



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

## This week's update from the Guild

### Pharmacy of the Year Finalists

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, in partnership with Johnson and Johnson, are pleased to announce that the finalists for the Pharmacy of the Year 2009 will present at Australian Pharmacy Professional (APP) Conference on the Gold Coast this Friday.

The presentation will include a keynote address by Federal Minister for Human Services, Senator Joe Ludwig.

The Pharmacy of the Year awards recognise excellence and innovation in the delivery of health care solutions. For the 2009 program there were three categories – one for larger pharmacies with better access to resources; one for more modestly-sized pharmacists with fewer than eight full-time equivalent employees (including the owner/manager); and the People's Choice.

In the People's Choice category, the general public were invited to vote for their favourite pharmacy. Each member of the public was entitled to one vote by post or via the Ask Your Pharmacist website, with the winner decided by the greatest number of votes.

The entries for the two other categories were assessed by two independent judges. The judges visited all of the finalist pharmacies and assessed innovation, excellence and leadership in the areas of professional pharmacy services; health category retail management; community engagement; and business and human resources management.

#### Pharmacy of the Year finalists:

##### Small category finalists

- Dodges Ferry Pharmacy, TAS
- Gove Pharmacy, NT
- Nick Logan Pharmacist Advice, Sydney NSW

##### Large category finalists

- Chemmart Sorell, TAS
- Priceline Pharmacy Kiama, NSW
- Washington H Soul Pattison Pharmacy, Sydney NSW

## SHPA welcomes report

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) says the expansion of clinical pharmacy roles in NSW hospitals (PD Fri) will provide a major boost to patient care.

The NSW govt has announced it will recruit more than 60 new hospital pharmacists in response to the Garling Report which was commissioned to look at failings in the state's health system.

SHPA federal president Neil Keen warmly welcomed the govt recognition of the value of clinical pharmacy services and their benefits to patient care.

Keen said clinical pharmacists reduce errors which may occur in medicine prescribing, dispensing and administering systems in hospitals, as well as ensuring continuity with community health care providers.

"Our goals are to best support the patient journey and to improve medication safety, within both existing and new models of care," Keen said.

SHPA ceo Yvonne Allinson said NSW needs to develop a sustainable hospital pharmacist

### Pharmacy E-bulletin

THIS week's edition of the Repatriation General Hospital Pharmacy E-Bulletin gives an overview of the implications of patients taking both clopidogrel and proton pump inhibitors.

The bulletin is available at no charge from Chris Alderman on [chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au](mailto:chris.alderman@rgh.sa.gov.au).

## NUROFEN JUST GOT FASTER

THAN STANDARD NUROFEN

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\*ABSORBED UP TO TWICE AS FAST AS STANDARD NUROFEN

## Visually impaired medication aid

WEBSTERCARE has launched a new Webster-pak LV (low vision) specially designed to ensure that people with impaired eyesight can see and take their medications correctly.

The LV pack is black with large white writing to make the Mon-Sun labels and dosage times easier to see.

"We are finding these small changes to the traditional Webster-pak - especially the white on black contrast, which clarifies the writing - helps people with low vision to take their medications safely and accurately," said Webstercare md Gerard Stevens.

The new pack is now being sold in pharmacies Australia-wide and works with existing Webstercare medication management software - more information and free samples on 1800 244 358.

workforce to "enable consistent provision of clinical pharmacy services.

She said NSW had already undertaken work on re-entry approaches for pharmacists into the hospital system, but "the expansion of places for pre-registration intern pharmacists in public hospitals will be vital for short, medium and long term recruitment.

"We will need to also improve the recruitment of newly qualified pharmacists to the public hospital sector in NSW, thus harnessing the large increase in pharmacy graduates coming from NSW universities," she added.

### New ID flu vaccine

THE TGA has this month approved the world's first intradermal (ID) influenza vaccine for the prevention of seasonal influenza in adults and the elderly.

Intanza (influenza vaccine split virion, inactivated) is said to be the first intradermal influenza vaccine to "take full advantage of the immune role of the dermis, due to its advanced micro-injection system."

The micro needle of the system is only 1.5mm long, with Intanza formulated as a 0.1mL suspension - five times less than the volume of traditional IM flue suspensions.

It will be available for the 2010 influenza season in the 9ug presentation (ages 18-59) and in the 15ug presentation for 2011 (ages 60 and over).

