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Three pages of news

TODAY'S packed issue of *Pharmacy Daily* has three pages filled with the latest pharmacy industry news, including a series of announcements made at the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Pharmacy Australia Congress today in Sydney.

Continence meetings

JOHNSON and Johnson has announced that it will host two meetings this month for healthcare professionals to examine issues, prevalence, management and treatment options for women's urinary incontinence.

The 'Stop copying. Start Living' meetings will take place in Newcastle on Thu 22 Oct and in Robina on the Gold Coast on Thu 29 Oct, with both starting at 6pm.

Pharmacists wanting more information about attending can call Jacquie Rodgers at J&J Medical on 02 9818 3866.

PSA signs MoU with RACGP

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has today announced a historic new agreement with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners "to work collaboratively and cooperatively for the benefits of health consumers; in Australia."

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by PSA President Warwick Plunkett and RACGP President Dr Chris Mitchell at a ceremony during the Pharmacy Australia Congress in Sydney.

Plunkett said the PSA and RACGP have a "shared commitment to delivering the highest standards of care and improved health outcomes to the community, and both organisations have a focus on training and continuing professional education."

"There are enormous benefits in the two organisations working together," he said.

Plunkett said the agreement established the framework to help unite the professions in the context of primary health-care teams.

"It also strengthens the two

professions' advocacy position when seeking mutually agreed objectives to enhance health-care outcomes," he added.

RACGP President Mitchell said "The skills of pharmacists are vitally needed to support the delivery of services our patients need and to help address the currently unmet health needs as we move from a hospital based to a community based system."

He said the pact was a clear indication that the RACGP wants a constructive relationship with pharmacy, adding that it would also provide an opportunity for joint R&D projects.

ACCC authorises Medicines Aust code

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has today issued a draft determination which proposes a grant of authorisation for five years to Medicines Australia's 16th edition of its Code of Conduct.

ACCC Chairman Graeme Samuel said the new edition of the code fully incorporates the public reporting requirements which were previously imposed on MA, saying the code provides a standard to address relationships between drug makers and health professionals "which may harm consumers."

"One important way in which the potential for conflicts of interest is addressed is through the public disclosure of any hospitality, including costs, providing transparency around the relationship between member companies and healthcare professionals," Samuel said.

"The requirement for public disclosure was imposed by the ACCC as a condition of authorisation of the previous version of Medicine Australia's Code and was confirmed on appeal by the Australian Competition Tribunal," he added.

Samuel said that although a recent consultation process had called for the code or similar standards to apply to generic drug manufacturers and across the industry more broadly, "the ACCC is not able, through this authorisation, to require non-members of Medicines Australia to comply with this or a similar Code."

FDA warning wrong

THE US Food and Drug Administration has apologised for accidentally posting a warning letter to Procter & Gamble on its website yesterday.

The letter related to Vicks DayQuil Plus Vitamin C and Vicks Nyquil Plus Vitamin C products, but the FDA now says no warning letter has been sent to the company.

The agency said the inadvertent addition to its website was "due to an internal systems error."

Male breast support

A NEW CD and podcast titled 'When the woman you love has early breast cancer', has been launched this week to support men during the breast cancer journey.

"The resource helps men to understand they are not alone, that many others have been through this journey, and that help is available," said CD contributor, Dr Jane Turner psychiatrist and advisor to the National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre.

The CD and podcast is available free of charge to order and download from the National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre website at www.nbcc.com.au.

Another Logan gong

SYDNEY community pharmacist Nick Logan has followed up his Quality Care Pharmacy of the Year award at APP (PD 03 Apr) by today being named the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Pharmacist of the Year

PSA President Warwick Plunkett said the award is recognition of "how Mr Logan was one of the first pharmacists to adopt the 'Forward Pharmacy' model and how he has built on it."

Logan said he was honoured by the award, saying it was recognition that in 2009 "there is an alternative to price-focused pharmacy, and that commitment to professional service can be commercially successful and professionally rewarding."

The Pharmacy Australia Congress also saw community pharmacist Bruce Elliott from Yeppoon in Queensland named as the PSA Young Pharmacist of the Year.

Elliott is Qld PSA vice president as well as a National Board member of the society.

The PSA Lifetime Achievement Award went to Emil Dan, whose 49-year career in pharmacy has included the identification of dust mites as a primary cause of allergy and asthma.

Dan developed a program called Standards of Asthma in Pharmacy Practice and was also instrumental in unifying state-based asthma bodies into a national body able to deliver coordinated programs.

The 2009 awards were once again sponsored by Symbion, which has now supported the PSA in this way for five years running.

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Dermatitis program

A NEW PSA accredited program for pharmacists on Atopic Dermatitis has been created by health training portal mdBriefCase.

The free learning program 'Atopic Dermatitis – Strategies for pharmacists' gives an overview of the condition and provides useful steps and guidance for pharmacists relating to care and treatment.

