

TGA resolutions

THE Therapeutic Goods Committee has recommended the establishment of a subcommittee to advise on standards for biologicals, as one of several key resolutions made during its meeting last month.

It's also proposed another committee be established to advise on packaging matters relating to therapeutic goods, to focus on child resistant and non-reclosable packaging moves initiated under the now defunct Australia New Zealand Therapeutic Products Authority.

Other resolutions included proposals for consultation on the adoption of the *British Pharmacopoeia 2008* which enters force in the UK on 01 Jan, as well as a new Therapeutic Goods Order to specific microbiological standards for medicines.

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RGH Pharmacy

Due to popular demand the
RGH Pharmacy
Anticoagulation Handbook
is now available to the
pharmacy industry across Australia.

The handbook gives patients important information about warfarin treatment and has a chart to record INR results.

Repatriation General Hospital is making it available for purchase for \$2.80 per booklet, reduced to \$2.40 for PSA and SHPA members.

More information



Guild gets into weight loss

THE Pharmacy Guild has today announced a new weight loss program, saying the move is a key initiative in which pharmacy is "actively tackling the obesity problem" in Australia.

Christine Woodland of the Guild NSW Branch told *PD* this morning the program consists of a starter kit which was distributed to Guild members last week.

She said rather than endorsing any particular product, the kit helps pharmacies set up their own weight loss and health screening service, as an additional professional service for patients.

It includes guidelines, policies and procedures as well as details on the financial aspects of setting up such a service in a pharmacy,

Symbion saga staggers onwards

THE future of Symbion continues to be unclear, after a deadline set by suitor Primary Health Care passed last night without achieving the desired result.

Primary had offered to declare its bid unconditional if it received acceptances for more than half of Symbion by 7pm, but this morning advised it only had its hands on 32.86% of the company.

Meanwhile rival Healthscope has built its spoiling stake slightly, today confirming it now holds 11.91% of Symbion

aiming to help customers achieve healthy weight via consultations, weight loss products, ideas to improve physical activity and advice on developing an individual eating plan.

Guild President Kos Sclavos said professional services offered by community pharmacies such as weight management mean they provide customers with "a lot more than just medications".

Win a book from PD

TODAY *Pharmacy Daily* is giving away two copies of the new book by Sandra Ramacher which was launched last month.

Healing Foods: Cooking for Celiacs, Colitis, Crohn's and IBS is said to "reinvent favourite comfort foods" for people with digestive disorders and contains more than 200 recipes.

The first two *PD* readers to tell us who's in this picture with Sandra Ramacher at the launch in Sydney will receive a copy.

Email your answers ASAP to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.



Urgent rural audit

THE department of Health yesterday announced an immediate audit of the "shortage of health professionals in rural and regional Australia."

The report, to be provided by the end of Feb 08, will look at the reasons for the shortages to ensure a "thorough picture is presented of this far-reaching problem" across the country.

A statement said the department would provide advice on a range of options for attracting and retaining health professionals in these areas.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

A REPORT in this month's *Medical Journal of Australia* recommends the exact opposite of the baby bonus.

Professor Barry Walters slams the bonus on environmental grounds, saying paying parents for additional children fuels more carbon emissions and "greenhouse-unfriendly behaviour".

Walters argues the bonus should be replaced with a "baby levy" - which he says would be in line with "polluter pays" principles.

BAH humbug?

A pharmacy chain in Poland is being targeted by outraged consumers, who are up in arms about Christmas-themed toilet rolls on sale there.

The Rossman Pharmacy group is offering the toilet paper, which features pictures of reindeers and stars as well as messages in English saying 'Merry Christmas'.

Opponents described the festive toilet rolls as "repulsive" with 51-year-old Mieczyslaw Kasper "this could only have been dreamt up by someone exceptionally thoughtless."

"You use Christmas cards for sending greetings and you use toilet-roll for your backside," she continued.

HOW about a breath mint?

A doorman at an exclusive New York apartment building has been suspended for his severe halitosis.

Jonah Seeman hopes to be reinstated, saying he's stopped eating garlic.

Some residents defended Jonah, saying his job is "opening the door, not his mouth".

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