



Drive sales from your dispensary

Dispensary
Loop

Expo starts tomorrow

EDUCATION sessions for the Pharmacy Expo are filling fast, with some already sold out, according to organiser Carlene Clarke.

The three day expo opens tomorrow at Sydney's Darling Harbour, with free entry to the trade show for everyone in pharmacy.

Visitors can register online at www.pharmacyexpo.com.au or just come along and sign up on the day.

Pharmacy Daily will be exhibiting too - come to stand 44 for your chance to win an iPod touch!

Pharmacy slammed in media

COMMUNITY pharmacists have been described as "continuing to profit from generous government hand-outs" in a front page story in Sydney's *Daily Telegraph* today.

The report claims that chemists are "cashing in" on the PBS, with patients paying "as much as \$13 more per script than they need to" for about 200 common medicines.

"The problem is an out-of-date government price setting system that has not kept up with massive

price drops for generic drugs," the story adds, with an accompanying editorial fulminating that the PBS has "made medicine massively more expensive for consumers."

The paper cites simvastatin, for which pharmacists are reimbursed \$58.99 for an 80mg script but claims they're paying as little as \$18 per pack - and calculates that savings of up to \$72m a year would be possible if the govt switched to paying the private prescription price for all dosage levels of the drug.

It also gives other examples relating to alendronate sodium, cephalexin and atenolol.

Health Minister Nicola Roxon is also quoted in the report as saying the govt is concerned about the issues raised and "will look to the ongoing PBS reform process and the next pharmacy agreement to ensure the PBS provides value for money."

The Pharmacy Guild hadn't issued a formal response to the story before **PD's** deadline today.

UK Lamisil proposal

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has issued a consultation document on the proposed reclassification of Lamisil Once 1% cutaneous solution to general sale.

The tinea treatment is supplied by Novartis Consumer Health and other varieties of terbinafine products are already available in the UK for general sale without pharmacist intervention.

ACP Vic annual dinner

THE Victorian Chapter of the Australian College of Pharmacy held its annual Fellow's & Member's Dinner at the Windsor Hotel, Melbourne on 28 Mar, with keynote speaker Leigh Matthews reminiscing on the "subtleties of the great game of AFL, both on and off the field."

About 130 people attended, with the evening also honouring a number of prominent pharmacists, including PDL and APPCo chairman John Coppock, who was

elevated to the status of Fellow (honoris causa) for his "extensive and significant contribution to Australian pharmacy in general, and for his interest in and support of the college."

Cameron Davies of Johnson & Johnson Consumer (pictured right with ACP president Trevor Clarkin) was also made a Fellow of the College in recognition of his contribution to the work of the Victorian Chapter.



LEFT: Rowan Lowe, co-chair of the Western Australian chapter of the Australian College of Pharmacy, was also named at the dinner as the 2010 recipient of the IMSHealth Young Pharmacist Innovation Award.

He's pictured here being congratulated by Perry Stam of IMSHealth, with the award enabling Lowe to attend the FIP Conference in Istanbul and liaise with other young pharmacists attending the event.



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This week **Pharmacy Daily** has teamed up with AROMABABY to give readers the chance to win an AROMABABY travel pack, valued at \$20.

Launched more than twelve years ago as the first natural & organic baby brand of its kind, AROMABABY has been used in select hospitals and received by celebrity parents around the world including Kate Moss, Princess Mary and local mums Tracey Spicer, Natarsha Belling and Simone Warne.

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TODAY'S QUESTION:

Which products are for sensitive skin or recommended for young/new babies?

This great prize will go to the first correct response, so check out www.aromababy.com and get those entries in quickly! Yesterdays winner was Jennifer Illing of St John of God Healthcare in Berwick, Vic.

*Image is indicative. Items may change at the discretion of AROMABABY.

Pharmacy DAILY

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PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

Free Tamiflu in Vic

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Vic Department of Human Services has today announced that a number of pharmacies will receive a supply of Tamiflu for distribution to customers at no charge.

The pharmacies have been chosen based on areas with a higher prevalence of swine flu cases, with the Guild saying it plans to extend the scheme to other areas where supply may be required.

A full list of the pharmacies distributing Tamiflu free of charge is now online and will be regularly updated at www.guild.org.au/vic.

