



Changes at Blooms

BLOOMS The Chemist has announced a series of changes to its management line-up following the end of founder John Sidgreaves' term as managing director of Blooms' Management Services at the end of last month.

Sidgreaves held the position since the company started providing management services to members in the early 1990s.

He will continue on in his role as chairman of directors for the Blooms The Chemist group, which consists of 66 pharmacies throughout NSW and Queensland.

The company also announced that gm Peter Harris commenced work in the newly created post of ceo at the beginning of July.

In other appointments, Allan Chilcott has been promoted to the role of operations manager, and Duncan McDonald has been brought in to fill the positions of Merchandise Manager.

Employee pharmacist survey

COMMUNITY employee pharmacists are being urged to respond to an online survey giving them the chance to have a say in the upcoming Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

The survey asks for individual employee pharmacists' views on the current model of practice, where the focus of practice should be and what issues should be presented to the Government as part of the next

Keep them rolling

MEALS on Wheels services throughout Queensland received a welcome boost yesterday, with the Dep't of Health and Ageing announcing over \$5 million of additional funding.

Each day Meals on Wheels in Qld delivers over 10,000 meals to the frail, aged or disabled.

The new funding package consists of \$3.4 million from the Federal Gov't and \$1.8 million from the State Gov't.

The money will subsidise 147 delivery services across the state.

Spine manipulation

THE Chiropractors' Association of Australia has called for tougher restrictions on doctors and other health professionals performing spinal manipulations.

In a submission to the Gov't's National Accreditation and Registration Scheme, lodged on 10 Jul, the CAA argued that other health professionals do not have the same level of competence as chiropractors, who have to undergo five years of university education.

The said manipulation should be restricted to them unless doctors can show equivalent competence.

Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Geoff March, president of the Pharmacists Division of APESMA, has encouraged people to take part.

"This is an opportunity for employee community pharmacists to have their say," he said.

"Based on the input received, briefing papers will be prepared and presented to Government.

"It will only take a few minutes of your time, but they are an important few minutes in terms of the future direction of the profession."

March said that while the Guild represents the interests of employer pharmacists, it is important "to ensure that employee pharmacists are able to present their views on issues that are important to them."

The survey is available until 27 Jul at www.apesma.asn.au/vsurveys/pharmacists.

Method to diagnose overtraining

RESEARCHERS at Utrecht University in the Netherlands have developed a test to diagnose the stress-related illness 'overtraining syndrome' in horses, creating the possibility of improved treatment for comparable stress related syndromes in humans.

Until now, no diagnostic test was available for overtraining syndrome, which entails reduced performance despite the same or increased levels of training.

However the new research found the disease could be diagnosed in horses by measuring nocturnal growth hormone secretion.

Reserachers hope the test will be able to be applied to humans.

Alzheimer's remains under-diagnosed

A NEW study released this week has shown that two thirds of physicians in the UK, France, Italy, Spain and Germany agree that Alzheimer's Disease is under-diagnosed and under-treated.

Dubbed 'Important Perspectives on Alzheimer's Care and Treatment,' or IMPACT, the study found that many physicians feel the poor diagnosis record for the disease is the result of physician uncertainty in discussing the early stages, family tendency to ignore the early symptoms, an apathetic attitude toward diagnosis because there are no effective treatments and doctor reluctance to deliver bad news.

They also agreed that there is a need for increased awareness of the early symptoms.

The global study was sponsored by Eisai and Pfizer Inc.

Sanofi swine flu order

SANOFI Pasteur, the vaccines division of sanofi-aventis, said yesterday that it has received an order from the French Ministry of Health to produce a vaccine for the novel A(H1N1) influenza virus.

The order is for 28 million doses with an option for 28 million more.

The vaccine should be ready in four-six months.

Anonymous millions

THE Concordia University Wisconsin said yesterday that it had received a fourth anonymous donation of US\$1 million for its new School of Pharmacy, which is set to open in 2010.

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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.

1 Jul - 31 Jul: The PharmSpace 09 Virtual Careers Fair & Expo is now online 24/7 - www.pharmspace.com.au.

18-19 Jul: Stage One Medication Management Review course in Parkville, Vic - 03 9389 4013.

19 Jul: PSA NSW will hold its **Advanced Clinical Education Seminar** featuring nine aged care topics - 02 9431 1109.

19 Jul: First Aid courses for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants will be conducted by St John Ambulance in Hobart, Launceston and Devonport - 03 6231 2636.

