

## Today's issue of PD

PHARMACY Daily today has two pages of news, continuing our coverage of last weekend's APP conference on the Gold Coast.

There's also a new competition for PD readers - see below.

## TGA tick for new asthma supplier

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised Australian public company KarmelSonix that its local subsidiary PulmoSonix has been included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

The move means the company can commence commercial sales of its "innovative non-invasive acoustic tools for disease management of asthma and related pulmonary disorders."

KarmelSonix products are based on technology which gives a quantitative measurement of wheezing in asthma patients.

## Regranex warning

US FDA officials have launched an investigation into foot gel Regranex, saying the medication commonly used by diabetics could increase the risk of cancer.

## WIN AN AUSTRALIS BRUSH ON FOUNDATION



EACH day this week, *Pharmacy Daily* is giving subscribers the chance to win an Australis Perfection Brush on Foundation.

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To win, simply be the first to send the correct answer to the question below to [info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Question: Name one of the shades the Australis foundation is available in?

## Pharmacies of the Year

TERRY White Chemists Myer Centre in Brisbane has been named the overall winner of the 2008 Pharmacy of the Year award.

The announcement was made at APP on the Gold Coast last Friday morning by Senator Jan McLucas, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing.

McLucas made the keynote address at the conference (see separate story) and congratulated the winners for their contribution to community pharmacy.

Terry White Myer Centre - where Guild President Kos Sclavos occasionally stands behind the dispensary counter - also received the award for Professional Services and Innovation.

The Rural or Small Pharmacy category was awarded to Sinnamon Park Pharmacy in Sinnamon Park, Queensland, while the People's Choice award went to Centro Mildura Pharmacy in Mildura, Vic.

Conference chairman and Qld Guild President Tim Logan said the People's Choice award had seen 12000 votes cast for more than 500 pharmacies across the country.

Sclavos congratulated the winners, saying they were all worthy of the title of "ultimate healthcare destination."

"The winners are delivering real healthcare

solutions for their customers," he said.

"They have excelled in the delivery of pharmacy services, and show community pharmacy in the best possible light to patients, health authorities and the Governments of Australia."

The award judges said any of the five finalists (PD Thu) would have been worthy winners.

The winners of each category received \$5000, while the overall winner also took home a further \$5000.

Deborah Harding and Joanne Morvell, the proprietors of People's Choice winner Centro Mildura, said they planned to use their prize money to help a young person from their region to pursue a pharmacy career.

They're pictured below with Senator McLucas (left).



## NT Project STOP

PSEUDOEPHEDRINE will be more tightly controlled in the Northern Territory from tomorrow with the advent of legislation which makes it mandatory for pharmacists to record the sale of all pseudoephedrine products.

The move gives NT pharmacies the legislative backing to participate in the online Project STOP recording system.

## S8 e-Bulletin

THIS week's edition of the RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin gives an overview of Schedule 8 drugs and associated obligations and recording requirements for pharmacists.

The bulletin particularly relates to South Australian legislation but similar rules apply nationwide.

More info from Chris Alderman [chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au).

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## PMP program launch

THE PSA, Guild and the federal health department on Sat announced the launch of the Patient Medication Profile Program, which aims to reduce the risk of medication related adverse events by helping patients better understand and manage their medications.

A Patient Medication Profile (PMP) is a comprehensive summary of all the regular medication taken by a patient - including prescription, OTC and complementary medicines.

A key part of the program has been the development by the Guild of a comprehensive image database for medications to ensure consistent descriptions of different tablets for patients.

The service is to be provided for patients with a recognised need for a profile, and requires a \$5 annual fee payable to the pharmacy providing the service.

It's available to all Section 90 community pharmacies across the country, with participating outlets to be issued with an operations manual as well as promotional materials and relevant guidelines and professional standards.

## UK under-2 OTC recommendations

THE British Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority has advised that a number of OTC cold and flu remedies should no longer be used in children aged less than two.

An official statement said that a number of products for children were being withdrawn from display until new packaging is produced removing dosage instructions for children under 2.

The MHRA said children suffering from coughs or colds should be treated with paracetamol or ibuprofen, with saline nasal drops and a simple cough syrup such as glycerol, honey or lemon.

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## Online training for assistants

THE Pharmacy Guild held a free session for pharmacy assistants at APP2008, providing a preview of its new eTraining in analgesia.

*Analgesic and Anti-Inflammatory Products*, developed in partnership with Reckitt Benckiser, is the second online, nationally accredited Guild Training unit.

Session participants were taken through the program and then answered a series of multiple-choice questions using an electronic keypad.

Five assistants won iPods, while all participants received a Certificate of Attendance.

Pharmacy Guild national president Kos Sclavos said that training pharmacy assistants in the appropriate sale of pain medicines was essential.

