

Today's issue of PD

TODAY'S issue of *Pharmacy Daily* includes a full page from the Pharmacy Practice Foundation (see page 2) about nominations for the 2008 Pharmacy practice Medals of Excellence.

The medals reward those pharmacists who have had a significant role in advancing pharmacy practice in Australia.

Pharmacy bulletin

THIS week's edition of the RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin covers venous thromboembolism prophylaxis - copies available via chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au.

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ASMI announces line-up

ATTENDEES at the upcoming Australian Self-Medication Industry conference will be updated with the absolute latest on Australian pharmacy, with speakers announced today incl TGA chief Rohan Hammett, Guild

Teens popping prescription pills

AN ALARMING new study of 2813 young Australians aged between 12 and 25 has found that 23.5% have taken prescription drugs recreationally, often under the mistaken belief that they're safe.

The study found that the trend, dubbed 'pharming', is particularly popular with youths aged from 12 and 17, mainly because the drugs are cheap and easy to obtain.

Often the drugs are swiped from household medicine cabinets, and in some cases have even been traded in school playgrounds.

According to the study, pharmaceutical medicines including anti-depressants, painkillers and ADHD medications like Ritalin have now become the teen drug of choice, with twice as many regular users as marijuana.

Pharmacy manhunt

QLD police are searching for a man who threatened staff at a Maroochydore pharmacy at gunpoint yesterday, demanding pethidine and morphine.

They're also looking into a raid on a Mooloolabah pharmacy.

Huge US drug deal

PHARMACY giant Walgreen, the largest US pharmacy chain, has offered to buyout Longs Drug Stores for US\$3 billion, topping an earlier bid from competitor CVS Caremark Corp by \$3.50 a share.

The Longs board says it is now looking at both proposals, but has warned shareholders that Walgreen's proposal is just an expression of interest and may not result in a transaction.

President Kos Sclavos and parliamentary secretary to the minister for health and ageing Jan McLucas.

McLucas will speak on "Future directions in therapeutics regulation," with the overall theme of the conference being *Integrating Self Care into the Healthcare System*.

The event, which will also incorporate the ASMI Sales & Marketing Awards presented by Dr John D'Arcy, will be held on Wed 19 Sep in Sydney, and registrations are now open at www.asmi.org.au/events.

Champix reactions

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has confirmed that 254 Australian users of quit-smoking medication Champix have complained of adverse reactions.

About 100,000 people here have been prescribed the drug.

Bad baby formula

POLICE in China had detained 19 people as part of an ongoing investigation into how a powdered baby formula became contaminated with melamine, a chemical used in some plastics.

Last week the Sanlu Group, China's biggest producer of milk powder formula, recalled 635 tons of the product after it was implicated in the death of one infant and after 430 others were diagnosed with kidney problems.

The gov't says it thinks the melamine was deliberately added to make it seem like the powder had more protein.

Beauty winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Trine Nielsen of Scott-Dibben Amcal Pharmacy in Kotara, NSW who was the winner of a Polishing Body Wash in the Total Beauty Network competition in last Friday's issue of *Pharmacy Daily*.



DISPENSARY CORNER

COULD the key to longevity be the childish pursuit of tree climbing?

An 90-year-old Chinese man has boasted that there is no tree he can't climb after saying that tree climbing is the best thing in his life.

He reportedly told the *Yanzhao Metropolis News* that "My family was very poor when I was a child, so I climbed trees each day to fetch leaves to make food for the family."

Now his family has banned him from climbing tall trees, but he says he still wanders to the mountains to satisfy his addiction by climbing trees as tall as 20m.

MAN'S best friend doesn't go far enough for this dog.

A German Shepherd in the US saved his owner's life by dialling 911 when the man had a seizure.

The dog had been trained to call emergency services if his owner was incapacitated.

Police were dispatched to the house and the man recovered after two days in hospital.

AUSTRALIA isn't the only country with an ageing population.

The number of centenarians in has for the first time this year spiked to over 36,000.

The current figure of 36,276 is up nearly 4000 on last year.

That compares with the figure from 1963, when only 153 people were aged over 100.

Around 86% of the over 100s are women.

Nearly 20,000 more Japanese people are due to turn 100 this year alone; an expensive number for the Japanese Government, which presents centenarians with a congratulatory silver cup.



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Sanofi-Aventis and the Pharmacy Practice Foundation share the vision that outstanding Pharmacy Practice should be recognised.

This medal is awarded to a community or hospital pharmacist who is putting new professional ideas into their practice. This will have resulted in practice changes that are innovative, differentiated and of demonstrable value to the consumer and the profession. It should be possible to articulate and assess the value of these ideas, albeit subjectively.

Please nominate a community or hospital pharmacist who is putting good professional ideas into their practice.

The 2008 medal will be presented to the recipient at the Governors' Dinner to be held on Tuesday, 18 November 2008.

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

- 1997 - Reginald Maher
- 1998 - Raymond Feller (*posthumously*)
- 1999 - Benjamin Basger
- 2000 - The Illawarra Pharmacists Asthma Care Team
- 2001 - Phillip Davis
- 2002 - Bob Crane & Ben Wilkins
- 2003 - Arnold Green
- 2004 - Susan Samimi
- 2005 - Susan Welch
- 2006 - Rhonda White
- 2007 - James Delahunty

Nominations should include the nominee's contact information, specific details of the contribution made and duration, and reasons why the nominee is considered a suitable choice. It should also include a summary of 500 words or less and a Curriculum Vitae.

Please forward to:

Andrea Thompson,
Pharmacy Practice Foundation A15
University of Sydney NSW 2006 or
email to: ppf@pharm.usyd.edu.au

Deadline: Friday, 31 October 2008



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