31 Jul-1 Aug: SHPA will hold a Sydney seminar in **Critical Care - Advanced** - 03 9486 0177.

6-7 Aug: SHPA will hold an **Advanced Clinical Pharmacy** seminar in Melbourne - more information 03 9486 0177

14-16 Aug: The 2009 **Pharmacy Women's Congress** will be held on the Gold Coast - www.pharmacywomenscongress.com.au.

30 Aug-03 Sep: The annual **Pharmacy Snow Business Conference** is taking place at Mt Buller in Victoria - see www.medic.com.au/study-tours.

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

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.

Pharmacy 2009 registration

PHARMACISTS only have until 22 Jul to take advantage of Earlybird registration rates for the pharmacy management conference, *Pharmacy 2009*, to be held from 16-19 Sep at the Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove on the Gold Coast.

Hosted by the Australian Friendly Societies Pharmacies Association, the conference is a valid way to earn CPD and PI points, having been accredited by the PSA as a Group 1 activity for 10.25 points.

Topics to be covered at the event include: making robotics work in pharmacy, alternative income streams, why branding works, the effects of PBS reform, the new industrial relations landscape and much more.

Funds for Katherine

THE Katherine District Hospital in the Northern Territory has been allocated an additional \$1.2 million by the Federal Government.

The hospital is undergoing a renovation, to be completed in Dec, that will include a new mental health room and a consulting room.

The conference is being flagged as appropriate for anyone who is involved in the management of a community pharmacy.

For more info or to register see www.pharmacyconference.com.au.

MA Code of Conduct

THE ACCC has called for submissions on Edition 16 of the Medicines Australia Code of Conduct by 29 Jul.

MA members adopted the new code last month, but it only becomes effective when the ACCC makes a final determination late this year.

Gilead/J&J HIV deal

DRUG manufacturers Gilead Sciences and Johnson & Johnson have made a deal to develop a new once-daily pill for treating HIV.

The deal is not unexpected, but it is big news for Gilead, who will essentially be getting an experimental J&J drug at a discount to the retail price, said analysts.

The new HIV treatment would contain J&J's experimental drug and Gilead's Truvada pill.

WIN TICKETS TO SEE DR PHIL

Dr. Phil McGraw, better known as "Dr. Phil", is bringing his live show to Australia in August for the very first time, and each day this week *Pharmacy Daily* has been giving readers the chance to win a double pass to the Sydney show on Thursday 6 August at Acer Arena, valued at \$238.

At Dr. Phil's shows Down Under, you will learn about some of his break-through strategies to improve your career, finances, health and personal life and he'll also challenge you to set new goals, inspire and motivate you to implement strategies for your success.

To enter, simply tell us what question you would ask Dr. Phil if you had the opportunity to attend his show.

Email your question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Today is the last day to get your entries in, and the lucky winner will be published in next Monday's *PD* issue.

Rebecca Weston from **Health World Limited** said she would ask Dr. Phil the following question:

How do you deal with parents that act like children?

Pharmacy Daily readers can purchase tickets for the Syd, Bne & Mel shows through Ticketek at a special price by clicking here.



DISPENSARY CORNER

NEXT time you tell your kids to get off Facebook, think again!

A Victorian study has found that children who play video games have poorer physical and psychological health than those who spend time on the computer.

Published in *Academic Pediatrics*, the study says that surfing the net might boost mental health and participation in social networks.

Of course, it is no replacement for a game of backyard cricket!

IT'S lenses for leopards!

A German company has produced a range of contact lenses for animals suffering from cataracts, and now the idea is catching on.

Launched last year, S&V Technologies has already created acrylic intraocular lenses for animals including lions, giraffes, tigers and bears.

Clients have included a sea lion in San Diego, who had trouble performing tricks due to severely blurred vision; a kangaroo at an Australian nature park that was completely blind until it received the lenses; and a visually impaired lioness in Romania.

Apparently the company turns over millions of dollars worth of business a year, with each procedure costing thousands.

ASHES to Anthrax!

A mysterious powder that set off an anthrax scare when it arrived at the US Embassy in Rome last week has turned out to be the ashes of the Texan sender's wife.

The parcel of ashes prompted an evacuation of the building while it was whisked away for analysis.

The envelope also contained a letter explaining where the ashes came from and asking embassy staff to scatter them in the city as the couple had once spent a nice holiday there.

Similar parcels were apparently sent to US embassies in London, Paris and Istanbul.