zithromax tablets

Zithromax (azithromycin) tablets 500mg X 3 will be discontinued from 14 January (Pfizer). All other formulations of Zithromax remain available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eprex labels

Eprex (epoetin alfa) syringes (Ortho Biotech) now come with a double label containing the product strength, batch number, administration route and expiry details, designed so that one portion may be peeled off and placed on patients' records.



Insuman Rapid vials

Aventis says that the only stock of Insuman Rapid (soluble insulin) vials currently available has an expiry date of May 2004. The company asks customers to accept the short-dated product on a sale-or-return basis.

APPOINTMENTS

Tesco pharmacy services

Nooshin Abderabbani, MRPharmS, has been appointed pharmacy services manager at Tesco. Ms Abderabbani was project manager for the launch of the company's complementary health range.

Correction

The contact telephone number for the Management Forum event on parallel trade is 01483 570099. The number printed was the company's fax number.