The Guild said it would continue to work with the department "to ensure community pharmacies are well positioned to aid and assist members of the community wherever possible."

Award voting process blasted

THE Pharmacists' Division of the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers Australia (APESMA) says that the voting process for employees in the Pharmacy Guild of NSW Multi-Employer Business Agreement (PD 29 May) "may be flawed".

Pharmacists and shop staff have been told by their employers to post their votes to the Pharmacy Guild, which will then tally the results.

"This is an absurd situation where the Pharmacy Guild counts the votes," said APESMA Senior Industrial Officer Jacki Baulch, who urged that the votes be tallied by an independent body such as the Australian Electoral Commission.

"There is a lot at stake for community pharmacy employees in

Australian Pharmacy's biggest event of the year...



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New South Wales," she said.

"If the agreement is voted in it will lock employees into their current conditions and exclude them from the benefits of the new Award in January 2010."

APESMA said it's holding a meeting of pharmacists at its Sydney office next Mon to discuss strategies to defeat the vote.

Barcodes on labels

THE Therapeutic Goods Committee has recommended that the industry be consulted about a proposal which would require labels of all medicines to include a machine readable bar code.

The proposed barcode would clearly identify product variants and at a minimum differentiate between different strengths, pack sizes and dosage forms.

A three year transition period for the measure is proposed.

Hep C treatment

PEOPLE suffering from bleeding disorders who also have hepatitis C may be very encouraged by the results of an international study which has returned higher than expected cure rates.

The results of the Australian led, international CHARIOT clinical trial, which were presented at the European Association for the Study of the Liver Congress in Copenhagen at the end of April, found that up to seven out of 10 people with genotype 1 could be cured if treatment started before liver damage had occurred.

At the conference new treatments were also discussed, including a combination of a new drug telaprevir with pegylated interferon and ribavirin, which is being trialled in Australia.

The European arm of the trial showed positive results in people with bleeding disorders who had relapsed after earlier treatment.



DISPENSARY CORNER

THE government of Venezuela has banned Coke Zero, citing unspecified health dangers.

Health Minister Jesus Mantilla has ordered that the no-calorie beverage be withdrawn from sale, with stocks removed from store shelves "to preserve the health of Venezuelans."

He didn't specify more details of the health risks of Coke Zero, which launched in the South American country in Apr.

Other varieties of Coca Cola are still able to be sold in Venezuela.

MULTIPLE births certainly are hereditary, as evidenced by a woman in the US city of Detroit this week giving birth to triplets.

23 year-old new mother Amber Ali is herself a triplet, and now has three of her own - boys named Amir, Armann and Amari.

To complete the set, the babies' 25 year old father is named Andre, and he said that naming the triplets "took forever".

A TRADE union in Spain is suing a bakery which allegedly threw the severed arm of an employee into the rubbish after it was cut off in a kneading machine accident.

Frans Rilles, an immigrant from Bolivia, lost his left arm at the Valencia bakery on 28 May, and apparently while he was being taken to a hospital someone else threw the limb into the garbage, with the bakery then cleaning the machinery and continuing production.

Police found the arm the next day but doctors were by then unable to reattach it.

The union said Rilles had been working illegally at the bakery for two years and had not been properly trained on the machinery.

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.

SILVERSEA Cruises has released a very special last minute deal for an ultra-luxury 21 day Mediterranean cruise departing from Venice on 01 August.

Silver Whisper will visit a range of fabulous ports including Monte Carlo, Rome, Sorrento, Antibes, Zadar and Kotor with the voyage finishing in Barcelona.

All inclusive cruise only fares start from \$9966 per person twin share including all gourmet meals, wines, champagne, gratuities and suite accommodation.

See your travel agent now to book and combine this absolute bargain with some of the very cheap air fare deals on offer.

HAWAIIAN Airlines has launched a range of 'Take a Mate' air fares from Australia to Hawaii, with prices from \$1360 ex Sydney and \$1700 from Brisbane for two people including taxes, meals, drinks and free luggage allowance.

It's a great opportunity to escape the cold and also make the most of the strong exchange rate to do some fabulous shopping.

And **SELECTIVE TOURS** is offering a special price for four nights in the four star Kowloon Hotel in Hong Kong, from \$380 per person twin share including airport transfers and a half day tour, with other tours also available - more information 1300 760 208.

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