

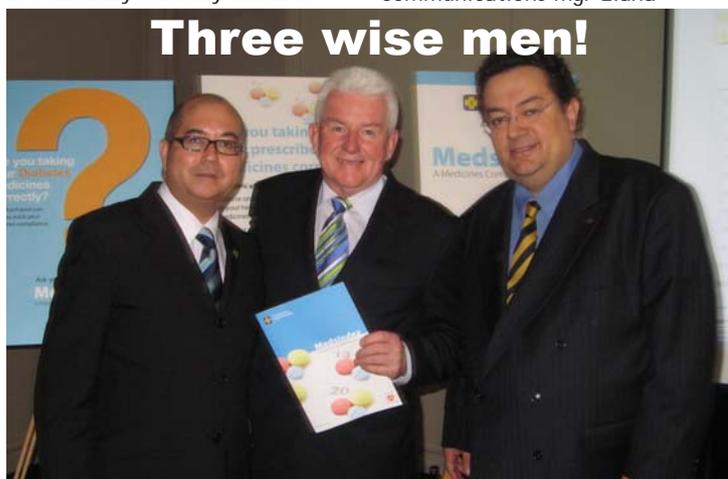
## Sigma still keen

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals is in the running to purchase the consumer and pharmacy divisions of Symbion Health, following its takeover by Primary Health Care.

At Sigma's results announcement earlier this week (PD Mon) ceo Elmo de Alwis confirmed he was "talking to a couple of parties as joint venture partners, but there's still work to be done."

## PSA on healing

ASSOCIATE Professor Geoff Sussman will give an overview of factors influencing healing next Tue 01 Apr at the Victorian College of Pharmacy monthly lecture.



## Three wise men!

ABOVE: Diabetes Foundation head Dr Gary Deed was one of the presenters at a sneak preview last week of the new Pharmacy Guild MedsIndex tool (PD yesterday).

Deed said MedsIndex would play a key role in helping patients achieve control of their diabetes, and reinforced the importance of pharmacy in handling the ailment.

"Community pharmacy is a fundamental component of our diabetes management initiatives

## 2008 pharmacy finalists

THE Pharmacy Guild has announced the finalists for the Pharmacy of the Year 2008 competition, with the ultimate winners to be revealed at APP2008 on the Gold Coast tomorrow.

There were three categories which pharmacies could enter - the People's Choice, Professional Services and Innovation, and the Rural or Small Pharmacy category.

Consumers were invited to vote for their favourite pharmacy in the People's Choice section, while the other two categories were assessed by Pharmacy Guild communications mgr Elana

through the NDSS," he said.

Deed is pictured left with Dr John D'Arcy, who is featured on the MedsIndex shelf and poster collateral, as well as Guild President Kos Sclavos.

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Huthnance, Australian College of Pharmacy Practice and Mgt ceo John Chapman, and J&J Consumer Healthcare Pharmacy Relations Manager Graham Perl.

Guild President Kos Sclavos said all entries received were of an extremely high calibre, reflecting excellence in the delivery of healthcare services as well as outreach to customers and the local community.

The five finalists are:

- Centro Mildura Pharmacy, Vic
- City Market Chemist, Canberra
- Sinnamon Park Pharmacy, Qld
- Terry White Chemists Myer Centre, Brisbane Qld
- Woodrising Pharmacy, NSW

Senator Jan McLucas will announce the category winners and the overall Pharmacy of the Year 2008 as part of her APP presentation tomorrow.

## Addiction premiere

THE Healthcare in Pharmacy conference in Melbourne during May will feature the global premiere of the documentary *Fighting the Dragon with Luck* - a story about opiate addiction seen through the eyes of consumers in the suburb of Brunswick.

The film has been produced by Melbourne community pharmacist Angelo Priccolo and has also been shortlisted for screening at the Drugs & Harm Reduction Film Festival in Barcelona.

## HOT Travel Deals

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.

For something a bit different Bench International is offering a saving of \$800 per couple on a 10 night Namibia Safari on May 6. Price is \$3750 including accom and meals. More info at [www.benchinternational.com.au](http://www.benchinternational.com.au).

Wendy Wu Tours is offering a saving of \$500 per person on its Dreams of Nature tour of China, a 26 day package departing May 10 priced from \$4580. The price includes airfares, taxes, all meals, accommodation, daily tours and entrance fees and an English speaking escort. More info call 1300-727-998 or see [www.wendywutours.com.au](http://www.wendywutours.com.au).

Last minute deals are available on 8 -day Mediterranean Cruises departing from Venice or Athens through Euroscape Travel.

Priced from \$1992, pay for one person and the second is free. Only available on April departures, price includes all meals, drinks and entertainment. For more details visit [www.euroscape.com.au](http://www.euroscape.com.au).

With April school holidays only a few weeks away lastminute.com.au is offering great deals on domestic hotels as well as overseas holiday packages. For more info visit [www.lastminute.com.au](http://www.lastminute.com.au).

## DISPENSARY CORNER

BREAK out the birthday cake.

Viagra turns ten today, having been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration on 27 Mar 1998.

The little blue pill was originally being trialled as a cardiovascular drug but Pfizer senior medical director Brian Klee said patients taking part didn't want to give the medication back because of sildenafil's side effect of "erections that were harder, firmer and lasted longer."

A HOSPITAL in Hawaii has clarified its rules on pets, after a man took a horse up in a lift in order to cheer up a sick relative.

The man and his steed were stopped by security guards on the third floor, apparently after passing through the hospital's lobby without being challenged.

A hospital spokeswoman said there was a visitation policy for dogs and cats, but not for horses.

She said officials managed to remove the visitor and the horse with "just a few scuff marks."

DEAD flies in bottled water are a major health hazard, according to a Canadian man who's suing a supplier for about \$300,000 in damages.

Waddah Mustapha said he and his wife saw a dead fly in an unopened bottle of drinking water delivered to their home in November 2001.

Although they didn't drink any of it, they say the incident led to "major depression, anxiety, specific phobias and obsessional thoughts flowing from seeing the dead flies in the water."

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