"Atopic dermatitis particularly affects children and is the most common chronic skin condition affecting young Australians," said program author Debbie Rigby.

"Pharmacists are in a unique position to be able to counsel families with atopic dermatitis on the management of the disease and measures to prevent flare-ups."

See www.mdBriefCase.com.au.

Cervical cancer cut

HOT on the heels of the free cervical cancer vaccine scheme, the Govt has announced that it will not be extending Medicare funding to new cervical cancer screening techniques, with the move angering some doctors who say the current 'outmoded technology' forces many women to be re-tested unnecessarily.

SHPA competence plan

AN influx of new hospital pharmacist placements across the country is behind a move by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia to develop a new national competency framework.

SHPA said that with the influx of young pharmacists "there is a need to accelerate the development of their clinical pharmacy skills in hospital practice."

"Supporting service consistency both within and across hospitals is also of utmost importance to ensure quality services for patients," the Society added in a statement.

SHPA has an agreement to collaborate on the General Level Framework (GLF) developed by the UK Competency Development and Evaluation Group, with input from Australian experts who have already undertaken similar work.

The project is being undertaken by new SHPA joint project officers Karen Bettenay and Lynda Cardiff, who are on secondment from Queensland Health and both of whom have extensive experience in hospital pharmacy.

SHPA President Neil Keen said

"This project is anticipated and welcomed by directors of pharmacy and individual pharmacists around the country."

"The initial work will include wide consultation with those who have experience using the GLF tool or other similar tools."

"Our aim is to design a nationally applicable framework with a blueprint for sustainable training and use by both individuals and managers," he said.

Keen said many SHPA members would be involved in the project, with support already received from many interested stakeholders.

He said a reference group of pharmacists with expertise in practice, research, education, training and management from across the country was being assembled to support the work.

FDA launches new H1N1 'widget'

A NEW "portable application" or widget has been launched by the US Food and Drug Administration which aims to easily allow users to browse and search fraudulent H1N1 influenza products and report suspected fraud.

The widget can be copied onto any website or blog to increase awareness of the issue.

The FDA overnight issued an official warning advising consumers to "use extreme care" when purchasing any products on the internet which claim to diagnose, prevent, treat or cure swine flu.

CPR shortage

A RECENT study conducted by The Children's Hospital in Westmead has found that only 1 in 10 Aussies know CPR, and only 1 in 6 would perform the procedure on a stranger, and 1 in 3 saying they would help a collapsed child.

The results have renewed calls from the pharmacy industry for CPR course enrolments, with the PSA saying that 'having in-store qualified first aid pharmacy staff will give staff confidence to act in emergency situations, will reassure customers and provide a customer care promotion point'.

The PSA offers reduced cost First Aid courses covering amongst other areas, CPR, for all members.

See www.psa.org.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A NEW health campaign in Mexico City will see upwards of 1300 overweight police officers placed on a diet.

As part of official ceremony procedures held yesterday, the participating officers underwent a public health examination which included having their vital statistics along with a very public weigh-in.

"We can't ask them to stop eating tortas and tacos," said Nora Frias, a local police official.

"We can tell them that if they eat a torta today, they have to balance it in the next meal with some vegetables," she added.

Currently official figures put Mexico's obesity rates at 30%, with seven out of ten members in the police classed as overweight.

The new initiative will force participants to undergo monthly examinations and weigh-ins.

THE world's smallest living man, Khagendra Thapa Magar from Nepal has turned 18 and is now renewing his bid to have his status made official by the Guinness Book of Records, after it was rejected when he was 14 because of age regulations.

Standing 56cms tall, Khagendra is believed to be a shoo-in to replace the current title holder, He Pingping of China who is much taller at 73cm.

According to the Book, the smallest ever living man was Gul Mohammed of New Delhi (deceased) who beats Khagendra by just 0.1 centimetre, measuring in at 55.9cms.



And he's a cute little fella too!

Relax with this Lavender pack

CONGRATULATIONS to Niki Patel from CBD Pharmacy in Pitt St, Sydney who was yesterday's winner of our Bosisto's Lavender Spray competition.



RECENT statistics show the average person spends over 2.5 hours a day worrying and a quarter of us toss and turn at night as a result.

Fear no more, because Bosisto's has the perfect anxiety antidote, called Bosisto's Lavender Spray.

Bosisto's has teamed up with *Pharmacy Daily* this

week, giving readers the chance to win a Bosisto's Relax Pack every day this week, featuring Bosisto's Lavender Spray; Oil; a Handy Hints brochure and luxury fluffy bed socks, valued at \$45 each.

The ingenious Lavender Spray product harnesses the clinically proven therapeutic properties of 100% pure lavandula angustifolia oil, in a handy Spray can.

For your chance to win this sensational Bosisto's Relax Pack, simply be the first reader to email the correct answer to the daily question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Bosisto's Lavender Spray can assist with insomnia and _____?

Check out the Bosistos website for hints at www.fgb.com.au.

