

## Let's meet in Basel — 68th FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

The International Pharmaceutical Federation will hold its 68th congress from 29 August to 4 September in Basel, Switzerland.

It is being hosted jointly by FIP and the Swiss Association of Pharmacists (pharmaSuisse). The theme of the congress is "Re-engineering pharmacy practice in a changing world" and there will be over 50 sessions and workshops.

### Symposia

The board of pharmaceutical sciences is running the following symposia:

- Dissolution testing
- Vaccines
- Targeted drug delivery
- Translational science: research into clinical practice
- Combatting counterfeit medicines in Africa (jointly with the board of pharmaceutical practice)
- Individualised medicine in clinical practice (jointly with the board of pharmaceutical practice)
- Quality by design and risk management (jointly with the industrial pharmacy section)

As well as the joint symposia outlined above, the board of pharmaceutical practice is running three symposia:

- Healthcare systems in change
- Pharmacy practice: present and future
- Patients as partners

### Community pharmacy section

The community pharmacy section will hold symposia on:

- Business or healthcare — different continents' perspectives
- Can technology improve adherence?
- Medicines information for patients
- Co-operation between clinical biologists, pharmacists and physicians
- Pharmacoeconomics

### Hospital pharmacy section

As well as the joint symposium outlined above the hospital pharmacy section has symposia on:

- Applying consensus statements of the global conference on the future of hospital pharmacy
- Paediatric medicines (jointly with industrial pharmacy section)
- Clinical hospital pharmacy practice

### Industrial pharmacy section

As well as the joint symposium above, the industrial pharmacy section has symposia on:

- State-of-the-art production of biotechnology products
- Advances in clinical trials
- Meeting education needs for a career in industry or research

### Other sections

There will be meetings of the academic pharmacy, administrative pharmacy, clinical biology, laboratory and medicines control services, military and emergency pharmacy, and pharmacy information sections.

The congress will also host meetings of FIP's Young Pharmacists Group and the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation.

delayed. If treatment is not initiated on the day of surgery the starting dose should be two capsules once daily.  
**CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance <30ml/min); active clinically significant bleeding; an organic lesion at risk of bleeding, spontaneous or pharmacological impairment of haemostasis; hepatic impairment or liver disease expected to have any impact on survival; treatment with quinidine.  
**PRECAUTIONS:** Agents that may enhance the risk of haemorrhage should not be administered concomitantly with Pradaxa or should be co-administered with caution. The following treatments are not recommended for concomitant use with Pradaxa: unfractionated heparins and heparin derivatives, low molecular weight heparins, fondaparinux,

### Pre-congress events

There will be two pre-congress satellite symposia on change management in community pharmacy and pharmacy changes in Europe and, from 30 to 31 August, a global conference on the future of hospital pharmacy will be held. There will also be three workshops on:

- Process analytical technologies
- Advances in biotechnology
- Good development and manufacturing practices

Separate registration is required for these events.

### Congress fees

Registration for the congress should be made through the website at [www.fip.org/basel2008/registration](http://www.fip.org/basel2008/registration). Fees are as follows:

- Until 1 May, FIP members €575, non-members €825, students and recent graduates €200
- After 1 May and until 1 August, the fees increase — members €675, non-members €925, students and recent graduates €250
- Registration after 1 August and on-site registration will cost €975 for members and non-members and €300 for students and recent graduates

Accompanying persons pay €150 whatever the time of booking. In addition, day cards will be available on site at €300. Those without internet access are asked to write to the FIP Congress Registration Office at New Brooklyn (see "Further information").

desirudin, thrombolytic agents, glycoprotein IIb/IIIa receptor antagonists, clopidogrel, ticlopidine, dextran, sulfapyrazone and vitamin K antagonists. Patients with moderate renal impairment (creatinine clearance 30–50ml/min) should be treated with caution. Patients aged over 75 years should be treated with caution. The recommended dose for these patients is 150mg once daily. Pradaxa is not recommended for treatment of patients under 18 years of age, patients with elevated liver enzymes (twice upper limit of normal), patients undergoing anaesthesia with post-operative indwelling epidural catheters, or patients undergoing hip fracture surgery. Patients at risk for bleeding or patients at risk of overexposure, patients at high surgical mortality risk and patients



### Accommodation and tours

The congress venue is the Basel Convention Centre. A range of hotel accommodation is available from €75 per night.

A range of pre- and post-congress tours will be available.

### Further information

Further congress information is available from FIP Congresses and Conferences, PO Box 84200, 2508 AE The Hague, The Netherlands (tel +31 70 302 1982; fax +31 70 302 1998; e-mail [congress@fip.org](mailto:congress@fip.org)).

Congress registration is being handled by FIP Congress Registration Office, New Brooklyn, PO Box 73, 3620 AB Breukelen, The Netherlands (tel +31 34 626 6110, fax +31 34 626 3308, e-mail [registration@newbrooklyn.nl](mailto:registration@newbrooklyn.nl)).

