



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

This week's update from the Guild

The Quality Quest 2009 APP Conference Workshop

How healthy is your pharmacy?

There are so many different aspects to a pharmacy business and so many factors that determine its productivity and profitability that it's not always obvious what changes will be the most effective. The good news is there are some very practical tools available that will help gather the data you need to make informed decisions.

The Quality Quest is a first for QCPP and totally unique in pharmacy. Three pharmacies have been given the opportunity to take advantage of professional consultants who are experts in the field of quality systems, absolutely free. The Quest will culminate in a major workshop at the APP Conference 2009 and you are invited to attend!

This workshop will help attendees to recognise and use 'Continuous Quality Improvement' (CQI) tools that can improve business systems and create efficiencies. Our three consultants, who have worked with pharmacies over four months, will use case studies to workshop with attendees how CQI tools can be used in practice and how they can be applied. This is a hands on and practical workshop which will give you the tools to become a CQI expert in your own pharmacy!

To register for the conference or the Quality Quest visit www.appconference.com or for more information about the workshop contact the QCPP 1300 363 340.

Date: Thu 2 April, 9am-12:30pm
Cost: \$55pp
Venue: 2009 APP Conference
Gold Coast Exhibition and
Convention Centre in QLD

This workshop is supported by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

CH reform vital - Harvey

DR Ken Harvey has responded to the Complementary Healthcare Council's assertions about ongoing complementary medicine regulation reform (*PD* yesterday), saying that despite the process, "promotion by Australian sponsors of complementary medicines regularly breaches the Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code with impunity."

Harvey said that the "process" started in 2003 and was aborted in 2007 with the abandonment of the proposed Australia New Zealand Therapeutic Products

Sydney Uni asthma research grants

THE NSW Asthma Foundation has awarded researchers from the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney funding for two projects.

Dr Maria Sukkar was awarded a \$50,000 Sustainability Research Grant to investigate the processes that lead to abnormal airway muscle function in asthmatics, while Dr Margaret Hughes, Professor Carol Armour and Dr Brian Oliver received a \$25,000 Research Support Grant for their project on corticosteroids, mast cells, airway smooth muscle and remodelling in asthma.

Dr Hughes said the grants would "enable us to test new innovative ideas in asthma therapies."

RGH E-Bulletin

THIS week's Pharmacy E-Bulletin from SA's Repatriation General Hospital deals with denosumab, a novel therapy under investigation for the treatment of osteoporosis in post-menopausal women.

The bulletin is available from chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au.

**Tell your
pharmaceutical
friends about
Pharmacy Daily**

**They can sign up for a
free subscription at**

www.pharmacydaily.com.au

Click here

NUROFEN JUST GOT FASTER

THAN STANDARD NUROFEN

**TWICE
AS FAST**

*ABSORBED UP TO TWICE AS FAST
AS STANDARD NUROFEN



eMIMS direct link

MIMS Australia has announced a direct link between eMIMS and Simple Retail's Aquarius dispensing system.

Effective 01 Apr the change will mean that pharmacies using Aquarius can directly and easily access information in eMIMS or eMIMS for Pharmacy whilst dispensing to patients.

MIMS business development manager Dinah Graham said the new tie-up means that "four major dispensing software applications each have this level of functionality, and there are more to come this year."

"MIMS pharmacy customers are now offered important dispensing and patient care information in a format not previously available to them," Graham said.

"The direct access from their dispense module will save pharmacists time and provide a wealth of dispensary and counselling information at the click of a button."

eMIMS for Pharmacy offers an array of other resources including drug/drug interactions (including herbal and complementary products), CMI and patient information handouts, support group listings and more.

Aquarius is installed in over 500 Australian pharmacies.

Authority (*PD* 17 Jul 2007).

He said that although the govt is now introducing some of the reforms agreed to by the ANZTPA process, "advertising is not yet on the agenda."

Harvey also said that the TGA doesn't routinely evaluate evidence to support the claims made by sponsors of complementary medicines, "and hence the suggestion by CHOICE and others for an opt-in, independent evaluation system."

He said that it's his understanding that such a concept was first raised in 2003 by the Expert Committee on Complementary Medicines in the Health System.

"Six years later, with no action from the TGA, some people are proposing to get on with the job!" he concluded.

Rudd's tax breaks

GUILD Accountants has today released a tax bulletin which details the federal government's business tax break as part of its stimulus package.

The bulletin details how pharmacists can take advantage of the opportunity and possible savings available through tax deductions - guildgroup.com.au.

WIN A COPY OF NIGHTS IN RODANTHE ON DVD



Pharmacy Daily has this week again teamed up with EseaCruising.com and Roadshow Entertainment, giving readers the chance to win a copy of the romantic movie, *Nights In Rodanthe*, on DVD.

Starring Richard Gere and Diane Lane, the movie is about a doctor who is travelling to visit his estranged son, and on his way stops at a North Carolina inn and sparks with an unhappily married woman.

