



New Pharmacy of the Year categories

THE Pharmacy Guild is now inviting entries for the 2010 Pharmacy of the Year Awards, which are being offered in three new categories and with a "new, simpler submission process."

The new categories are: 'Excellence in pharmacy business,' 'Excellence in community engagement' and 'Innovation in professional services' - replacing the previous Large and Small pharmacy categories.

The popular People's Choice Award will also be conducted for 2010, with winners in the four categories sharing in a \$17500 cash prize pool - as well as receiving a trophy, local press and trade media coverage, and travel and registration costs for the APP 2010 conference.

Each category winner will be in the running to win the overall Pharmacy of the Year award.

The awards are again being offered by the Guild in conjunction with Johnson and Johnson Pacific, with submissions closing Friday 18th December 2009.

Entry forms are available now at guild.org.au/pharmacyoftheyear.

Codeine restrictions blasted

THE rescheduling of codeine combination products announced by the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee (PD yesterday) has provoked outrage from across the pharmacy community.

The Pharmacy Guild, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Australian Self-Medication Industry all issued statements deploring the move, which is likely to see an increase in 'pharmacy shopping'.

The Guild said it was regrettable that the committee had rejected its proposal on codeine, which would have seen sales tracked using NotifyRx, an online system expanding the technology used for the Project STOP pseudoephedrine diversion system.

"The Guild is still of the opinion that the NDPSC's decision to limit the availability of these products through the scheduling arrangements are not the solution.

"These changes alone are unlikely to influence individual misuse behaviour," it said.

Guild President Kos Sclavos said that while pharmacists would of course work with the new

regulations, the Guild would continue to urge "all levels of government to recognise the role of our NotifyRx technology in providing a solution to this ongoing problem."

PSA President, Warwick Plunkett said the move would "put pressure on pharmacists with inappropriate consumer demand for multiple sales to smaller packets by those abusing the product."

Plunkett said the PSA's NDPSC submission had advocated the uniform scheduling of codeine medications across all jurisdictions.

"The lesson for pharmacy and the pharmaceutical industry is that when substance abuse or potential therapeutic misadventure is known to be likely, it is essential that such products are handled by appropriately trained support staff or other pharmacists," he said.

"The delivery of education and training on the therapeutic issues surrounding these codeine-containing products may have been a far more effective answer than the blunt restrictive response to the problem by the NDPSC."

For its part, ASMI said the decision was very disappointing "because the overwhelming majority of consumers use these products appropriately and safely.

"These medicines play an important role in relieving strong pain, and limitations on their availability will be an enormous inconvenience to thousands of responsible users," said ASMI Executive Director, Juliet Seifert.

H1N1 flu vax early?

HEALTH minister Nicola Roxon has confirmed that the government would be keen for an earlier than expected rollout of a swine flu vaccine, if the results of the current Adelaide trial are favourable.

Irish pharmacy stew

THE dispute between pharmacists and the government of Ireland shows no sign of resolution, with the health department continuing to rule out mediation and now threatening legal proceedings.

A number of regional pharmacies have told clients they will only deal with existing customers, or have reduced opening hours, with the govt saying this "breaches fundamental legal obligations."

PPF seminars

THE University of Sydney's Pharmacy Practice Foundation will kick off its 2009 seminar series with a workshop in Sydney on Sunday 23 August, and a further four seminars over the following two months.

The series, entitled *Walking Off The Map - How to Prosper on Pharmacy's Rocky Road Ahead*, will be presented by Bruce Annabel of JRx Pharmacy Services, who's described as "an authority on commercial and strategic planning issues surrounding the business of community pharmacy in Australia and beyond."

Attendance costs \$500 for the workshop and the four seminars, \$300 for the workshop alone and \$275 for the series of four seminars - which are free to PPF members.

The events are sponsored by Sandoz, the University of Sydney, API and Bayer.

More info 02 9351 7829.

WIN A BURT'S BEES PRIZE



CONGRATULATIONS to Anna-Jade Kyriakou of Sissian Hurstville Pharmacy who was yesterday's winner of the Burt's Bees **Radiance Exfoliating Body Wash** and **Radiance Lip Shimmer**.

Each day this week Burt's Bees is giving **Pharmacy Daily** subscribers the chance to win a fabulous Burt's Bees product featuring the highly nourishing goodness of Royal Jelly.

Today's prize is a jar of **Radiance Day Crème**. It's 98.02% natural, includes emollient almond oil and glycerin and is bursting with essential amino acids and vitamins to nourish the skin and improve appearance.

Valued at \$39.95, Radiance Day Crème is available from David Jones, Terry White Chemists and selected retail outlets.

