

Tell your friends!

THE Pharmacy Guild is urging members to promote an upcoming industry dinner in Qld to contacts in the business and banking sectors.

"With the Agreement negotiations about to begin the Guild feels it is important for market analysts, bankers, business valuers and those in related industries to have a better understanding of our sector," said Guild President Kos Sclavos.

"One only has to read the market analyst reports on our listed ASX pharma companies to see that little is understood on pharmacy and even the PBS," he said.

The dinner, to be held at The Brisbane Club on 10 Jun, will feature a presentation from "industry legend" Terry White as well as a talk from Sclavos himself, who said he would unveil "new PBS analysis information that has never been released previously."

The event is being hosted by Medici Capital, and is the first time the firm has held an Industry Dinner in Brisbane.

More info 03 9853 7933 or by email office@medici.com.au.

Polypill update

THIS week's edition of the RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin gives an overview of the "polypill" - a single tablet containing antihypertensives, aspirin, a statin and folic acid - which has been claimed to have the potential to cut heart disease by up to 80%.

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

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Stage set for DAA and PMP

PHARMACISTS are being urged to register to participate in the second phase of the Dose Administration Aids program and the Patient Medication Profile program before the end of July.

The Pharmacy Guild has reassured potential participants that the programs have both been "reviewed and revamped" in response to community pharmacy feedback "to make them easier and more user-friendly".

By registering before the end of July, pharmacies will be eligible for the full incentive payment of \$2250 for DAA and \$1250 for PMP (both +GST), while a lesser payment will be made for late registrations.

Guild President Kos Sclavos said that under the revamped programs "the amount of time and data required by participating pharmacies has been reduced and the payment deadlines and

amounts have been simplified.

"In addition the reporting system and information sources have been streamlined," he added.

The DAA program requires high levels of participation to effectively assess its efficacy in delivery services to patients, with Sclavos saying "We need as many pharmacies as possible to participate in Phase 2 of these programs to ensure the ongoing and sustainable delivery of these important services to our patients."

"It is vital to get the evaluation data, as well as feedback from users to make improvements."

Sclavos said the services offered clear benefits to patients, through better medication management and continuity of care.

"The community benefits by fewer hospitalisations associated with medicine misadventure and delayed admissions to aged care services," he said.

More info on registering can be found under the Professional Pharmacy Services section of www.guild.org.au.

TGA to press on with CMI website

A NEW website offering "improved access to prescription medicine information" is planned for launch in the fourth quarter of 2009, according to information on the TGA website.

The project is part of a business improvement project undertaken by the TGA, with an online presentation saying the initiative "involves facilitating access to a comprehensive source of up to date Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) and Product Information (PI) via the TGA website."

The update comes despite a petition circulated at the APP conference in Mar urging that the website not be created (TD 03 Apr) because it will "unnecessarily complicate and duplicate the existing streamlined provision of information".

Other TGA initiatives planned include more transparency of the Prescription Medicine regulatory process through the publication of an Australian Public Assessment Report, and there's also an "accelerated application entry" project to reduce timeframes to market by replacing the current 40-day application entry process with an improved pre-submission process.

Sun spot gel trial

QUEENSLAND-born pharmaceutical company Peplin has released findings from Phase III clinical trials of its treatment for solar keratosis, saying the "very positive results" are a "significant milestone in the development of this product, and one that the Queensland and indeed Australian research community can be very proud of."

The trial found PEP005 Gel applied once a day for just two days resulted in a 67% median reduction in the number of lesions, a 27% complete clearance rate across all areas treated - including back of hand and arm locations - and a partial clearance rate of 44%.

There were no adverse effects reported during the trial.

Peplin said it would start its Phase III program for patients with solar keratoses on the head, an estimated 70% of the solar keratosis market, later this year.

PEP005 Gel is the result of Australian R&D with the firm's manufacturing site in Southport and raw materials sourced from Queensland farmers.



DISPENSARY CORNER

IF you're ever held up in your pharmacy, check for a fruity odour.

An alleged armed robber in the USA managed to destroy a key piece of evidence while being detained by a store owner after attempting to carry out a theft.

17-year-old John Szwalla entered an internet cafe holding a banana under his shirt to resemble a gun.

The owner and a customer grabbed the assailant and held him until police arrived.

However while they waited the teen ate the banana - with officers taking a picture of the peel to be presented when the matter comes before a court.

THE latest anti-obesity move in the USA is new restaurant menu labelling rules in Massachusetts, where fast food chains will be required to list the calorie content of every item.

The move has been introduced in other US states, but this latest initiative is unique in that it will also cover items at restaurant drive-through windows - which astonishingly comprise about 65% of the total sales.

ONLY in China?

The world's first ever "sex theme park" is set to open in Chongqing province in Oct, but has aroused howls of protests.

The developers of 'Love Land' say features include sex history displays, giant genitals, naked human sculptures and "technique workshops" to "help adults enjoy a harmonious sex life."

However in a late-breaking development the storm of outrage appears to have put a stop to the project before it opens, with the park to now suffer a severe case of premature demolition.

YOGI Bear would be horrified.

Two staff at the iconic Yellowstone National Park in the USA have been fired after they were spotted on a live webcam urinating into the park's famous Old Faithful geyser.

A park spokesman detailed the incident, saying: "The geyser was not erupting at the time."