



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

This week's update from the Guild

Pharmacy Women's Congress

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia invites *Pharmacy Daily* readers to attend the 2009 Pharmacy Women's Congress.

The Pharmacy Women's Congress is an annual event that brings together female pharmacists from around Australia to discuss the future of pharmacy.

In 2009 the Congress will focus on personal and professional development to reflect the Congress theme - "Gaining Knowledge, Sharing Experiences, Building Futures".

Celebrating its six year anniversary in 2009, the Congress will be held from 14 to 16 August at the Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort and Spa, Gold Coast, Queensland.

Why not escape the cold and join some like-minded female pharmacists on the fabulous Gold Coast?

Registration for this important event opens this month, and there is a range of options available.

Similarly, there is a range of accommodation packages.

In order to ensure you do not miss out, visit www.pharmacywomenscongress.com.au for further information (including program details), or email womenscongress2009@guild.org.au to be added to the Pharmacy Women's Congress mailing list.

Rural scholarship winners

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced the 35 lucky recipients of this year's Rural and Remote Pharmacy Scholarships.

The scholarship provide each student with up to \$40,000 during their time at university, with Guild President Kos Sclavos saying the program also encourages the holders to pursue a pharmacy career in rural or remote Australia after graduation.

\$10,000 a year is provided each year for up to four years of study to help cover the costs associated with studying away from home in either undergraduate or graduate pharmacy courses.

Participants also take part in a mentor program, usually in partnership with an existing rural pharmacist, which aims to reinforce the students' ties to rural and regional Australia.

"The mentoring program not only helps the students develop a learning plan, but it provides support to students outside of the university environment.

"It's an important tool for supporting students who have come from rural and remote areas and are studying away from their family support base," Sclavos said.

The program is managed by the Guild and funded by the Health Department in recognition of the key role that pharmacists play in maintaining the health of all Australians.

This year's recipients of the Rural and Remote Pharmacy Scholarships are:

- **Alec Payne** of Port Macquarie, NSW (University of Newcastle)
- **April Denehy** of Yamba, NSW (Qld University of Technology)
- **Ashley Bowman** of Wellington NSW (Charles Sturt University)
- **Carly Jeffree** of Brunswick Heads NSW (Uni of Newcastle)
- **Emma Beaufort** of Wagga Wagga NSW (Charles Sturt Uni)
- **Hayley Bell** of Wells Crossing, NSW (University of Sydney)
- **Jon Knight** of Coonabarabran NSW (University of Newcastle)
- **Judy Wong** of Padstow NSW (University of Sydney)
- **Kate O'Dea** of Tullamore NSW (Charles Sturt University)
- **Kathleen Doherty** of Mt St Thomas NSW (Murdoch Uni)
- **Melinda Carr** of Rathmines NSW (University of Newcastle)
- **Louise Hartcher** of Tregear NSW (University of Queensland)
- **Rachael Busch** of Frederickton NSW (Charles Sturt University)
- **Rachel Nauluvula** of Cooranbong NSW (Newcastle)
- **Tess Hall** of North Lambton NSW (University of Newcastle)
- **Thomas Ferguson** of Wagga Wagga NSW (Charles Sturt Uni)
- **Yazmin Crossingham** of Taree NSW (Charles Sturt University)
- **Hailey Koch** of Booleroo Centre, SA (Uni of South Australia)
- **Susan Kenny** of Yeelanna, SA (University of South Australia)
- **Clarissa Rentsch** of Kennington Vic (La Trobe University)
- **Daniel Palmer** of Port Fairy, Vic (University of Newcastle)
- **Emma Jones** of Mildura, Vic (University of South Australia)
- **Kahlinda Mahoney** of Colac, Vic (Monash University)
- **Lee Ross** of Strathfieldsaye, Vic (Monash University)
- **Mark Parlicki** of Flora Hill Vic (La Trobe University)
- **Melissa Austin** of Darley, Vic (La Trobe University)
- **Donna Grossule** of Leanyer, NT (Charles Darwin University)
- **Bonnie Norrish** of Como, WA (Curtin University of Technology)
- **Jarryd Kelly** of Busselton, WA (Curtin University of Technology)
- **Adam Vardy** of North Rockhampton, Qld (Uni of Qld)
- **Jane Lewis** of Townsville, Qld (James Cook University)
- **Luke Bergen** of Cordalba, Qld (University of Queensland)
- **Victor Lau** of Gladstone, Qld (Queensland Uni of Technology)
- **Mitchell Arthur** of Devonport, Tas (University of Tasmania)
- **Sarah Ashman** of Norwood, Tas (University of Tasmania)