For your chance to win your very own Radiance Day Crème jar, simply be the first reader to email through the correct answer to the question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Name three categories of natural personal care products made by Burt's Bees.

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NDPSC PPI move

THE National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee yesterday confirmed that Janssen-Cilag's proton pump inhibitor Pariet (rabeprazole) will be available without prescription from 01 Jan.

The move to S3 will see Pariet compete head to head with Nycomed's Somac (pantoprazole), which became available over the counter as S3 late last year.

The rescheduling for Pariet applies to 10mg oral rabeprazole in packs of up to 14 days of supply, with the 20mg formulation remaining S4.

Although available OTC, the NDPSC has denied an appendix H listing for both Somac and Pariet, meaning they're not allowed to be advertised direct to consumers.

PI and CMI online from Oct

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is proceeding with plans to make Product Information and Consumer Medicine Information publicly available, with details to be on its website by the end of October.

The move has been opposed by the Pharmacy Guild, which circulated a petition (PD 03 Apr) at the APP conference earlier this year urging the government to stop the web move, saying it would "unnecessarily complicate and duplicate the existing streamlined provision of such information via the dispensing process."

Yesterday the TGA published an update to its Business Reform Project for the Office of Prescription Medicines, which follows industry

consultation held last month.

Improving access to PI and CMI details is a key initiative of the project, and will allow consumers to simply search and retrieve the information by looking for product names, active ingredients or sponsor names.

The system will see sponsors upload PDF versions of the PI and CMI documents, which will be automatically linked to entries in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

Detailed instructions on the process will be available shortly, with details on currently marketed products to be captured between 9th September and 21st October.

CMI and PI for marketed products will be published from 29th Oct, while other products will be placed online from 29th October to 24th December.

The Business Reform Project also includes proposals for accelerated applications for new drugs, reducing timeframes to market by replacing the current 40 working day process with pre-submission and improved submission validation processes.

Immunisation push

THE Australian Skeptics have today published an 'Open Letter to the Parents of Australia', urging them to seek out "unbiased, accurate advice from reputable medical sources" about vaccinating their children.

It's a reaction to "the deceptively titled 'Australian Vaccination Network'" which incorrectly claims that vaccines contain toxins as well as causing conditions such as autism - despite concerted research unequivocally dismissing any link.

The letter also says AVN provides incorrect information about the risks and complications from contracting childhood illnesses.



DISPENSARY CORNER

RESIDENTS of western Sydney will be certainly getting their Omega-3 essential oils this weekend.

Rather than heading out to sea or for remote rivers, keen anglers in the Blacktown municipality can catch fish closer to home in the annual Blacktown City Family Fish-In which kicks off tomorrow.

The event sees the pool at the local Mt Druitt Swimming Centre stocked with about 400 salmon trout, and residents can buy tickets for an hour's fishing.

The trout, described as "ready to bite", have been brought in from the Australian Alps, with keen anglers also able to get some professional instruction from Australian Indoor Casting Champion, Todd Young.

CORAL reefs around the world could provide a new analgesic therapy, according to a recent report in the *British Journal of Pharmacology*.

Scientists harvested a compound called capnellene from soft coral off the coast of Taiwan, and found "promising early results in rats" in the alleviation of neuropathic pain.

AN ENVIRONMENTAL group is promoting shower urination as a key way of helping save the planet.

Brazilian TV stations are broadcasting new ads created by activist organisation SOS Mata Atlantica, which claims that if a household avoids one flush a day it can save more than 4000 litres of water a year.

The animated commercials apparently depict a range of cute characters relieving themselves in the shower, with a child's voice urging viewers to "Pee in the shower! Save the Atlantic rainforest!"

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature.

Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

EMIRATES this week announced amazing airfares from Australia to India, with flights from \$1261 return to ten cities including Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Mumbai, Trivandrum, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Chennai and Cochin.

The flights are available from Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane and operate via Dubai in the airline's award-winning economy class which features more than 600 channels of individual in-flight entertainment - more info 1300 303 777.

INTREPID TRAVEL is offering great discounts on its Indochina adventures, with 10% off any trip if booked by the end of the month.

And even bigger discounts are offered if you take your friends, with 15% off for two, 20% off for three and 25% off for four.

There are more than 1250 tours available across Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia - see your travel agent or www.intrepidtravel.com.

MAUI MOTORHOMES has launched a special offer for New Zealand getaways, with a free day of travel for every four days booked.

The deal is available for minimum 5 day bookings made by 15 Sep and travel 01 Oct-15 Dec 09, for pick up and drop off of vehicles at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Queenstown - all cities easily accessible by air from Australia - book on direct@maui-rentals.com.

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