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Warfarin project

A PROJECT funded under the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement is seeking short-term project officers to help facilitate a post-discharge warfarin management service aiming to improve health outcomes.

There are a number of positions available in Sydney and Hobart - for more information see the advertisement below.

MA backs H1N1 trial

MEDICINES Australia has endorsed the Federal Government's decision not to rush the current clinical trial of CSL's swine flu vaccine, which is currently under way in Adelaide.

"This is a safe and responsible approach which will serve the community well in the long run," said MA ceo Ianw Chalmers.

"Companies are working as fast as they can to develop effective responses to the swine flu virus, but it is critical that new medicines and vaccines are shown to be safe and effective before being released to the public," he added.

Authorities in the USA will also shortly begin trials of the vaccine.

National CPD working party

THE Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum (APLF) has set up a new working party to help guide compulsory continuing professional development, which is expected to be introduced from 01 Jul 2010.

The APLF, established in Jun 2008, is an independent coalition of eight pharmacy organisations, including the PSA, Guild, SHPA, AACP, PDL, ACPPM, the heads of the various Pharmacy Schools and the Australian Pharmacy Council.

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, to commence next year, contains a requirement for registrants to have participated in CPD programs.

The new working party will

Xarelto PBS listing

BAYER Schering Pharma has confirmed that its Xarelto (rivaroxaban) will be available on the PBS from 01 Aug for patients undergoing elective total knee and total hip replacement surgery.

Xarelto is a once-a-day oral, selective, direct Factor Xa inhibitor offering surgeons and patients an alternative anticoagulant.

consider the current approaches to CPD, which vary across the country.

It will aim to "identify a set of common principles for consideration by the national board", including determining what evidence of CPD is required for a pharmacist to renew registration, and the amount of CPD required.

It will also develop a common framework for determining the weighting that is placed on various accredited CPD activities.

Under the proposed legislation, the Australian Pharmacy Council will set standards and approve providers of CPD programs.

The new Australian Pharmacy Board, due to be established in Sep/Oct this year, will determine the CPD requirements for the pharmacy profession after 01 Jul 2010, with the APLF saying it would make the findings of the working party available to assist with that determination.

Rural GP program

THE govt has announced \$16m in funding for Deakin University which will see it set up a Rural Clinical School program with major sites at Geelong, Warrnambool, Ballarat and Camperdown in Vic.

The new training sites will be up and running for their first long-term clinical placements in 2010, with the aim of building the health workforce in western Victoria.

The government has also made changes to rural incentives for GPs across the country under the Australian Standard Geographical Classification Scheme, which will mean that Camperdown, Warrnambool and Ballarat are reclassified to ensure they receive incentives for the first time.

Online diabetes forum

DIABETES Counselling Online will shortly launch a new 'weight matters' online discussion forum with the aim of helping address key issues relating to medication compliance for diabetes patients.

It's aimed at tackling high rates of insulin misuse in some Australians with type 1 diabetes, after recent statistics from Diabetes Australia in Victoria which found that a third of people with the condition regularly skip their insulin injections in a bid to lose weight.

The report, titled *Insulin Misuse for Weight Loss* also highlighted that only 12% of type 1 diabetes patients had spoken with a healthcare professional directly about skipping or restricting insulin as a means of losing weight.

The type 1 weight matters online forum will see participants who enrol for the program meet weekly in a private online chat room to discuss specific issues of concern.

Diabetes Counselling Online founder Helen Edwards said some matters are often left out of healthcare consultations due to uncertainty, embarrassment, and a fear of being judged.

"In addition to the regularities of daily life that complicate even the most simple of tasks, people with type 1 diabetes often find it difficult to manage their weight and maintain a healthy perspective in terms of insulin use," she said.

Pharmacists are being encouraged to direct their type 1 diabetes patients to take part in the program, with enrolments opening from Mon 03 Aug and the first confidential online session starting Tue 18 Aug 09.

More info on 08 8365 4424 or at www.diabetescounselling.com.au.

UTAS MORE SANSOM The University of Sydney UNSW University of Wollongong

"The Role of Community Pharmacy in the Post Hospital Management of Patients Initiated on Warfarin" Project

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: SHORT-TERM PROJECT OFFICERS

- Are you interested in attractive rates of pay, and flexible working hours and conditions?
- Do you have experience navigating your way through the hospital system?
- Are you looking for an opportunity to make use of your excellent communication and time management skills?

The Unit for Medication Outcomes Research and Education (UMORE) at the University of Tasmania, in collaboration with the Universities of South Australia, Sydney and Wollongong, is currently conducting a project designed to improve the health outcomes of patients discharged from hospital on warfarin.

We are seeking full-time or part-time **PROJECT OFFICERS** in **Hobart** and **Sydney** to recruit patients in hospital and facilitate a post-discharge warfarin management service provided by accredited pharmacists.

What's on offer:

- Comprehensive training and local support (previous research experience is not essential)
- Attractive rates of pay, with flexible working hours and conditions
- The opportunity to be involved in ground-breaking research to improve the post-discharge experience of this high-risk patient group
- The chance to start now (and guaranteed work until December 2009)!