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 Guild

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.

19 Oct: 'Insomnia Identifying Causes And Offering Management Tips' seminar, Monash University, Melbourne- 9389 4012.

19 Oct: 'Malnutrition in the elderly', Griffin University, Qld- 07 3844 4900

20 Oct: Current Management of Wound Care info session, Mildura Base Hospital- 0393894013.

20 Oct: 'Asthma: Emergency Management and Errors with Devise Use' talk, Ballarat, Vic - 0393894013.

21 Oct: 'Dementia Management Principals' session, Allied Health Conference Room, Ryot St. Warranmbool, Vic - terry.wong@psavic.com.au.

15-18 Oct: Pharmacy Australia Congress 2009 will be held in Sydney - www.pac2009.com.au.

29-31 Oct: The Pharmacy Assistant National Conference - www.pharmacyassistants.com.

04 Nov: Type 2 Diabetes and hypercholesterolaemia with Prof Peter Carroll, Pharmacy Guild St Leonards - 02 9467 7170.

5-8 Nov: National Medicines Management Conference in Perth - www.shpamm2009.com.

12 Nov: The ASMI annual conference and agm at the Australian Technology Park in Redfern, Sydney - asmi.com.au.

16-23 Jan 2010: Pharmacy Study Tour in Aspen, Colorado - www.medic.com.au/study-tours.

4-17 Feb 2010: PSA Expedition Education conference in Chile and Patagonia. Limited to 50 people - 1300 139 293.

28 Apr-7 May 2010: The PSA will hold its 35th annual offshore conference in Beijing and Shanghai - 1300 139 293.

TGA acts on Gingko Biloba

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has responded to the ongoing controversy about complementary medicines with Gingko Biloba as an active ingredient (**PD** 14 May, 07 Oct).

The Office of Complementary Medicines has announced an additional condition of listing on any such products, which specifies that "the Ginkgo Biloba leaf extract used in the manufacture of this medicine must comply with the requirement of Identification Test B of the monograph 'Powdered Ginkgo Extract' in the *United States Pharmacopoeia 32 - National Formulary 27*."

The condition does not apply to powdered or dried leaf.

Any sponsors who will be affected by the new condition of listing will be issued notices by the TGA within the next week or so.

The Complementary Healthcare Council has issued a technical alert relating to the transition period for any medicines currently listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods containing Ginkgo Biloba, specifying that manufacturers will be given a three month transitional period.

This means any batches of existing medicines manufactured on or after 18 Jan 2010 are required to comply with the condition, while any new medicines

NSW energy rebate

THE NSW Govt has today initiated an annual medical energy rebate of \$130 for low-income constituents living with thermoregulatory dysfunction (temperature intolerance).

The condition affects people suffering from a variety of conditions including MS, Parkinson's, post-polio syndrome and spinal cord injury, with slight temperature increases causing a range of problems incl. extreme fatigue, blindness, incontinence and tremors.

"The NSW Government's new rebate will provide much needed assistance for people living with MS on low incomes who have to run their air conditioners approximately 15 times more than average NSW households," said Dr Michael Summers, senior policy advisor for MS Australia.

registered on or after 19 Oct 2009 will be subject to the new condition from the date of listing.

TGA testing of a number of products currently on the market revealed a "wide variation" in levels of quercetin and rutin, leading to claims that some products were adulterated with other compounds.

Roxon at ASMI

FEDERAL Health Minister Nicola Roxon has been confirmed as a speaker at the upcoming ASMI annual conference and AGM on 12 Nov, where she will present on the issues of self care from a Governmental standpoint. Parliamentary Secretary Mark Butler has also today confirmed his presence as a speaker at the event.

Pharmacists win with iNova



ABOVE: A group of Pharmaceutical Society of Australia members experienced a rare opportunity yesterday when they were given a tour of iNova Pharmaceutical's Technology Centre in Sydney.

The inaugural tour of the manufacturing, laboratory and product development facility was aimed at educating attendees about Good Manufacturing, Laboratory and Warehouse Practices, with the event also accredited as a CPD activity.

The pharmacists also inspected the centre's comprehensive quality control procedures and the laboratory where testing and validation of all iNova products takes place.

PSA President Warwick Plunkett said "There are very few opportunities for pharmacists to see the strict standards applied to pharmaceutical manufacturing and quality control of medicines, yet

this is very relevant to pharmacy practice, particularly when advising patients and consumers about product quality.

"The knowledge gained from the iNova tour will help pharmacists to confidently manage customer issues relating to product claims, ingredient content, expiry dates, label/package controls, product complaints and recalls", he said.

The pharmacists also took part in a quiz, with PSA member Mena Abdel Messih pictured above centre with a prize of a new iPod, together with iNova Manufacturing and Operations Director, Graham Garside (left) and iNova gm Australia and NZ, Peter Mayrick.

And below Bryce McMahan, iNova Quality Control Manager, shows the group his equipment.