To enter, simply tell us in about 25 words what is one of the most eye-catching product displays you've seen in a pharmacy window and why this was so effective.

The best entry sent in each day will win a copy of the DVD and have their story published in *Pharmacy Daily*.

Send your entries to:
comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.



CONGRATULATIONS to Elisa Gavin of Regional Pharmaceuticals who was yesterday's winner, sending in the following entry - Steven's Pharmacy Newtown - Sebamed products.

The window display was very exciting, products hanging from the ceiling the whole product range displayed, looked very professional, colourful, interesting. Got me interested in the products displayed, very effective.

Osteoporosis alert

PHARMACY can play a key role in ensuring patients are diagnosed and treated for osteoporosis, which is currently costing the Australian health system a staggering \$1m every hour.

That was the message from a briefing this morning by two eminent osteoporosis experts.

Professor John Eisman of the Bone and Mineral Research Program at the Garvan Institute said the condition was significantly under-diagnosed, with both men and women susceptible to fractures which can really make life miserable.

Any older pharmacy clients who present with broken bones should be urged to see their doctor for a bone mineral density test, with vitamin D supplements also a key aid to bone health.

Vaccinate kids against influenza

PHARMACISTS were today urged to speak with their customers about the benefits of having their children vaccinated against influenza this winter.

Australian experts in influenza and paediatrics warned that an increasing body of evidence is demonstrating the serious illness that influenza can cause in children under five years of age.

John Jackson, PSA board member and member of the Influenza Specialist Group, explained that many parents remain unaware that influenza hospitalisation rates are highest among children aged under five.

"Pharmacists are an important source of health information and are regularly consulted on child health matters by their customers," Mr Jackson said.

"The importance of influenza vaccination should be discussed not only with elderly Australians and those with 'at-risk' conditions, but also with customers of young children.

"This is especially important,

Corum backs eRx model

CORUM Health Services has today endorsed the eRx Script Exchange electronic prescribing model developed by Fred Health.

Corum will now participate in the initiative, with Guild President Kos Sclavos saying he very much appreciated the "partnership approach" taken by the company.

"Corum Health has been at the heart of pharmacy IT and innovation for nearly three decades," Sclavos said.

"I am delighted that my pharmacy members with Corum dispensary software products will now join this exciting initiative."

Corum md Mark Winnett said his company had made the decision to join eRx Script Exchange after reviewing a number of options for

electronic prescribing.

"The Pharmacy Guild's support of the eRx platform provides a degree of certainty that the interest of pharmacists and other industry stakeholders will be protected," Winnett said.

Corup software is used in point of sale, dispensing and business operations of more than 2300 Australian pharmacies under brands including Corum, Amfac and Pharmasol.

National exercise guidelines released

NEW national exercise guidelines, released yesterday, say everyone should get a minimum of 30 minutes of physical activity each day - regardless of their age or physical condition.

The guidelines are part of the government's plan to promote healthy ageing.

Dubbed the *Physical Activity Recommendations for Older Australians*, the guidelines suggest a range of activities to improve strength, fitness and flexibility.

Recommended activities include walking, vacuuming, golf, and even carrying the groceries.

FDA weight warning

THE US Food and Drug Administration has expanded its list of "tainted weight loss products," with 72 items now listed because they contain "undeclared, active pharmaceutical ingredients".

See www.fda.gov.

Qld Health Minister

QUEENSLAND'S new deputy premier Paul Lucas has been handed the health portfolio, becoming the fourth Qld health minister in 11 years.

Reappointed premier Anna Bligh said that improving the health system in Qld will be one of the incoming gov't's top priorities.



Talk to us about UPS Protection for your pharmacy

Contact us today on 1300 554 694 or click here to request more information



DISPENSARY CORNER

GARDENERS in the UK are being warned that getting out among the plants after a winter break can require the same preparation as that required for elite athletes going into a final.

The British College of Osteopathic Medicine has issued the alert at the start of the northern spring, saying that gardeners "shouldn't simply head out, pick up a spade and start digging."

Instead they should stretch before starting and always take regular breaks while gardening.

The college's head, Dr Ian Drysdale, said doctors tended to see a surge in "gardening-related injuries" such as strains and sprains during spring.

NOW this is dedication.

A surgeon in Italy has successfully completed brain surgery on a patient, despite himself suffering a heart attack during the procedure.

59-year-old Dr Claudio Vitale said he realised his patient would die if he stopped to seek treatment for himself.

They're both now recovering side by side in the hospital's intensive care ward.

BIRTH control has caused a major riot in Paris this week, with police arresting 11 young people in protests about Pope Benedict XVI's views about condom use in Africa.

Pro-condom activists staged a protest outside the French capital's iconic Notre Dame cathedral, handing out free condoms to worshippers as they left after Sunday mass.

Some of the churchgoers took violent exception to posters of the pontiff labelling him an "assassin" because of the impact condom use could have on HIV.