



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.

20 Jun - 21 Jun: The PSA is running a *Mental Health First Aid Course* in Taree, NSW - more info www.psa.org.au.

22 Jun: *Effective Communication Through Interpreters*, Monash University. 03 9389 4013

22 Jun: The Centre For Rural Health at LaTrobe Regional Hospital, VIC is holding a seminar on *Interpreting Common Pathology Results* - 03 5174 2214.

23 Jun: The University Department of Rural Health Tamworth NSW is holding a seminar on *Women's Health* - 02 9431 1120

23 Jun: A lecture on *Gastro-oesophageal Reflux Disease & Barrett's Oesophagus* at The Canberra Hospital, 7pm-8:30pm - psa.org.au.

23 Jun: The Guild is holding a course titled *Selling Pharmacy Medicines - Let's Get It Right* for pharmacy assistants at Paddington RSL, 02 9467 7100

24 Jun: *Asthma Management Course For Pharmacists* is being held at The Asthma Foundation, West Melbourne. 03 9389 4013

24 Jun: A Continuing Education seminar on *New Drug Targets in COPD* will be held at the Harold Park Function Centre, Glebe 6:30pm - www.shpa.org.au.

1 Jul - 31 Jul: The **Pharmspace 09 Virtual Careers Fair & Expo** will be online 24/7 for the whole of Jul - more info at www.pharmspace.com.au.

14-16 Aug: The 2009 **Pharmacy Women's Congress** will be held at the Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa on the Gold Coast - www.pharmacywomenscongress.com.au.

15-18 Oct: The first Pharmacy Australia Congress of the new, unified Pharmaceutical Society of Australia will be held in Sydney - www.pac2009.com.au.

Pharmacists key to diarrhoea

PHARMACY has been voted the number one treatment destination for Australian sufferers of diarrhoea, in a new national survey of the condition released yesterday by Johnson and Johnson Pacific.

The study, which is claimed to "lift the lid on the 'taboo' topic", found that almost a quarter of Australian adults had experienced diarrhoea in the last six months - but despite this many are reluctant to speak to their doctors about it.

"It's important that pharmacists are aware of how to appropriately triage patients presenting with diarrhoea," said Associate Professor Peter Katelaris, who's a gastroenterologist at Sydney's Concord Hospital.

He said most episodes are self-limiting, saying diarrhoea can be classified as either acute or chronic, as well as 'functional' or 'organic' and is often related to diet.

The survey found that half of frequent sufferers usually do

nothing to treat the condition, and that although accompanying abdominal pain was often cited as the most severe symptom, many patients weren't aware there are medications available to help.

Patients who had other symptoms such as pain, fever or weight loss, or recurrent diarrhoea should be referred on, Katelaris said, but added that for adults with mild self-limiting cases "the short term use of anti-peristaltic agents is often beneficial as symptomatic treatment."

WYLD promotion

A **NEW** in-store promotion for "natural energy supplement" WYLD has launched, offering pharmacy staff the chance to win prizes ranging from \$1000 towards a WYLD night out through to \$50 Rebel Sports vouchers, with draw entries for every Jul order of WYLD.

Free counter units are also being offered to encourage impulse sales, and 20% off stock purchases which can be placed through API, Sigma and Symbion - info 1800 888 215.

US\$75k fine for off-label marketing

A **COURT** in the USA has sentenced a former pharmaceutical company manager to 24 months probation and a \$75,000 fine for off-label marketing of the Cox-II inhibitor Bextra.

Mary Holloway was a regional sales manager for Pfizer, in charge of about 100 sales reps.

Bextra was approved by the FDA in 2001 for osteoarthritis, adult rheumatoid arthritis and primary dysmenorrhea - but a request by the company to have it also indicated for acute pain after surgery were denied because of safety concerns.

The US Attorney claimed that Holloway was aware of the FDA's position but nonetheless had her staff "sell Bextra for precisely the uses that the FDA refused to approve" including use at an unapproved 20mg dosage before, during and after surgery.

Bextra was withdrawn from the market in Apr 2005.

US officials said they would "continue to hold individuals responsible for their conduct in promoting pharmaceutical drugs outside of the uses for which they have been found to be safe and effective by the United States FDA."

A passion for pharmacoproteomics



TWO young Australian scientists have been awarded funding to further their research into childhood cancer through the Children's Cancer Institute Australia (CCIA).

Josh McCarroll is part of the CCIA's Pharmacoproteomics Program and intends to use an RNA interference technique to more clearly mark out brain cancer cells so they can be targeted to reduce resistance to chemotherapy drugs.

The other winner was Maria Munoz, who's working on

neuroblastoma and the processes by which tumours create their own inflammatory environment.

Each youthful researcher will receive \$50,000 per year for two years from the Balnaves Foundation to further their research.

Pictured above from left: winner, Dr Joshua McCarroll; Professor Murray Norris, deputy director of CCIA; Hamish Balnaves of the Balnaves Foundation; winner Dr Marcia Munoz; and NSW Minister for Science, the Honourable Jodi McKay MP.

New research alliance

AUSTRALIA'S National Health and Medical Research Council has formed an alliance with counterparts in Canada, China, the US and the UK to "collaborate in the critical battle" against chronic diseases including heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, cancer and chronic respiratory conditions.

The Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases is being created to support clear priorities for a coordinated research effort that will "address this growing health crisis, now reaching world epidemic proportions."

The group said setting research priorities for non-communicable disease prevention would be closely coordinated with the WHO.

Adacel now in stock

SANOFI Pasteur has confirmed that it now has "ample supply" of its whooping cough booster vaccine Adacel for both the public and private markets in Australia.

There's been a shortage of the vaccine due to the current pertussis outbreak, but the firm said it had managed to expedite delivery of further supplies.

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Criminal checking

THE Pharmacists Board of Queensland has issued a document explaining new criminal history checking requirements which will apply to all applications for registration made from 01 July.

Criminal history includes every charge and/or conviction of the person for an offence, at any time, in Queensland or elsewhere.

Every person who applies to be registered as a pharmacist in Qld must declare whether they have any criminal history, in Australia or overseas. This information will then be verified by the board by conducting a criminal history check.

Australian criminal history checks will be coordinated by the Qld police and processed through the CrimTrac agency in Canberra.

The Qld Board said it will only be conducting the criminal history checks for new applicants, but it is proposed under the new national registration legislation that the Board will also be able to undertake checks on current registrants.

TGA confirms fee increases

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has released official Cost Recovery Impact Statements detailing large increases to fees and charges set to be implemented from 01 Jul.

The higher fees are a result of legislation requiring that the TGA recover its costs through levies on the industry, which have been criticised by a number of industry groups (**PD** 24 Apr, 13 May).

Fees for prescription medicines will increase by 6.6% for 2009-10 which will see the TGA recover about \$48.7m from this sector.

For registered non-prescription medicines the increase is more than twice as big, at 13.3%, which is estimated to bring in \$6.5m.

Fees for complementary medicines also increase by a hefty 14.3% for 2009-10, raising \$9.5m, while annual licence charges for blood, blood components and human tissues will increase by 12.8% to bring in \$2.7m in cost recoveries.

The TGA says it received a counter-proposal from the Complementary Healthcare Council which suggested a 5.3% increase, which was declined because that would see the complementary medicines sector under-recover its costs by about \$1.2m in 2009/10.

In fact the TGA estimated that increases of 21% would be required to achieve full cost recovery in the complementary medicines sector.

Similarly, the TGA knocked back submissions urging lower fees from the Australian Self Medication Industry and Johnson and Johnson Pacific, saying that again the fees for the non-prescription sector will still not fully recover costs.

A submission from Medicines Australia relating to the 6.6% boost to prescription medicine fees confirmed that the industry body did not oppose the increase.

The TGA said it would engage with the industry in the coming year to discuss options for regulatory reform, which will include a review of the current schedule of fees and charges for both non-prescription and complementary medicines.

The TGA also emphasised that it was continuing its Business Process Review to deliver "real efficiencies" for all sectors as well as its corporate support areas.

\$5m rural funding

THE government has announced \$5m in funding for 27 rural and regional health infrastructure projects under the National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program.

The money will be used to build or expand and fit out medical centres in a number of communities, with the latest funding following the approval of 53 projects in Jan at a cost of \$12m, as well as a further 40 in the 2009/10 budget.

Applications received under the third funding round of the NRRHIP are currently being assessed, and will be announced later this year.

Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Warren Snowdon, said: "I strongly encourage rural doctors, shire councils and Indigenous community councils to apply for funding in round 4, and improve the health care available in the community."



DISPENSARY CORNER

STAFF at a city council in Florida, USA, have been ordered to comply with a new hygiene code which mandates the use of deodorant, as well as ordering that everyone must wear underwear.

The code has been approved for workers in Brooksville, north of Tampa, with other requirements banning exposed underwear, clothing with obscenities, "sexually provocative" outfits and piercings anywhere except ears.

Officials voted in the new code 4-1, with the one opposing vote coming from Mayor Joe Bernadini, who said forcing people to use underwear "takes away freedom of choice."

BRITISH doctors have issued an official health alert for music festival attendees, warning them of the dangers of 'crowd surfing' and 'stage diving'.

During the northern summer there are lots of concert events in the UK, with the practice of passing fans over the heads of others becoming more prevalent.

Health professionals warned that crowd surfers could suffer bruises, strains and even whiplash if they were dropped, and also said some women had been groped as they were passed overhead.

PEOPLE will be just dying to take advantage of this deal.

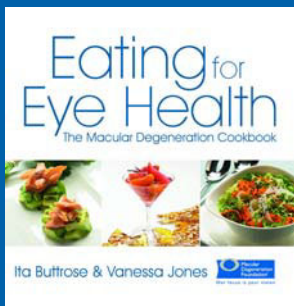
A cemetery in the US city of Indianapolis is promoting a 'buy one, get one free' burial plot sale (see pictured below).

The general manager of Memorial Park Cemetery downplayed suggestions that the bargain special was a sign of the global financial crisis, saying that it was a promotion which had been run for some time at this time of year.



BOGOF bargain burials...

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** has been 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.

Today is your last chance to enter. Simply send your answer to the following question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Name one 'hero' eye health food.

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 Michael Bereszkowski of The Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital who was yesterday's winner, and will be receiving a copy of the book.