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Le Tan winners

CONGRATULATIONS to Linda Cook of National Pharmacies, and Rebekah Hodson of IMS Health who were the final two winners in last week's Le Tan competition.

Keep watching *Pharmacy Daily* for more exciting competitions in upcoming issues

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Dipak now on board

THE Guild Group has announced that Victorian Guild President Dipak Sanghvi became one of the Guild Group directors on 01 Apr.

Sanghvi is also chairman of Gold Cross as well as of listed medical research firm IM Medical.

Expo rego goes live

PROSPECTIVE visitors to the upcoming Pharmacy Expo 2009 in Sydney can now register online for the event which will take place 12-14 Jun 09.

The free trade expo will allow visitors to compare the latest pharmacy products and services.

As well as registering for the expo, guests can register for the associated education program which includes 50 individual topics offering up to 20 CPD points for attendance.

See www.pharmacyexpo.com.au.

RGH E-Bulletin

THIS week's Repatriation and General Hospital Pharmacy E-Bulletin gives an overview of renal colic, which can be a symptom of a range of ailments.

The update also provides a range of recommended analgesia options for the condition.

The bulletin is available by email from Chris Alderman on chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au.



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PSA slams codeine plan

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has backed other industry players in opposing proposals by the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee to impose new restrictions on products containing codeine (PD Thu).

PSA President, Warwick Plunkett, said the NDPSC plans "do not seem to be evidence based, but rather rely on anecdotal material to support moves for the package restrictions and the rescheduling.

"There does not seem to be supporting evidence of just what proportion of illicit use there is to legitimate use to justify these strong measures," he said.

While the PSA fully supports moves to stop the illicit use of such products, the NDPSC proposals "would greatly disadvantage the vast majority of codeine users who used the products for legitimate therapeutic purposes," Plunkett

NAPSA adds new Associate Membership

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association has included a new 'Associate Membership' stream under its recently revised constitution.

NAPSA Associate Membership is available to all members of the pharmacy industry and costs \$50 per year.

Associate members receive four editions of NAPSA's quarterly *Placebo* publication as well as e-Newsletters and invitations to all NAPSA events.

NAPSA National President, Lisa Goldsmith, said that as well as adding another income stream, the Associate Membership category would also increase awareness of the association amongst Australian pharmacists.

For more information about NAPSA Associate Membership email l.goldsmith@napsa.org.au.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

THE next time a patient complains with an inexplicable allergy, ask them about whether they have any new furniture.

That's the recommendation of a report in this month's *Allergy* journal, which cites a "toxic fungicide in imported furniture" for a big jump in allergic reactions around the world.

Chronic dermatitis, skin burns, breathing difficulties and eye irritation are symptoms of the allergy which has been particularly associated with new leather sofas imported from China.

Apparently the couches contain sachets of dimethyl fumarate, which when warmed by body heat causes a toxic vapour to be emitted.

The problem is most severe in the UK where 15 furniture retailers sold the couches, and an expected multi-million dollar compensation bill for victims, some of whom were hospitalised as a result.

IF at first you don't succeed...

A Russian man is being treated in hospital after surviving a leap from a fifth floor balcony - twice.

Alexei Roskov says he doesn't know why he leapt the first time, but it had something to do with the three bottles of vodka which he had drunk in succession.

His wife, who'd watched in horror as he stepped off the ledge, was stunned when he survived and staggered back upstairs with barely a scratch.

However she was understandably fairly upset about the incident, with Roskov saying that "when I came back up and heard my wife screaming angrily at me I thought it was best if I left the room again - out the window."

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