The FIP website at [www.fip.org](http://www.fip.org) gives further details as well as up-to-date information on the congress and other matters.

with intrinsic risk factors for thromboembolic events should be treated with caution. Pradaxa should not be used during pregnancy unless clearly necessary. Women of child-bearing potential should avoid becoming pregnant during treatment. Close clinical surveillance (looking for signs of bleeding or anaemia) is recommended throughout treatment with Pradaxa, especially in situations that may increase the hemorrhagic risk and for patients with diseases associated with an increased risk of bleeding. When severe bleeding occurs treatment must be discontinued and the source of bleeding investigated.  
**SIDE EFFECTS:** Common (>1/100, <1/10) anaemia, gastrointestinal haemorrhage, haematoma, haematuria, decreased haemoglobin, postprocedural discharge, postprocedural

## NEW MEDICINES

### Pradaxa

**COMPOSITION:** Dabigatran etexilate (as mesilate).  
**PRESENTATION:** Hard capsule.  
**CLASS:** Direct thrombin inhibitor.  
**INDICATION:** Primary prevention of venous thromboembolic events in adult patients who have undergone elective total hip replacement surgery or total knee replacement surgery.  
**DOSAGE:** 220mg once daily, taken as two 110mg capsules. Treatment should be initiated orally, within one to four hours of completed surgery, with a single capsule and continued with two capsules once daily thereafter for a total of 10 days (following elective knee replacement surgery) or 28–35 days (following elective hip replacement surgery). If haemostasis is not secured, initiation of treatment should be

haematoma, postprocedural haemorrhage, skin haemorrhage, traumatic haematoma, wound secretion.

LEGAL CATEGORY: POM.

NET PRICE: 10 × 75mg, £21; 60 × 75mg, £126; 10 × 110mg, £21; 60 × 110mg, £126.

CONTACT DETAILS: Boehringer Ingelheim, Ellesfield Avenue, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 8YS (tel 01344 424600).

## SPC CHANGES

### Alphagan

Alphagan (brimonidine tartrate; Allergan) is now not recommended for use for children under 12 years of age and is contraindicated for neonates and infants less than two years old in the product's summary of product characteristics. The SPC states that children over two years old (especially those aged between two and seven years or weighing under 20kg) should be treated with caution and closely monitored because of the high incidence of somnolence. Reports of accidental ingestion and information about Alphagan's effects on ability to drive and use machines have also been added to the SPC.

### Erythropoietin products

The summaries of product characteristics for erythropoietins products are now being updated in line with European Medicines Agency (EMA) recommendations that

erythropoietins products should be used in the treatment of anaemia only if patients experience associated symptoms and that product information should stipulate a uniform target haemoglobin range of 10g/dl to 12g/dl with a warning not to exceed a concentration of 12g/dl.

### Nicotinell

A statement about smoking cessation causing behavioural changes has been added to the summary of product characteristics for Nicotinell (nicotine as bitartrate; Novartis) mint lozenges. In addition, the SPC now lists rare immune system disorders in the undesirable effects section.

## DRUG TARIFF UPDATES

### NCSO endorsements

The Department of Health and the National Assembly for Wales have agreed to allow 'no cheaper stock obtainable' (NCSO) endorsements for bisacodyl gastroresistant tablets 5mg and demeclocycline capsules 150mg for April prescriptions.

## APPOINTMENTS

### Society chief inspector

Sarah Billington, MRPharmS, has been appointed chief inspector at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

## WANTS

### Anecdotes

Noreen Fenton, MRPharmS, is writing a novel with a pharmacy background and would like to hear from pharmacists who have amusing or thought-provoking anecdotes to share with her. She can be e-mailed at noreen.fenton@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk.

## FUTURE EVENTS

### Information prescriptions

NHS Direct event on information prescriptions for pharmacy, London, 28 April. Free of charge. For further information and booking e-mail louise.browes@nhsdirect.nhs.uk.

### Supply chain and logistics

European Supply Chain and Logistics Summit 2008, Düsseldorf, Germany, 13–15 May.

## RECALLED PRODUCTS

### Neupro

UCB Pharma is recalling Neupro (rotigotine) transdermal patches with batch numbers starting 47806, 47807 and 47808. A manufacturing fault has meant that some patches have not met approved specifications and some may have reduced efficacy. The manufacturer says this is not an issue of product contamination or safety.

Wholesalers should contact customer services on 01773 510123 to arrange return of stock. Pharmacists should contact their wholesaler to arrange return of stock and credit. UCB Pharma says that stock in the UK is sufficient and all recalled products will be replaced.

Since symptoms suggestive of neuroleptic malignant syndrome have been reported with abrupt withdrawal of dopaminergic therapy, patients should be advised that sudden discontinuation of treatment should be avoided.

Further information and booking via [www.supplychain.eu.com](http://www.supplychain.eu.com).

[gordon.appelbe@btoopenworld.com](mailto:gordon.appelbe@btoopenworld.com)

### Mental health

Pharmacy Law and Ethics Association, College of Mental Health Pharmacists and United Kingdom Psychiatric Pharmacy Group meeting on "Consent and the new mental health law", London, 21 May. Free of charge (PLEA members), £50 (non-members). For further information and booking e-mail

### Sports injuries

Middlesex University study day on sports injuries and herbal medicine, London, 21 May. Cost £30 (Middlesex University students), £47 (other). Further information and registration forms from Victor Galea-Borg on 020 8411 4760 (e-mail [v.borg@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:v.borg@mdx.ac.uk)) or via [www.mdx.ac.uk/hssc/business](http://www.mdx.ac.uk/hssc/business).

Advertisement

## Accessing SPCs

The summaries of product characteristics and patient information leaflets for medicines licensed in the UK are available via <http://emc.medicines.org.uk>.

## Contact us

Notice-board welcomes information relevant to pharmacists, which can be e-mailed to [notice-board@pharmj.org.uk](mailto:notice-board@pharmj.org.uk). There is no charge for inclusion but *The Journal* cannot guarantee a particular publication date or that the item will be published. An organisation wishing to guarantee inclusion can arrange an advertisement, for which there would be a charge (contact [advertdept@rpsgb.org](mailto:advertdept@rpsgb.org)).