For more information, please contact Leanne Stafford at UMORE on (03) 6226 1024 or at leannes2@utas.edu.au.

A program funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement administered by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia

 **2009 Pharmacy Women's Congress**

14 - 16 August 2009 Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa, Gold Coast

↳ Discuss the future of pharmacy ↳ Learn more about owning your own pharmacy
↳ Meet like-minded women ↳ Beat the winter chill

WIN! Two nights luxury accommodation

Register to attend before 20 July for your chance to WIN two nights' accommodation at the luxurious **Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa**.

To check out the program, register or for more information visit:
www.pharmacywomenscongress.com.au  **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia**

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 - www.pharmspace.com.au.

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

7-8 Aug: The WA Guild will hold its first **Pharmacy Forum**, featuring high profile speakers including Kos Sclavos, Patrick Davies, Stephen Roche and Elmo de Alwis - guild.org.au/wa.

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

22 Aug: PSA will hold a **Clinical Therapeutics Update Seminar** presented by Debbie Rigby and Geraldine Moses in Brisbane - mandyc@psaqlld.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-03 Sep: The annual **Pharmacy Snow Business Conference** is taking place at Mt Buller in Victoria - see www.medici.com.au/study-tours.

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

15-18 Oct: The PSA's **Pharmacy Australia Congress 2009** will be held in Sydney - 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.medici.com.au/study-tours.

Genie announces eRx pact

ANOTHER medical software supplier has linked up with the Pharmacy Guild-backed eRx Script Exchange to provide electronic prescriptions.

Genie Solutions has announced a new partnership with eRx which will see the solutions provided to 1600 GP and specialist practices around Australia.

The enhancement to Genie's system is expected to be available in Oct, with Genie users able to pre-register for eRx electronic prescriptions now at erx.com.au.

"Our partnership with Genie again demonstrates the industry-wide commitment behind the eRx Script Exchange platform," said eRx chairman Graham Cunningham.

"Genie has a strong record of leadership in making e-health initiatives available to its users, including through the Northern Territory trial of e-prescriptions, and we are delighted to now partner with them in extending the safety and efficiency benefits of eRx Script Exchange to specialists throughout Australia," he added.

Currently GPs and specialists in all areas of practice use Genie's appointments, billing and clinical management software, with a growing number of practices also using it in the UK and NZ.

Cunningham said pharmacy and GP sites are continuing to roll out across Australia, with about 250,000 electronic prescriptions having already been processed through the eRx system.

Ranbaxy injunction

THE Federal Court yesterday ordered that Ranbaxy not launch a generic version of "old" Coversyl, in a patent case brought by Servier.

The complex case alleges that Ranbaxy's Ozapace version of perindopril erbumine infringes a "process patent" which is still current, despite the original patent on the molecule having expired.

The judge said Ranbaxy must not "make, sell, supply or otherwise dispose of, use, keep or import for commercial purposes" Ozapace until Servier's patent either lapses or is declared invalid.



DISPENSARY CORNER

NEW self-defense classes for seniors in the USA are teaching them that canes are "weapons, not crutches."

62-year-old Mark Shuey runs a company named Cane Masters which manufactures custom canes.

"When you get to be my age, you start to worry about someone's punk kid harassing you," he said.

Shuey has created a full exercise and self-defense program, which he's appropriately named 'Cane-Fu'.

"The cane is one hell of a nasty tool, and if you don't teach someone right, you could hurt people," he said.

Shuey said any kind of cane will work for Cane-Fu, "but the best are hardwood canes made of hickory or oak that don't easily break on impact."

HONEY can be good for you, but this seems a little extreme.

A Chinese couple have been wed wearing "clothes" comprising thousands of living bees.

The pair work for the Nanhu forestry commission at Ning'an in northern China.

"I have been working with bees for two decades and it was the obvious choice for our big day," said the delighted groom, who said he'd put a queen bee on each of them to attract others and create a new world record for the biggest coat of bees.

His new wife added: "It was an amazing feeling to have a carpet of living bees moving over my body. I have always loved bees but this was a totally new experience."



Honey, I really love you!

WIN A PRIZE FOR YOUR PET



CONGRATULATIONS to Andrea Gray of Sigma Pharmaceuticals in Tasmania, who was yesterday's winner.

Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with Rufus & Coco this week, giving readers the chance to win a jar of "Joint Aid" for their pet.

Australian pet care range, Rufus

& Coco provides well-bred pet care to all furry, feathered and feline friends. "Joint Aid" helps to alleviate the symptoms of arthritis. The odourless, tasteless powder is mixed in with the dog's wet food. Joint Aid contains all ingredients which have been proven to promote joint mobility, cartilage regeneration and reduce inflammation.

Rufus & Coco "Joint Aid" is available for \$39.95 in selected pharmacies and is distributed by McPherson's Consumer Products.

For your chance to win a jar of "Joint Aid" for your pet, simply be the first reader today to send through the correct answer to the following question:

How many grooming products are in the Rufus & Coco range?

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

Hint: Visit www.rufusandcoco.com.au.