



George H. Reithel, II (1868-1934), American Founder of Bernal Drugs.
The oldest family-owned drug store chain in the United States.



Shri. Manojkumar, Director General of National Agency for Food
and Drug Administration and Control of Nigeria

THE PHARMA OBSERVER

NEWS DIGEST

Five inspirational organ- isations from Malawi, Bangladesh, Mali, Ken- ya, and Colombia recog- nised by GSK and Save the Children

A simple low-cost device that helps new-born babies to breathe and has the potential to transform the life chances for thousands of African babies has been awarded the highest fund in the first GSK and Save the Children \$1 million Healthcare Innovation Award.

Reading the pancreas through the eye

Researchers at Karolinska Institute in Sweden have found an innovative way to study glucose regulation in the body, by transferring the vital insulin-producing cells from the pancreas to the eye, the latter can serve as a kind of window through which health reports can be obtained from the former. The results, which are expected to have a significant impact on diabetes research, are published in scientific journal PNAS. The eye may be used, as a kind of reporter reproducing the activity of the pancreas and allowing readings of the status of the pancreas under different conditions in health and disease.

Some 'healthy' vegetable oils may actually increase risk of heart disease

Some vegetable oils that claim to be healthy may actually increase the risk of heart disease, and Health Canada should reconsider cholesterol-lowering claims on food labelling, states an analysis in CMAJ (Canadian Medical Association Journal). Replacing saturated animal fats with polyunsaturated vegetable oils has become common practice because they can reduce serum cholesterol levels and help prevent heart disease. In 2009, Health Canada's Food Directorate, after reviewing published evidence, approved a request from the food industry to apply a heart disease risk reduction claim on vegetable oils and foods containing these oils. The label suggests "a reduced risk of heart disease by lowering blood cholesterol levels."

FDA approves new drug to treat HIV infection

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved Tivicay (Dolutegravir), a new drug to treat HIV-1 infection. Tivicay is an integrate strand transfer inhibitor that interferes with one of the enzymes necessary for HIV to multiply. Tivicay is approved for use in a broad population of HIV-infected patients. It can be used to treat HIV-infected adults who have never taken HIV therapy (treatment-naïve) and HIV-infected adults who have previously taken HIV therapy (treatment-experienced), including those who have been treated with other integrase strand transfer inhibitors.

Reference: From various official websites
Chief Editor: PRATHAMESH KHOT.
(BOARD COMMITTEE)

Hope builds for a drug that might shut down a variety of cancers

The most frequently mutated gene across all types of cancers is a gene called p53. Unfortunately it has been difficult to directly target this gene with drugs. Now a multi-institutional research team, has identified a family of enzymes they say is crucial for the growth of cancers that have genetic aberrations in p53. Targeting these enzymes with novel agents might prevent the growth of p53 mutant cancers, thereby benefiting a broad spectrum of cancer patients, including those with breast, ovarian, lung, colorectal and brain tumours.

