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Guild Update

Women's Congress

WOMEN pharmacists from around Australia are invited to attend the 2009 Pharmacy Women's Congress.

The Pharmacy Women's Congress is an annual event which brings together female pharmacists from around Australia to discuss the future of pharmacy.

In 2009 the Congress will focus on personal and professional development to reflect the Congress theme - "Gaining Knowledge, Sharing Experiences, Building Futures".

A great range of speakers have been arranged to address a broad range of relevant topics. Speakers include comedian Judith Lucy, Guild National President Kos Scavos, Guild Executive Director Wendy Phillips, and prominent women pharmacists - Helene O'Byrne, Madeleine Bowerman (winner of the 2009 Pharmacy of the Year - Large Pharmacy category), Amanda Galbraith, Judith Liauw, Toni Riley, Helen Scott and many, many more.

Attendance at the Pharmacy Women's Congress will also earn a maximum of 11 CPD credits.

The full program can be viewed at www.pharmacywomenscongress.com.au/Program.html.

Adding to the impressive program of speakers is a fun and interactive social program. The Welcome Reception and Congress Dinner are always highlights of the congress, with optional Dine Arouns and Tours also available.

The 2009 Pharmacy Women's Congress will also feature a small trade exhibition, allowing delegates to mix business with pleasure by liaising with suppliers in a relaxed environment.

Celebrating its six year anniversary in 2009, the Congress will be held from 14-16 August at the Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort and Spa, Gold Coast, Queensland.

Why not escape the cold and join some like-minded female pharmacists on the fabulous Gold Coast?

For further information visit www.pharmacywomenscongress.com.au.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

US alert on ADHD drugs

THE US Food and Drug Administration has issued a "safety communication" about an ongoing review of stimulant medications used in children with ADHD.

The move is in response to a study published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* which suggests an association between the use of the medications and sudden cardiac death in healthy children.

The FDA said that limitations in the study mean it's not recommending that use of the

stimulant medications cease, but says parents should discuss concerns about their use with health professionals.

The study found that 10 out of 564 healthy US children who died to sudden cardiac incidents were taking stimulant medications, compared with two out of 564 children who died in car accidents.

The FDA said it can not conclude that the study affects the overall risk-benefit profile of ADHD drugs.

Warfarin worries

PATIENTS on warfarin are poorly educated about the medication, with GPs also uncertain about who should be responsible for monitoring warfarin use, according to a report in the *Medical Journal of Australia*.

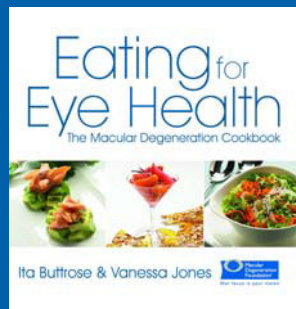
Out of 36 doctors studied, 14 believed they were responsible for patient education, while 22 said it was up to the initiating specialist, pathology service or pharmacist.

PSA to host Forum

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia will hold its first Members' Forum on Thu 15 Oct during the PAC Congress, to allow members to discuss the many changes in the profession currently in train.

The Forum will include a review of the unified operations of the PSA as well as strategic challenges and the Society's "renewed focus on Professional Development and Practice Support".

WIN A COPY OF THIS BOOK!



What are the best eye health foods?

It seems Australians are confused, with many believing carrots are the most beneficial food for eye health and this is not correct as spinach and corn are actually top eye health foods.

Each day this week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers the chance to win a copy of *Eating for Eye Health*, valued at \$24.95.

It provides a selection of everyday, easy-to-follow recipes that are great for eye health and can help reduce the risk of Macular Degeneration - the leading cause of blindness and severe vision loss in Australia. Many recipes contain the antioxidants lutein and zeaxanthin as well as omega-3s which are found in foods such as spinach, corn and fish.

To order a copy of the cookbook or find out more information about Macular Degeneration, visit www.mdfoundation.com.au or call 1800 111 709.

To enter today, simply send your answer to the following question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What are three key risk reduction measures Australians can take to reduce their risk of developing the disease?

This great prize will go to the first correct response, so for your chance to win, make sure you send in your entry NOW!

CONGRATULATIONS to Wendy Ridgeon of Camden Hospital who was yesterday's lucky winner.



Asthmatic alert

THE National Asthma Council is urging Australians with the condition to seek an immediate lung function check with their GP, after confirmation that people with an underlying medical condition are most at risk of complications from Influenza A (H1N1).

The council is concerned at a decline in asthma-related visits to doctors, which could indicate that people aren't monitoring the condition or are underutilising their prescribed medications.



DISPENSARY CORNER

MARRIAGE is a key contributor to obesity around the world.

That's the finding of a study to be published shortly in the journal *Obesity*, which also found that the longer a marriage lasts, the higher the risk of weight gain.

Penny Gordon-Larsen of the University of North Carolina suggested that people living together tended to eat bigger meals or possibly eating out more often than they did when single.

They were also more likely to spend time watching TV together instead of playing sport.

Gordon-Larsen found that there were some positive health benefits from marriage, including lower cigarette smoking rates and reduced overall mortality.

MANY people in the UK don't have even a basic understanding of the location of their major bodily organs.

King's College London surveyed 700 people, with less than half of them able to correctly place the heart on a simple diagram.

Only 30% knew where the lungs were - but intriguingly more than 85% got the intestines right.

Authorities suggested the poor anatomical knowledge could lead to higher health costs, with patients unable to have a basic awareness of what might be causing their ailments.

However a spokesman for the British Heart Foundation said "it is ultimately more important to know how to look after your heart than where it is in your body."