

Assistant of the year

NOMINATIONS are now open for the Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award 2009.

Sponsored by the Pharmacy Guild and GSK, the award is open to assistants with at least two years' experience.

Entrants will be initially assessed on written applications, and successful participants will then be selected to attend judging days.

The winner receives \$5000 cash plus a free Guild training course.

State and territory winners receive airfares and accom for the the PA09 conference on the Gold Coast, where the national winner is announced.

Assistants can self-nominate or be nominated by a colleague - see www.pharmacyassistants.com.

PSA accredited to accredit

THE Australian Pharmacy Council has announced today that the PSA is the first Australian pharmacy organisation to be authorised to accredit providers of continuing professional development.

PSA president Warwick Plunkett said the society was the "premier pharmacy industry education provider" and the accreditation was recognition of its commitment to CPD.

It will accredit CPD providers for a period of up to three years, while also continuing to deliver its own CPD programs.

H&S pharmacy offering

INDEPENDENT pharmacy buying group Health & Savings this week showcased its unique offer at its first ever conference, held in the NSW Hunter Valley.

GM Peter Nelson told PD the model allows member pharmacies to maintain their independence while benefiting from better buying terms secured by the group.

"There are no allocations of stock and the great discounts received are not based on



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Ferguson defence

TONY Ferguson has issued a rebuttal to this week's CHOICE pharmacy weight loss survey (PD Wed, Thu), challenging the panel of experts to "chew the fat and debate their false findings."

Ferguson said the consumer group only reviewed half of his weight loss program and also incorrectly conveyed how his system deals with obese kids.

He said he was disappointed with the inaccuracies in the CHOICE survey, saying his program had helped over 600,000 people lose weight since 2003 with further expansion planned for the US and other countries.

"I would love them to do another independent test and then print the new and correct findings in the best interests of the consumer who is looking for an affordable and accessible solution to their weight problem."

quantities," he said.

Health & Savings franchises its sales reps, who each have a territory and provide full support to pharmacy members.

See p2 for photos from conference - more info at www.healthandsavings.com.au.

APP keynote

FEDERAL minister for Human Services, Joseph Ludwig, will present a keynote address at the upcoming APP conference on the Gold Coast.

Ludwig will speak to delegates on Fri 03 Apr at 10am before announcing the winners of the Pharmacy of the Year 2009.

APP organisers also said places were filling fast for the AACP Accredited Pharmacists' Forum on Thu 02 Apr, attracting 6 PSA and AACP CPD points.

See www.appconference.com.

Guild welcomes business boost

THE Pharmacy Guild has welcomed the federal govt stimulus package announced this week, in particular tax breaks which will encourage community pharmacies to make productive investments.

Small businesses with a turnover of less than \$2m can claim an additional 30% tax deduction for eligible assets costing \$1000 or more acquired between 13 Dec 08 and 30 Jun 09, and installed by 30 Jun 2010.

The Guild said pharmacies may consider investing in computer hardware and colour printers which may be associated with new technologies such as MedsIndex and the Mirixa online software.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A BRITISH man has pulled his own teeth out with a pair of pliers because he couldn't afford private dental treatment.

42-year-old Ian Boynton has removed 13 of his teeth over the last two years, according to the London *Daily Mail*.

The former soldier hadn't been to a dentist since an army checkup in 2003.

However he now only has two teeth left in the roof of his mouth and says he desperately needs to find a dentist.

"Although I'm no longer in pain, I need to have false teeth as I'm finding it difficult to eat.

"Unfortunately I can't make false teeth myself," he added.

A DIFFERENT type of meal replacement has helped an obese Croatian man lose a hefty 73kg in just six months.

Mimir Zmiric, from Split, weighed 165kg at the beginning of 2008, when doctors told him he would probably die if he didn't lose weight.

After trying several diets without success he hit on the winning formula of garlic and onions on a cracker, washed down with carrot juice.

"The weight just dropped off," he said.

Zmiric's doctors have warned that the radical diet isn't advised for other people because it's so unbalanced.

However his friends are stunned at the huge weight loss.

"He looks amazing," said one.

"But his breath is really rancid," he added.

WIN A CAN OF LE TAN

Le Tan is over 30 years old this year, and to celebrate it's become the official sponsor of Surf Life Saving Australia.

Le Tan has teamed up with *Pharmacy Daily* this week to give readers the chance to win a can of SPF 30+ Coconut Continuous Spray Aerosol

An easy way to apply sunscreen, Le Tan's favourite delicious coconut fragrance contains Aloe Vera & Vitamin E for moisturising.

Le Tan in a can provides high protection and four hours water resistance, with the mess-free ease and convenience of an aerosol and test-top can.

Each 240ml can retails for \$15.99, but to receive your very own can for FREE, simply send through the correct answer to the following question:

Which Aussie celebrity reminded us that Le Tan has been protecting Aussie's for yonks?

Send your answer through to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

The first correct entry will win the prize, so be quick!

Hint: Visit the Le Tan website at www.letan.com.au.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Elisa Gavin of Regional Pharmaceuticals.



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Health & Savings holds its first annual conference

THIS week Cypress Lakes in the NSW Hunter Valley saw pharmacy buying group Health & Savings host its first ever conference.

General Manager Peter Nelson started Health & Savings in 2007 and told *PD* the group has 16 member pharmacies and is "growing steadily".

Pharmacy Daily reporter Jenny Piper was on location at the conference and the photos on this page were taken during the event.

What a line-up!



ABOVE: Gunishe Mongia, Kevin James-New and Jerry Perkins from Simple Retail.

ABOVE: Some of the Health and Savings participants at Cypress Lakes.
Back row from left: Guru Nidigal; Scott Jackson, Northern NSW franchisee; Ian Gillard; Maiwand Maswasskhel; Chris, Gold Coast/Far North Coast NSW franchisee; Anthony Antonios, Generic Health; Bob Sparkes, North Qld franchisee; Gavin Uptier, Generic Health. Second row: Bachoo Dattani; Cherie Nelson; Elizabeth Yeghykian; Peter Nelson, Health & Savings gm.
Front row: Michael & Viktoy Ing; Ross Minic; and Billy Goradia.



ABOVE: Andrew Sirianni and John Bloomfield, both from Medici Capital.



LEFT: Health & Savings currently has 16 member pharmacies.
Pictured here are Chris Murray and Scott Jackson, franchisees; with pharmacist members Elizabeth Yeghykian of Macquarie University Pharmacy and Ross Minici of Thirlmere Pharmacy; as well as Cherie Nelson - Health and Savings OTC Buyer.



ABOVE: George Pavlidis and David Kerr of FRED.

BELOW: Andrew Mina of Harrington Park Pharmacy with Maiwand Maswasskhel of Tony Ferguson Penrith.



ABOVE: Peter Nelson, Health & Savings general manager, with Gavin Uptier, Generic Health managing director.



ABOVE: Veronica Russell (Galderma) with Cherie Nelson, Health & Savings buyer.