



Snow business...

THERE are still a limited number of places available at the upcoming Medici Capital Snow Business conference, which will take place in two week's time in Mount Buller, Vic.

Sponsors and speakers include Fred Health, Terry White Chemists, Westpac and American Express, with the event featuring an "informative and inspiring conference program designed to inspire new ideas and facilitate group discussion" - as well as enjoy time on the slopes.

More info 03 9853 7933.

For more upcoming events see our CPD calendar on **page 2**.

\$3.9m pharmacy fine

A PHARMACY in the US state of Missouri will pay US\$3.9 million to settle claims that it defrauded the government's Medicaid system.

The alleged offenses, which are being denied by the pharmacist, took place between 2002 and 2006, with prosecutors claiming the pharmacy billed the drug schemes for more medications than it purchased, billed without proper authorisation, and charged for brand name medication when it dispensed cheaper generics.

No Tamiflu suspension stock

ROCHE Products yesterday advised pharmacists across Australia that it's unable to supply liquid Tamiflu for children in Australia until further notice.

The company said the move was due to "unprecedented world-wide demand" for the suspension.

However "Roche continues to have sufficient commercial supply of Tamiflu 30mg, 45mg and 75mg capsules, and these strengths are available to hospitals and community pharmacies via

wholesalers," the company said.

The TGA has approved the preparation of extemporaneous formulations from these capsules, meaning that people aged 1 year and older who are unable to swallow capsules can have the powder mixed with sweetened food products.

Roche has issued instructions for extemporaneous preparation of Tamiflu capsules in a range of doses, via a document which is accessible via the Guild website.

The company said it was working with the Pharmacy Guild, the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia and the Australian Medical Association "to keep pharmacy fully informed."

Roche said it was in regular communication with wholesalers and hospital pharmacies about their stock levels, and is ensuring Tamiflu stock is dispatched as required.

RPBS listing error

THE health department has advised of an error applying to the RPBS listing of Sildenafil Citrate (items 4584G, 4585H and 4586J) in the 1 August and 1 September Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule.

The administrative notes, which are only applicable to the PBS General listing of the medication (9605M) are incorrectly displaying with the RPBS items.

The department said the error was due to a "data rendering issue" and will be resolved in future versions of the Schedule.

UK home-based pharmacy plan

AMERICAN pharmacy giant Medco Health Solutions has announced a new joint venture with British company United Drug plc, to "provide home-based pharmacy care services in the United Kingdom for patients covered by the country's National Health Service (NHS).

The joint venture will operate in the UK as Medco Health Solutions, and will offer a range of homecare services ranging from prescription drug dispensing and home delivery through to on-site nursing for the administration of oral, injectable and infused agents, as well as case management.

"We share the NHS' urgent imperative to provide a broad spectrum of advanced services associated with the treatment of patients with chronic and complex conditions," Medco said.

The companies estimated that up to 96% of all pharmacy costs, and 70% of overall health care costs in the UK are related to the care of patients with chronic and complex conditions.

They said providing support and infrastructure to allow care at home instead of in hospital "fundamentally lowers the cost curve" as well as improving outcomes.

Swine flu death

A PHARMACIST in India has died of swine flu, according to a report from a hospital in Pune.

35-year-old Sanjay Tilekar reportedly died on 10 Aug, having been undergoing treatment when his condition suddenly deteriorated.

Reports say that he was rushed into intensive care, but despite being treated with Tamiflu and put on a ventilator the pharmacist did not survive.

Script sharing alert

A NEW study has found that one in five US teenagers exchanges prescription medication, such as allergy drugs or antibiotics, with their friends.

The North Carolina State University research is claimed to be the first time anyone has looked at "people with good intentions" rather than those on-selling prescription drugs to get cash.

They said sharing medications could be potentially dangerous.

WIN LASH ME MOUSSE MASCARA



CONGRATULATIONS to Michele Joyce from **Camden Hospital Pharmacy**, who was yesterday's winner of an Australis Lash Me Mousse Mascara. Australis has teamed up with **Pharmacy Daily** this week, giving readers the chance to win an Australis Lash Me Mousse Mascara in Blueberry. Valued at \$17.95, the revolutionary new mascara defines and separates lashes like never before! The difference lies in the patented German designed brush which separates and targets hard-to-reach lashes.

The superior 3-in-1 mousse formulation also coats every lash for maximum thickness, curl and extension while the bamboo extract and vitamin E nourishes the hair cuticle and prevents breakage.

This mascara is also great for sensitive eyes.

For your last chance to win your very own Australis Lash Me Mousse Mascara, simply send through the correct answer to the following question below:

How do you create a more intense look with your mascara?

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

The first correct entry received will win!

Hint: Visit the Australis website at: www.australiscosmetics.com.au.

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CPD Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* Continuing Professional Development Calendar, featuring upcoming events, conferences and opportunities for pharmacists to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

22 Aug: PSA will hold a **Clinical Therapeutics Update Seminar** presented by Debbie Rigby and Geraldine Moses in Brisbane - mandyc@psaql.org.au.

28-29 Aug: The Pharmacy Assistant Conference (NSW) will be held in Sydney including the State Finalist Awards Dinner - www.guild.org.au/nsw.

