

THIS ISSUE

RESPOND TO
COUNTERFEIT
DRUGSCHANGING
ROLESDEADLINE
EXTENDS

LINKED IN

ASTRAZENECA

MEDA

PLUS MORE...

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

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EUROPE MUST RESPOND TO COUNTERFEITING

THE EUROPEAN UNION cannot afford to remain “silent and inactive” in response to the growing threat of counterfeit medicines, according to Françoise Grossetête, member of the European Parliament’s Committee. Grossetête insisted that Europe needed to take measures to protect itself from the counterfeiting of medicines. He said that there needed to be an international convention on counterfeit drugs.

Sanofi-Aventis’ chairman, Jean-François Dehecq – speaking as vice-president of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) – agreed with Grossetête, maintaining that Europe needed to take the initiative. It should draft a document that could be the basis for an international convention in this area, he said. Mr Dehecq noted that more fuss is made in Europe about counterfeit T-shirts than counterfeit medicines.

UK EXTENDS
DEADLINE FOR
PSEUDOEPHEDRINE

The deadline for comments on UK medicines and healthcare products has been extended from 1st June to the 29th June. According to the MHRA, external interest and questions have prompted the release of more information on the proposal to reverse-switch all medicines containing pseudoephedrine and

CHANGING
GP ROLES

Payers (NICE) are taking over the decision-making process not just in the UK but around the world.

Doctors are being forced downwards in the decision making process, and are gradually being relegated to diagnosing diseases and selecting appropriate disease codes, which then drive the pharmacists to issue medicines in accordance with formularies or HTA guidelines (Health Technology Assessment). This will force innovator drug companies to spend time being more involved in the disease diagnosis process and spend much less on nagging messages to 'prescribe my drug'. It may however make the pharmacist a much more powerful customer...

ephedrine from pharmacy to prescription only. UK pharmacists accept that pseudoephedrine may be used for the illegal manufacture of methylamphetamine, but argue that reverse-switching the active ingredient in numerous cough and cold medicines is “radical” and “disproportionate”.



NEWS TRAVELS

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This is a really useful website that I have come across, it can find you connections within your industry, find former classmates, and reconnect you with past colleagues.

Go to LinkedIn.com

AstraZeneca has cut jobs around the world in a large scale restructuring. Up to 1,000 jobs could go in Britain. This is linked with slimmer pipelines of new drugs appearing over the next few years.

Northern Ireland Drugs company Galen announces 300 jobs. A Northern Ireland drugs

company has announced it is to create 300 jobs in an investment totalling £40 million.

The jobs will be divided between two locations; 250 jobs will be based in the company's Craigavon headquarters, and the remainder will be located in Larne, Northern Ireland.

Drug firms in digital TV trial. Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Novartis and Procter & Gamble are proposing to launch a television station to tell the public about their drugs in a challenge to the EU ban on direct consumer advertising.



Meda is acquiring 3M's European pharmaceutical division. The acquisition is aligned with Meda's strategy to become the leading specialty pharma company in Europe.

Meda have taken over 10 of Wyeth's well established pharma products, including SERESTA,

NOVANTRONE, ELSEP, RALENOVA, SONATA and ZENERE.

Generic Perindopril still delayed in the UK while generic manufacturers await further court



hearings/rulings.

Glaxo launches weight-loss drug. A new over-the-counter diet pill from Britain's biggest drug company, GlaxoSmithKline, is to be specifically targeted at the high proportion of overweight people in the US's black and Hispanic communities.

GUK (Merck Generics) bought by Mylan. Mylan's acquisition of GUK now makes it one of the biggest generic players in Europe.

GlaxoSmithKline took another hit yesterday amid signs that doctors in the US were avoiding its blockbuster diabetes drug Avandia after a study linked to increased risks of heart attacks and death.

Rosiglitazone (Avandia) has been linked to an

increased risk of myocardial infarction and death from cardiovascular causes. [N Eng Journal of Med 2007 356].

GSK is set to unveil plans for a research centre in China, joining a number of pharmaceutical companies tapping into the

country's resources.

I will be issuing the next Wholesale Bulletin on the 9th July, please let me know by the 2nd July if you would like to add any articles/comments, or have any suggestions for newsworthy topics.

