

## Post Script now on Facebook

POST Script magazine has joined the Facebook phenomenon by creating a group especially for pharmacy assistants.

Pharmacy assistants can join the Post Script group to interact with other assistants from around Australia, discuss industry topics and win beauty prizes.

Facebook, a worldwide social networking site, is free to join.

## Symbion acquired

PRIMARY Health Care this morning announced it's reached the required 90% threshold which allows it to take full control of its takeover target Symbion.

Primary said following the compulsory acquisition it "intends to consolidate Symbion as a wholly owned subsidiary."



**NEW**  
**No need to smoke**  
Program for Pharmacy  
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## HOT Travel

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* new travel feature.

Each week we plan to highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

Easter packages are still available this week, with the Shangri-La Hotel in Sydney offering an "Easter Eggs-travaganza" package from 16 to 27 March 2008. Designed for the whole family the deal includes overnight accommodation and Easter eggs on arrival. Parents can enjoy a buffet breakfast while the kids go on an Easter egg hunt, plus kids movie package and more. Priced from \$280, for reservations contact (02) 9250-6000.

Rydges Sabaya Resort in Port Douglas has got a range of packages on sale to suit

everyone: Stay 2 nights and 3rd night is free; or Outdoor Package - includes day trips to Cape Tribulation and the Reef; Pamper package - day spa voucher plus fruit platter and champagne on arrival. For more info on packages visit [www.rydges.com/portdouglas](http://www.rydges.com/portdouglas)

For those thinking of an overseas trip Qantas Holidays is offering 10% off any accommodation booking to Bangkok, London, Johannesburg, Singapore and Hong Kong when booked in conjunction with any Qantas Premium Economy airfare. For bookings call 132787.

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## Tamiflu under watch

THE safety of flu drug Tamiflu will be monitored in Australia following a decision in the US to update labels with a warning about possible delirium and other abnormal behaviour.

US regulators and the pharmaceutical company Roche have warned doctors of psychiatric events in patients taking the medication, with some cases resulting in death.

The changes come in the wake of reports of adverse effects, mostly seen in Japan.

Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration said local labels had also been updated, although

## Support for Champix

A LEADING health body has confirmed its recommendation of Champix (varenicline) as an appropriate treatment for people who are planning to stop smoking.

The UK-based National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommends the use of the prescription-only drug alongside patient support and behavioural counselling.

This latest guidance cross-references the NICE technology appraisal guidance on 'Varenicline for Smoking Cessation', published in July 2007, which concluded that Champix was 'superior to NRT and bupropion in achieving continuous abstinence'.

Champix has been PBS-listed since January 1, 2008.

no deaths and only one adverse reaction, for depression, had been reported here in the past two years.

A Roche spokeswoman said the side-effects reported in some people on Tamiflu are similar to those seen in influenza patients not taking the medication.

"The TGA will continue to monitor the safety of this product," she said.

## Pharmacist stabbed

A PHARMACIST was stabbed at a pharmacy in western Sydney yesterday afternoon.

According to NSW police, a man entered the pharmacy at Tregear around 2.30pm and asked about the owner of a car in the car park.

The 31-year-old pharmacist followed him to the car park to check on his car, when a second man ran towards him and stabbed him several times in the leg.

The victim was taken to Nepean Hospital and is now in a stable condition.

Police are appealing for witnesses.

## It just takes two

A GLASS or two of wine a day could more than double the risk of high blood pressure, according to a new study.

University of Bristol researchers, who combined data from eight studies involving almost 12,000 people, found only three units of alcohol a day, the equivalent of two small glasses of wine, more than doubled the risk of the condition.

The research shows that alcohol intake may play a major role in determining blood pressure.

## Natural Therapies & Natural Health Expo

Riverside Receptions,  
New Farm,  
Brisbane

13-14 March 2008

[www.naturaltherapyexpo.com.au](http://www.naturaltherapyexpo.com.au)  
phone 1300 789 845

**REGISTER NOW**



## DISPENSARY CORNER

THE mayor of a small village in France has warned residents not to die, because there's no room to bury them in the local overcrowded cemetery.

Mayor Gerard Lalanne of Sarpourenx posted notices in the council office, advising the 260 residents that "all persons not having a plot in the cemetery and wishing to be buried in Sarpourenx are forbidden from dying in the parish."

"Offenders will be severely punished," he added.

A CENTENARIAN is hoping to become the world's oldest competitive athlete by running in the upcoming London Marathon.

Age certainly isn't slowing 101-year-old Buster Martin down - he started working again three years ago because he was bored.

Martin is being trained for the race by Harmander Singh, who last year helped a 96-year-old break the marathon record for over-90-year-olds.

The sprightly centenarian recently ran a half marathon in just over five hours, with the BBC reporting that his first words on finishing the ordeal were "Where's my beer?"

AND at the other end of life, a 72-cm tall woman is claiming to be the shortest person to ever give birth.

33-year-old Stacey Herald of Dry Ridge, Kentucky USA was warned by doctors she shouldn't fall pregnant because of the risk that a baby could crush her internal organs.

However she went ahead anyway and has just given birth to a healthy child.

Stacey suffers from a condition called osteogenesis imperfecta, and almost doubled her body weight during the pregnancy.

The child was 46cm long when born - almost half its mother's height, and is expected to grow to a normal stature.

During the pregnancy "I looked like an Idaho potato with arms and legs," said the delighted new mother.