"Pain is one of the most common problems customers seek advice about from pharmacy assistants, which is why training pharmacy assistants in this area is so important," he said.

## DAA deadline alert

ALMOST 4000 pharmacies have registered for the Dose Administration Aids Program, and are being reminded that the deadline for the submission of the first set of evaluation data under the program is 30 Jun.

Pharmacies who provide the baseline data by that date will receive the full incentive payment of \$1900+GST.

PSA president Brian Grogan said the program was an important way pharmacy could "demonstrate the value it can deliver through the provision of high-quality professional services in an accessible community setting."

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## Complementary grants

THE Department of Health yesterday announced more than \$7m in grants for research into complementary medicine.

Senator Jan McLucas announced the funding at the third International Congress on Complementary Medicine Research in Sydney, saying complementary medicine "represents a substantial proportion of activity in the Australian health care sector."

"There is growing testimony that complementary medicine can make a significant, cost-effective contribution to public health in chronic disease management and in preventative care," she said.

The Australian Self-Medication Industry welcomed the announcement, with executive director Juliet Seifert saying the funding would "help to build a stronger evidence base to inform the widespread use of complementary medicines."

"There is a real need for research that can provide clinical evidence to assist health professionals and consumers to

## McLucas warning

SENATOR Jan McLucas has reminded pharmacists of their obligation to provide consumer medicines information.

Speaking at APP2008 on Fri, she said "the experience of just about everybody I have spoken to is that the information is simply not provided consistently."

She reminded attendees that this wasn't an optional extra and is "part of the payment system".

## Singulair link

THE Food and Drug Administration in the USA has warned of a possible link between asthma medication Singulair and suicidal thoughts.

An FDA statement said there was a "possible association" between the drug and "behaviour/mood changes, suicidality (suicidal thinking and behaviour) and suicide."

The TGA said it hadn't received any reports of "suicidality associated with Singulair" but there had been two reports of depression linked with the medication.

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select those products that are best for them," she said.

One of the projects approved will see Flordis' herbal preparation Iberogast compared with omeprazole, the most common prescription medicine for the treatment of dyspepsia.

Flordis md Nigel Pollard said the trial was the first of its kind to compare a specific herbal preparation with a prescription drug, and was an "important step forward in recognising the legitimacy of clinically proven natural medicines."

## Mental as pharmacists!

THE APP2008 gala dinner was a sold-out success, with 800 delegates partying at Conrads Jupiters Casino venue.

A fireworks display kicked off proceedings to celebrate the Pharmacy Guild's 80th anniversary, while national president Kos Sclavos and executive director Kieran Schneemann led a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday".

Mr Schneemann hosted the evening wearing a curly black-haired wig in an amusing impersonation of Mr Sclavos.

Sigma CEO Elmo de Alwis was also a speaker at the event.

Outside the dining room, people queued for up to an hour to have their fortunes told by tarot card readers, while a cabaret singer and dancers added colour and energy.

Pharmacists and company representatives then proved they knew how to "Live It Up" as they filled the dance floor for the main entertainment provided by popular 1980s band *Mental As Anything*.

## Flu vaccine trials

7000 fit and healthy people across Australia and NZ are being recruited for one of the largest ever influenza vaccine trials conducted in Australasia.

The trial aims to evaluate the effectiveness of a vaccine which is already on the market, with participants to be aged 18-64, in good health and not having been immunized for flu in six months.

More info 1800 332101.

## DISPENSARY CORNER

PHARMACY conferences are certainly worth attending, according to Roger McGregor of Rural and Small Pharmacy of the Year for 2008, Sinnamon Park Pharmacy in Queensland.

During a presentation as part of the Pharmacy of the Year Awards at APP2008 yesterday (see p1) McGregor said he'd begun to transform his pharmacy after attending the Australian Institute of Pharmacy Management conference in Perth four years ago.

He said the conference had inspired him to establish a seven step plan in his business - but added that he'd also made the key discovery of the Margaret River wine region during the trip and had since consumed "copious amounts" of the region's fine products.

PARLIAMENTARY Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing, Jan McLucas, gave attendees at the APP2008 conference on Fri a quick reminder of the less than salutary start of pharmacy in Australia.

McLucas said the first person to operate a pharmacy in Sydney after the British settlement in 1788 was a pardoned convict called John Tawell - who after establishing a successful business here returned to the UK and was later hanged for poisoning his mistress with a mixture of prussic acid and stout.

"I can only tell you these tales because the Minister is not here - both her parents were pharmacists so she would not approve of such story telling," McLucas added.

PHARMACY Guild president Kos Sclavos has been called many things in his career, but received a new nickname at the APP2008 conference on the Gold Coast last weekend.

Sclavos protégé and 2007 Young Pharmacist of the Year, Aaron D'Souza, who was one of the comperes of the event, said during one of his introductions that "We should call our national president 'The Postman' because once again, he delivers."