

## September 2014

Volume 4 Issue 9

Marci Wood, Editor

## Vermont News

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### VPA Scholarship Winners

Congrats to the following VPA 2014 Scholarship Winners!!!

Hardik Ajudia  
Jillian Donovan  
Jennifer Gravas  
Caroline Kirkpatrick  
Emily Savlov  
Marci Wood

### VPA Fall Conference Announcement

The Vermont Pharmacists Association has announced the date for the Fall Conference. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 26th**. The conference will be held at the Albany College of Pharmacy, Vermont Campus and more details and information will be coming soon.

### Upcoming UVM Conference

The University of Vermont Continuing Medical Education is holding a workshop for Physicians and Pharmacists called Bridging the Divide: Pharmacy and Primary Care. It will be held on Thursday, November 6th at The Essex in Essex Junction, Vermont. More information and brochure can be found on the [UVM website](#).

### Upcoming Board of Pharmacy Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Pharmacy is scheduled for **September 24th** at 9 AM. The meeting will be held on the 3rd floor of the City Center, 89 Main Street in Montpelier.

## National Pharmacy News

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### DEA Rules to Reschedule Hydrocodone Combinations

On August 21st, the DEA voted to reschedule hydrocodone combination products from Schedule III to Schedule II drugs. The rule will take effect on October 6th, 2014. The [complete rule](#) can be found online.

### Upcoming National Take-Back Day Announced

The DEA has announced the next National Drug Take-Back day will take place on September 10th from 10 AM to 2 PM. Collection sites are currently being organized and will be found on the [DEA website](#) September on 1st.

### Tentative Approval for New Insulin Glargine Product

The FDA has granted tentative approval for Basaglar (insulin glargine injection, Lilly and Boehringer), indicated for glycemic control in adults with type 2 diabetes along with mealtime insulin. It has also been approved for use in children with type 1 diabetes. Basaglar has the same amino acid sequence as Lantus, and has been tentatively improved for use with KwikPen. Due to patent-infringement claims, the FDA cannot grant full approval to Basaglar until mid-2016.

### Pregnant Women Should Receive Flu Vaccine

According to a committee of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), all pregnant women should receive the flu vaccine and health care workers should work to improve rates of vaccination. Currently, only around 50% of pregnant women receive the vaccine. Data has shown that the inactivated influenza vaccine is safe for all pregnant women according to the ACOG. While the live attenuated vaccine is not recommended for pregnant women, it can be used safely during the postnatal period. More information can be found on the [ACOG website](#).

### New Research Suggests Nicotine Patch May Benefit Babies

Based on the results of a trial conducted in the UK involving 1050 pregnant smokers, nicotine patches can help with cessation without causing harm to a developing baby, and may provide benefits for the child long-term. The participants of the trial smoked at least 5 cigarettes per day and were given either a nicotine or placebo patch in addition to behavioral smoking cessation counseling at 12-24 weeks gestation. In 2012 researchers reported that smoking cessation rates at 1 month into the trial were 21% for the nicotine patch group compared to 12% for the placebo group, however only 9% of the nicotine patch group and 8% of the placebo group were not smoking at the time of delivery. Following up on child development, the researchers recently reported on 445 infants from the nicotine patch group and 443 from the placebo patch group. Children whose mothers were in the nicotine patch group were significantly more likely to have unimpaired development (defined as no disability, problems with behavior, or development) than children born to placebo patch using mothers (73% vs. 65%, odds ratio 1.40, p = 0.023). This may be due to the temporary increase in smoking cessation in the nicotine patch group within the first month of therapy, corresponding to at least 4 weeks into the 2nd trimester, which is an important time developmentally.

### Novo Nordisk Buys Plant in New Hampshire

Novo Nordisk announced the purchase of a new manufacturing facility in West Lebanon, NH from Olympus Biotech. The facility was first established in 1989, and Olympus Biotech acquired this facility in 2011 after the plant was expanded between 2003 and 2006. According to Novo Nordisk, the plant will be used for producing active pharmaceutical ingredients of its biopharmaceuticals. The company is a leading manufacturer of pharmaceuticals for hemophilia care, growth hormone therapy, and hormone replacement therapy. Novo Nordisk has its headquarters in Denmark and has approximately 40,700 employees in 75 countries.

#### Experimental Drug Cures Ebola in Animal Tests

Research reported in Nature studied the use of ZMapp, an experimental drug used to treat Ebola in infected American relief workers Dr. Kent Brantly and Nancy Writebol, suggests that the drug played a significant role in their recovery. ZMapp was given to 18 rhesus macaques infected with Ebola, and resulted in a 100% recovery after treatment even up to 5 days after infection with the virus. The monkeys experienced a reversal of severe symptoms associated with Ebola, such as excessive bleeding, rashes, and elevated liver enzymes. The 3 monkeys that did not receive the drug all died from the infection by day 8 of the study. ZMapp is comprised of a mixture of monoclonal antibodies that trigger the immune system to respond to the virus. While the strain used to infect the monkeys is not identical to the strain currently impacting West Africa, researchers state a direct comparison of the virus was used and believe ZMapp could also limit replication of this strain.

The use of ZMapp in humans has also resulted in failures. Earlier this week, a chief medical doctor of Liberia's largest hospital has died after receiving a dose of the drug. A Spanish priest who contracted Ebola during relief efforts in Liberia also died after he was given treatment.

With uncertainty surrounding current treatment options for Ebola, which has to date killed more than 1500 people with over 3000 confirmed cases, research has accelerated to find a cure. In addition to ZMapp, the National Institutes of Health and GlaxoSmithKline are expected to begin human trials on a vaccine as early as next week.

### Please note our mailing address:

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