30 Aug-3 Sep: The annual **Pharmacy Snow Business Conference** is taking place at Mt Buller in Victoria - see www.medic.com.au/study-tours.

3-8 Sep: The 69th FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science, Istanbul - www.fip.org/istanbul2009.

16-19 Sep: Pharmacy 2009: The Pharmacy Management Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove - www.pharmacyconference.com.au.

10-11 Oct: Debbie Rigby and Geraldine Moses will present a Stage One Accreditation Medication Management Review Workshop in Townsville - details 07 4725 8915.

15-18 Oct: The PSA's Pharmacy Australia Congress 2009 will be held in Sydney - www.pac2009.com.au.

5-8 Nov SHPA will hold its 35th **National Medicines Management Conference** in Perth - www.shpamm2009.com.

16-23 Jan 2010: Pharmacy Study Tour in Aspen, Colorado - www.medic.com.au/study-tours.

4-17 Feb 2010: PSA Expedition Education conference in Chile and Patagonia. Limited to 50 people - 1300 139 293.

28 Apr-7 May 2010: The PSA will hold its 35th annual offshore conference in Beijing and Shanghai, China - more information 1300 139 293.

NAB consolidation forecast

TERRY White says the pharmacy sector needs to "focus on developing scale, increasing efficiencies and improving and extending value added services head on" to head off challenges from supermarkets and discounters.

His comments are part of a report released this week by the National Australia Bank, which examines the pharmacy sector in Australia.

The report predicts consolidation in the industry "as pharmacies join forces to leverage buying power."

White emphasises pharmacy's expertise as a key point of difference.

"Where else can you walk in off the street and get advice from a professional at no charge?" he said.

Trends explored in the report are based on research by Access Economics as well as interviews with "three senior members of the pharmacy sector" - Nicole Hardwick who owns three Melbourne pharmacies; former Victorian Guild president, Gold Cross board member and PCA NU/Healthlinks chairman Bill Scott; and Terry White, described as "pioneer of the

Pharmacy Franchise Model."

As well as consolidation, other trends identified include the ongoing feminisation of the pharmacy industry, which is projected to peak around 2025 with 66% of pharmacists in Australia being women.

There's expected to be higher growth in the number of pharmacists in the workforce than in any other health subsector, with headcount in pharmacy expected to grow by 160% between 2007 and 2038, the report says.

"Pharmacists don't earn as much as many other professional health workers," it adds, while male pharmacists earn substantially more than female pharmacists - a trend which was borne out across most health professions.

The average male professional health worker earned \$86,372 while the average income earned by male pharmacists was \$73,528.

Female health professionals earned \$68,848 on average, while female pharmacists earned \$57,252.

But the average female pharmacist worked 32.8 hours per week - about 9 hours less than her male counterpart.

Other challenges for the industry cited include succession planning, with higher values for pharmacies meaning it's harder for junior partners to buy into the industry.

Another flu drug

AUSTRALIAN biotech research company Immuron Limited yesterday announced that it was in talks with a "top-25 global pharmaceutical company" about the development of a new influenza treatment and prevention product.

The move follows "very positive results" in animal trials of the product, which Immuron said it plans to sell over the counter to help boost the effectiveness of vaccinations and flu treatments by raising antibody levels, particularly in vulnerable populations.

The company said the pharmaceutical company discussions were "an important step in the evolution of Immuron, as it scientifically and commercially progresses this new influenza product."



DISPENSARY CORNER

A GROUP of Chinese women who travelled to South Korea for cosmetic surgery caused some confusion on their return because they no longer looked like their passport photos.

The *China Daily* said the 23 women, aged between 36 and 54, had "bigger eyes, higher noses and slimmer chins" than when they departed.

"We saw them looking different, with bandages and stitches here and there," said a Shanghai Airport official.

"We had to compare their uncorrected parts with their photos very carefully. After they passed the identification, we asked them all to renew their passports immediately," he said.

A DOCTOR in the USA has been forced to resign after posting a series of sardonic health warnings on an electronic sign outside of his office in a Florida county health department.

Dr Jason Newsom has been running a "one man war on obesity" with witty quips such as 'Sweet Tea = Liquid Sugar,' 'Hamburger = Spare Tire' and 'French Fries = Thunder Thighs'.

The campaign would still be continuing if he hadn't tried to take on the ubiquitous doughnut.

Dunkin' Donuts has been running advertising with the tag line "America Runs on Dunkin'" - which Newsom parodied with "America Dies on Dunkin'".

This apparently got up the nose of one of the local councillors who happens to own a donut shop, and after legal threats the doctor was asked to quit.

Staff at the county offices were also understood to be upset at Newsom's insistence that doughnuts be banned from staff meetings.

However he's hoping to get his job back so he can continue his campaign against fatty food.

"My method was a little provocative and controversial," he said, "but there wasn't a person in Bay County who wasn't talking about health and healthy eating."

Sanofi approval

SANOFI-AVENTIS has announced that its Multaq (dronedarone) 400mg tablets have received Health Canada approval for the treatment of patients with atrial fibrillation.

It's the second major approval for Multaq this year, following the approval on 01 Jul by the US Food and Drug Administration.

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