



Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists

Media Release

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NEW APPROACH TO MANAGING DIABETES

A new medicine, Vildagliptin, improves blood glucose control in the most common form of diabetes. This medicine works after the patient has eaten by increasing the levels of gut hormones that stimulate insulin release. It increases the amount of insulin in the blood and makes insulin more effective in reducing blood glucose.

Research by Cornelia Landersdorfer from the Centre for Medicine Use and Safety at Monash University has succeeded in developing a model that helps to understand and predict the effects of this drug in diabetic patients.

The model measures the way glucose, insulin, and gut hormones work together and how this reacts to diabetic medicines, such as Vildagliptin. It also describes how food intake influences the control of blood glucose in the body. The way how the body regulates blood glucose is very complex and many factors influence this system. Therefore it is useful to have a model that adequately describes this system and that can predict what happens if for example a different dose of the drug is given or a larger meal is taken. This will provide real benefits for improving the way Vildagliptin and other anti-diabetic drugs are used in diabetic patients to manage their condition.

Type 2 diabetes continues to be the fastest growing chronic disease in Australia. According to Diabetes Australia 1.7 million Australians have diabetes and up to half don't know it. Another estimated 1.5 million Australians have pre-diabetes and are at risk of developing the disease.

This research will be presented at the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT) Annual Scientific Meeting.

National and international leaders in pharmacology and toxicology are meeting in Perth between the 4th and 7th December 2011 to discuss the latest research on drugs and chemical safety. The program of plenary lectures, symposia and workshops, oral presentations and posters will be academically and scientifically stimulating and lead to new collaborations and research opportunities. Annual awards and prizes will also be presented at this meeting.

Ends.

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