

# AU InforMed

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## **NEW DRUGS, and other related stuff ...**

**New Drug** ... **ibandronate** 150 mg tablets (Boniva<sup>®</sup> by Roche and GlaxoSmithKline) was approved by the FDA on March 25, 2005. The new bisphosphonate is indicated as a once-per-month treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis. It is also approved as a 2.5 mg tablet for a daily treatment regimen. It is expected to be available in April.

<http://www.rocheusa.com/newsroom/current/2005/pr2005032501.html>

**Withdrawn** ... Abbott Laboratories Inc. announced March 24, 2005 that it is halting sales of pemoline (**Cylert**<sup>®</sup>) a drug for attention deficit disorder. The consumer group Public Citizen also complained formally yesterday to the FDA that the drug is too dangerous to stay on the market. According to Abbott, Cylert<sup>®</sup> was discontinued due to declining sales. According to Public Citizen, the drug had caused 21 cases of liver failure, including 13 that were fatal or required transplants over approximately 30 years. Generic companies can still sell their versions even after Abbott pulls Cylert<sup>®</sup> unless the FDA determines the drug was withdrawn for safety reasons.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64272-2005Mar24.html?referrer=email>

## **FROM THE MEDICAL LITERATURE ...**

 **New Guideline** ... A revised guideline on the **management of patients with ST-elevation myocardial infarction** has been posted by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association. The original guideline was published in 1999 and was updated last in 2004.

[http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view\\_id=1&doc\\_id=5457](http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view_id=1&doc_id=5457)

 **Revised Guideline** ... a revised guideline summary on the Public Health Service Task Force recommendations for **use of antiretroviral drugs in pregnant HIV-1-infected women for maternal health and interventions to reduce perinatal HIV-1 transmission in the United States** has been posted and is available at:

[http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view\\_id=1&doc\\_id=6589](http://www.guideline.gov/summary/summary.aspx?view_id=1&doc_id=6589)

**Definition** ... of **persistent vegetative state** is available from the American Academy of Neurology (AAN). The AAN has received numerous inquiries about this definition in light of the Terri Schiavo case. Published in 1995, this is a practice parameter about the assessment and management of patients in the persistent vegetative state; it includes definition and diagnosis information. It is publicly accessible as a .pdf file:

[http://www.aan.com/professionals/practice/pdfs/pdf\\_1995\\_thru\\_1998/1995.45.1015.pdf](http://www.aan.com/professionals/practice/pdfs/pdf_1995_thru_1998/1995.45.1015.pdf)

In addition, the AAN Ethics, Law, and Humanities Committee (formerly known as Ethics and Humanities Subcommittee) published an approved position paper in 1989 about aspects of the

care and management of patients in the persistent vegetative state. It is available as a .pdf file:  
<http://www.aan.com/about/ethics/109556.pdf>

**Terri Schiavo case** ... two articles have been published as early release by the New England Journal of Medicine. One is a “legally-oriented” article written by an attorney and another is a “perspective” article written by a physician with expertise in palliative care and clinical ethics. They give a more balanced view than you will find on the 30-second clip of CNN. Both articles will be published in the April 21 issue, but will be available to anyone until that time at:

Annas GJ. “Culture of life” politics at the bedside – The case of Terri Schiavo. *N Engl J Med* 2005 Apr 21;352:TBA.

Quill TE. Terri Schiavo – A tragedy compounded. *N Engl J Med* 2005 Apr 21;352:TBA.

[www.nejm.org](http://www.nejm.org)

**Flu Pandemic Coming, U.S. Not Prepared** ... In a recent press release, based on meetings with Congress and others, the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA at [www.idsociety.org](http://www.idsociety.org)) has explained that the H5N1 “bird flu” spreading in Asia has the potential to develop into a pandemic like the one that claimed more than half a million American lives in 1918. Even if this strain does not emerge as a pandemic, another flu pandemic could be near. The CDC predicts even a “mild” pandemic could kill at least 100,000 people if the nation is not prepared. IDSA has outlined seven steps to prepare for a flu pandemic; four should be applied immediately and three are longer-term. For more details, go to:

[http://www.idsociety.org/Template.cfm?Section=News\\_Releases1&CONTENTID=12378&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm](http://www.idsociety.org/Template.cfm?Section=News_Releases1&CONTENTID=12378&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm)

**NIH State-of-the-Science Panel Calls for "Demedicalization" of Menopause** ... An independent panel convened this week by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) found that many women move through the menopausal transition with few disabling symptoms, and that it is important that menopause not be viewed as a disease, or to “medicalize” menopause. The panel cautioned women to carefully weigh their personal risks and potential benefits before starting treatment, noting that for some women whose symptoms create a serious burden on daily life, the benefits of symptom relief may outweigh the risks. Hot flashes, night sweats, and vaginal dryness are clearly tied to the menopausal transition, and there is some positive evidence for a menopausal link to sleep disturbance. But the evidence of a link between menopause and mood symptoms, cognitive disturbance, and urinary incontinence is weak and may be more a function of aging. Although there is increasing interest in bioidentical or “natural” hormones for treating menopausal symptoms, the panel found scant data on the benefits and adverse effects of these compounds. For more information and links to the full report, go to:

<http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/mar2005/od-23.htm>



**Animal control** ... Many venues provide exposure of the public to a variety of animals, including county or state fairs, petting zoos, animal swap meets, pet stores, circuses, educational exhibits, etc. Although these exposures provide multiple benefits, the risk of infectious disease transfer is also increased. This report provides standardized recommendations for public health officials, veterinarians and many others concerned with disease-control and minimizing risks associated with animals in public settings. See the complete report at:

CDC. Compendium of measures to prevent disease associated with animals in public settings, 2005. *MMWR* 2005 Mar 25;54(RR04):1-12.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5404a1.htm>

## Reviews of Note ...

- Hussar DA. New drugs of 2004. *J Am Pharm Assoc.* 2005 Mar/Apr;45(2):185-218.
- Campbell HE. Clinical monograph for drug formulary review: Erectile dysfunction agents. *J Manag Care Pharm.* 2005 Mar;11(2):151-71.
- Lipton RB, Loder EW, eds. Migraine: Primary care challenges in diagnosis and treatment. *Am J Med.* 2005 Mar;118 (Suppl 1):1S-46S.
- Ehrmann DA. Polycystic ovary syndrome. *N Engl J Med.* 2005 Mar 24;352(12):1223-36.
- Lee DA, Higginbotham EJ. Glaucoma and its treatment: A review. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm.* 2005 Apr 1;62:691-9.
- Baker DE. Rationale for using serotonergic agents to treat irritable bowel syndrome. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm.* 2005 Apr 1;62:700-13.

## FROM THE LAY LITERATURE about medicine ...



**Pharmacist's Rights** ... an article from the Washington Post that explores the debate about a pharmacist's right or obligation to fill, or refuse to fill prescriptions for an emergency contraceptive. Another link gives a list of states and their status about legislation that protects pharmacists, or "forces them" to do their duty.

Stein R. Pharmacist's rights at front of new debate. *Washington Post.com* 2005 Mar 28; p. A01.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A5490-2005Mar27.html?referrer=email>

**Vocabulary ... Hypomania** ... It may be more common than originally thought. Hypomania is the "up" side of bipolar disorder, but usually not as severe. However, the "up" side is relatively constant and may occur in up to 10% to 15% of the population. It is also correlated with some of the great achievers of history. Interesting reading at:

Carey B. Hypomaniac? Absolutely, but oh so productive! *New York Times.com* 2005 Mar 22.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/03/22/health/psychology/22hypo.html>

**Vocabulary ... Body identity integrity disorder (BIID)** ... also known as apotemnophilia. This is a very rare disorder (a few thousand people worldwide) that seek amputations of healthy parts of their body. It has, in fact, not been well defined and a group of psychologists and psychiatrists are debating whether to include it in the bible of psychiatry, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM). There are a variety of other, associated disorders that are not necessarily related, but easily confused.

Henig RM. At war with their bodies, they seek to sever limbs. *New York Times.com* 2005 Mar 22.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/03/22/health/psychology/22ampu.html?>

## AUBURN HSOP FACULTY and STUDENTS in the literature ...

- Wargo KA, Wavra MG. A case of hyperammonemic encephalopathy secondary to a combination of valproic acid and topiramate. *Hosp Pharm* 2005 Mar;40(3):247-9.
- Doorenbos NJ, Guerrero O, Quimby M. Cannabinoid variations during the growing season of a Turkish variant of *Cannabis Sativa L.* *J Ala Acad Sci.* 2004;76:60.
- Doorenbos NJ, Flor J, Robertson L. Fungal metabolism studies of dehydroabietic acid. *J Ala Acad Sci.* 2004;76:64.

- Doorenbos NJ, Jawad FH. Synthesis and evaluation of some 4-aza-20 $\alpha$ -aminopregnanes as antimicrobial agents. *J Ala Acad Sci.* 2004;76:78.
- Doorenbos NJ. New approaches to nutritional supplement therapies instruction. *J Ala Acad Sci.* 2004;76:91.
- Neumaier EE, Doorenbos NJ. Chemotaxonomical studies of *Papaver Bracteatum* Lindley. *J Ala Acad Sci.* 2004;76:104.
- Doorenbos NJ, Sharma RK, Traore M. Pharmacodynamic and phytochemical investigations of *Polypodium Polypodioides*, I. Watt. *J Ala Acad Sci.* 2004;76:108.

### **NEW RESOURCES in the DILRC ...**

- Davis NM. *Medical Abbreviations: 26,000 Conveniences at the Expense of Communication and Safety.* 12<sup>th</sup> ed. Warminster, PA: Neil Davis Assoc., 2005.
- Mandell GL, Bennett JE, Dolin R, eds. *Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases.* 6<sup>th</sup> ed. 2 vol. Philadelphia: Elsevier Churchill Livingstone, 2005.

### **The last “dose” ...**

“I believe that we not only feed the public demand for useless and harmful drugs, but also go far to create that very demand. We educate our patients and their friends to believe that every or almost every symptom and disease can be benefited by a drug.”

--Richard Clarke Cabot [1869-1939] from *JAMA* 1906;47:982.

*An electronic bulletin of drug and health-related news highlights, a service of ...  
Auburn University, Harrison School of Pharmacy, Drug Information Center*

• Phone 334-844-4400 • Fax 334-844-8366 • <http://www.pharmacy.auburn.edu/dilrc/dilrc.htm>

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