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## WIN TAN IN A CAN

Le Tan has again teamed up with *Pharmacy Daily* giving readers the chance to win a can of the new Le Tan Jet Dry over the next two weeks.

Le Tan Jet Dry is the perfect last minute tan solution that can be applied before work or a night out on the town with the confidence it will be completely dry and ready when clothing is put on three minutes later.

Le Tan Jet Dry is infused with vanilla fragrance making it one of the most pleasantly scented tans available.

Each 100g can retails for \$12.99, and to receive your very own can for FREE, simply send through the correct answer to the following question:

Name another product from the Le Tan range.

Email your answer to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

The first correct entry received each day will win the prize, so get those entries in quick!

Hint: Visit the Le Tan website at: [www.letanfast.com.au](http://www.letanfast.com.au).



## Corum adds eMIMS link

MIMS has announced that Corum is the latest software vendor to offer a direct link to eMIMS or eMIMS for Pharmacy within its dispensing system.

The LOTS software now provides easy access MIMS information while dispensing to patients.

"LOTS is a fully integrated, windows based pharmacy solution," said Corum Health spokesperson Leah Ford.

"Corum and LOTS are seen as an innovator - the first to include standard sigs, barcode scanning and a single database.

"It is this innovation that led Corum Health to want to work with MIMS in this way," she said.

eMIMS for Pharmacy offers an array of resources including drug/

drug interactions (including herbal and complementary products), CMIs and patient information handouts as well as support group listings.

MIMS business development mgr Dinah Graham said the Corum deal meant the feature "is now available in the majority of dispensing software."

Pharmacy staff wanting to learn more about the eMIMS link and how it can best be utilised to help in the daily dispensing routine can use the simple online training program at [www.mims.com.au](http://www.mims.com.au).

## Botox PBS listing

BOTULINUM toxin type A will tomorrow become available on the PBS for treating upper limb spasticity, with the move particularly applicable to Australian stroke survivors.

Botox works by helping to relax contracted muscles and assisting with treatments such as physiotherapy, as well as helping to maintain hygiene such as cleaning a clenched hand.

Treatment of spasticity can be part of early intervention strategies to help rehabilitation.

From 01 Apr the PBS listing of Botox for treatment for juvenile cerebral palsy will also be expanded to add the treatment of moderate to severe upper limb spasticity for patient two years of age or older, in addition to the previous indication of treatment for equinus foot deformity which was approved last Dec.

## Blackmores in the pink!



BLACKMORES last week held a 'pink' day for its staff to celebrate the launch of its new partnership with the McGrath foundation (PD Fri).

Employees raised more than \$1750 for the breast cancer charity through a raffle, silent auction, guessing competition,



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## Pristiq evaluation

THE National Prescribing Service says there's no evidence that desvenlafaxine (Pristiq) is more effective, safer or better tolerated than its parent drug, venlafaxine, or other antidepressants.

Pristiq was recently PBS listed for major depressive disorder, but the latest edition of NPS RADAR has reviewed the medication, noting that the lowest effective dose of desvenlafaxine isn't known, and that doses above 50mg/day are unlikely to provide further clinical benefit.

See [www.npsradar.com.au](http://www.npsradar.com.au).

## DISPENSARY CORNER

IT wash the apples, offisher!

A Polish parliamentarian who failed a drink driving tests claims it was because he'd eaten too many apples.

News reports say Marek Latas denied having drunk alcohol on the day he was breathalysed, despite a traffic check showing he was over the limit.

"I am diabetic. I ate a few apples before driving," he insisted, with prosecutors investigating the case further.

There's suspicion that perhaps the apples had somehow become fermented into cider.

AND speaking of road hazards, an American man has crashed into a house while in the throes of a sneezing fit.

25-year-old Ramon Ayala allegedly lost control of his vehicle because he sneezed as he headed towards an intersection around 1am.

"When he stopped sneezing, he had run a stop sign and tried to hit the breaks," claimed his lawyer.

"But it was too late, and his car crashed into the corner of a house," he added.

A STUDY in the UK has found that women are more likely to go on spending sprees while suffering from PMS.

Psychologist Karen Pine found that in the 10 days before their periods began females were more likely to make impulse buys and shop extravagantly, after questioning about 500 women aged 18-50 about their spending habits.

Many of the women felt remorse later, she added.

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