

## Compliance grant

THE Pharmacy Guild is inviting grant applications for research into medication compliance.

The project must investigate effective, sustainable and economically viable ways that people with poor compliance can be assisted and supported by community pharmacists.

"Pharmacists, as the medicines experts, are in the perfect position to assist patients with medication compliance.

"There are a number of opportunities for new or existing systems to be integrated into our clinical practice," said Patrick Reid, Acting National President of the Guild.

Applications must be received by Friday 28 April 2008 - more info [www.guild.org.au/research](http://www.guild.org.au/research).

## Vic board moves

THE Pharmacy Board of Victoria is moving to new premises at Level 6, 369 Royal Parade, Parkville Vic 3052.

## HIP parent loses \$897,000

HEALTH Corporation, the operator of the Health Information Pharmacy franchise group, has reported a six monthly loss of almost \$900,000.

The company said it had a "marked decline in revenues" due to only two new franchise signings during the period, offset

## Aromatherapy not healing

AROMATHERAPY may improve your mood, but it doesn't help your health, a US study has found.

Ohio State University researchers tested the stress-relieving and healing claims of two of the most popular aromatherapy scents, lavender and lemon, and concluded that beyond the placebo effect, there was no measurable improvement in patients' health.

In some cases, distilled water showed more of an effect than lavender.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

COMING soon to your pharmacy - disco earplugs.

The UK Royal National Institute for the Deaf has launched a competition in which entrants are aiming to create fashionable earplugs for young people to wear at clubs and concerts.

The institute said 90% of young clubbers are experiencing early signs of hearing damage, and with the advent of iPods people are "getting more used to the idea of putting things in their ears," according to a spokesman.

CSIRO researchers have enlisted the help of bees in their quest to create an electronic nose.

Scientists at the University of Queensland are conducting trials in which different aromas are blown over the insects and measuring their reactions, with lead researcher Dr Judith Reinhard saying bees are exceptionally sensitive to smell.

"The plan that CSIRO has is to design a specially sensitive electronic nose which you can hold over a wine bottle and tell what kind of chemicals are in the wine," she said.

VIAGRA needed here.

An Italian man is claiming compensation of almost half a million dollars, saying his wife's constant nagging has left him completely impotent.

Testimony in a court case brought by Sergio Vinucci included medical evidence of excessive stress which he claims led to the condition.

"All she ever does is complain. It is extremely stressful and it has left me unable to be a man," he said.

## Today's PD wine fact - number 25!

WELCOME to our regular *Pharmacy Daily* wine feature.

WITH Easter rapidly approaching people's minds turn to chocolate...or in a wine lover's case, sweet wine!

Sweet Wines are made in varying styles and levels of complexity and are crafted either from grapes with high concentrations of sugar (dessert wines) or by the addition of a spirit (fortified wines).

Australia produces some world-class dessert wines - sometimes referred to as "stickies" because of the luscious texture of the wine - traditionally made from grapes harvested later in the season.

This allows the concentration of grape sugars in the berry and a naturally occurring fungus, called botrytis, to attack the grape, gradually drawing out the moisture and intensifying the sugar concentration, acidity and fruit flavour.

However, sugar levels can also be increased in warm climates by letting the sun and air dry out the grapes to make raisin wine or in frosty climates by freezing out some of the water to make ice wine.

De Bortoli Noble One Semillon (\$22 a half bottle from [www.debortoli.com.au](http://www.debortoli.com.au)) is a well known Australian sweet wine.

Made from Semillon grapes that have been affected by botrytis, it has some lovely aromas of citrus, nectarine and quince which are followed by a palate of apricot and peach.

The real quality is in the citrusy finish which has well balanced oak vanilla, making the wine rich without being heavy or having an excessively sweet finish that can detract from these styles of wines.

The Bunnamagoo Autumn Semillon (\$18 a half bottle from [www.bunnamagoo.wines.com.au](http://www.bunnamagoo.wines.com.au)) is less well known but just as nice.

Here the sun plays an important role (although it does have some botrytis), with the grapes left on the vines until late June by which time they're almost completely raisined.

The result is a complex bouquet of mandarin and peach with hints of fresh lemon.

The palate is fresh with characters of honey and nougat.

by two departures.

There were also a "number of significant accounting write-offs".

HIP has recently completed a major restructure, bringing business coaching services in-house, and is no longer providing mezzanine finance.

Directors said anticipated growth would see the company transition into profitability on a monthly basis in the June quarter.

CEO Ken Lee said "controlled expansion of the franchise (HIP) and other initiatives give us good cause for optimism".

## Just ask Fred

PCA-NU's new Fred Health brand today launched its flagship management software designed to simplify pharmacy business operations.

Fred Office is claimed to unite a pharmacy's dispensing, POS and other business systems into one package that looks and works like Microsoft Outlook.

New advanced inventory features include displaying dynamic rate of usage, which allows pharmacies to respond quickly to changes in sales patterns and accurately control stock on shelves.

Pharmacists can also search, analyse and maintain all of their data information and systems from one place, incl inventory management, customer accounts, and electronic ordering.

When online, it automatically connects to web services such as AppCAT Master Item Catalogue, Fred EFTPOS and the PharmX Ordering Gateway.

According to Fred Health ceo Paul Naismith, "Our goal is to help pharmacists spend more time with their customers and walk out the door to their families at night, with management software that saves you time and makes running the business as intuitive as possible."

## Another GC robbery

A GOLD Coast pharmacy was broken into last night - the third in the area in less than a week.

Police say a man used a rock to smash his way into the Carrara store at about 9pm and then loaded pseudoephedrine-based medicines into a washing basket.