



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

This week's update from the Guild

Peter Leonard

The Pharmacy Guild is greatly saddened by the passing of former Communications Consultant, Peter Leonard.

In addition to his role as the head of our national communications for over 10 years, Mr Leonard was also the long-serving presenter on Canberra's local television news.

Mr Leonard was directly responsible for raising the profile of community pharmacy in the 1990s and played a key role in transforming the Guild into the highly relevant and influential health organisation it is today.

Mr Leonard joined the Guild's National Secretariat as the Communications Consultant in June 1993.

He continued in that role until September 2003.

Even after that, he maintained a close personal and professional relationship with the Guild, including continuing master of ceremonies duties at important Guild functions and conferences.

Many pharmacists would remember Mr Leonard from his work as master of ceremonies for the Australian Pharmacy Professional (APP) Conference.

His contributions at APP helped to make it a leading pharmacy industry conference in Australia.

During his time at the Guild, Mr Leonard steered the Guild's Communications team through four Federal Elections and two Community Pharmacy Agreements.

He also oversaw a highly effective community pharmacy campaign, which culminated in the revitalisation of Pharmacy Week in 1998 as a way to promote community pharmacy and the benefits of the current system of ownership.

At the same time, he helped develop the Guild's political database and assisted with the establishment of our website.

Peter will be greatly missed by the Guild and his contribution to community pharmacy in Australia will always be remembered.

Guild promotes QCPP

THE Pharmacy Guild has launched a new community service announcement advocating the customer benefits of the Quality Care Pharmacy Program.

The move coincides with the launch yesterday of the 2008 Ask Your Pharmacist Week.

Guild President Kos Sclavos said the guild was proud of the QCPP's achievement over the last decade.

"It is in line with international gold standards for quality assurance and it is important that consumers are aware of the benefits to them," he said.

"The Program guarantees that Australian pharmacies are among the best in the world."

RGH e-Bulletin

THIS week's Pharmacy E-Bulletin from the Repatriation General Hospital in South Australia gives an overview of Byetta (exenatide), which is the first compound in a new class of antihyperglycaemics.

The bulletin is available at no charge by emailing chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au.

Lunch for lungs

THE Australian Lung Foundation has, for the first time, coordinated International Lung Cancer Awareness Month and World COPD Day under the one banner for Australia - Australian Lung Health Awareness Month in November.

Pharmacies can participate in a number of activities organised by the Foundation to raise the profile of lung disease and to raise funds, including *Lunch for Lungs* on Melbourne Cup Day.

See www.lungnet.com.au.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

SALES of red hair dye in South Australia probably soared this week after the Adelaide Zoo offered free entry to all rangas.

Anyone with ginger hair - whether natural or dyed - could enter the zoo at no charge, as part of a campaign to highlight the endangered orangutan.

According to zoo spokesman Kevin Evans, redheads are also becoming more scarce.

"The genes that carry redheads are breeding out to brunettes and blondes," he said.

THE unkindest cut of all.

A 61-year-old US man is suing surgeons for mental anguish and lost enjoyment, after they cut off his penis without consent.

Philip Seaton was in hospital for a circumcision, but doctors at the hospital in Louisville, Kentucky said they had to perform the radical amputation after discovering cancer.

RESEARCHERS are warning about possible extreme consequences, including death, from a so-called "sumo virus" which is linked to contact sports such as rugby and wrestling.

The alert follows a study of *herpes gladiatorum* in 39 infected Japanese sumo wrestlers, with the Tokyo University scientists saying the unusual strain was easily spread through broken skin, and more severe than other virus types.

They said the communal living conditions normally experienced by sumo wrestlers provided the perfect environment for the virus to spread.

In the UK the same type of infection is called "scrumpox".

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