

## Guild Update

### This week's update from the Guild

#### Rural Scholarships

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia is inviting rural and remote students to apply for scholarships worth up to \$40,000 to study pharmacy.

Applications opened on Friday 2 Oct and close Monday 14 Dec.

A total of 30 fulltime scholarships are available annually, valued at \$10,000 per annum over a four year period. Applicants can be in any year of undergraduate or postgraduate study.

The Rural and Remote Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme has been established to give financial support to pharmacy students from rural and remote communities.

Scholarship recipients are encouraged to seek employment in rural and remote areas following graduation.

The Guild is delighted to offer encouragement and support to rural and remote pharmacy students.

The scholarships not only provide financial assistance, but also provide support for pharmacist hopefuls to realise their dreams.

It is a great initiative that helps students achieve their goals and supports community pharmacy in rural and remote areas.

With the strong support of the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement rural initiatives, community pharmacy is the only part of the health sector that has actually grown in rural and regional Australia in recent times, and the Guild would like to maintain this trend.

Applications can be made via the Guild's website at [www.ruralpharmacy.com.au](http://www.ruralpharmacy.com.au).

The Rural and Remote Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme is an initiative of the Rural Pharmacy Workforce Program, established in recognition of the key role pharmacists play in maintaining the health of all Australians.

The Program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, and is managed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.



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## Board consultation process

THE new national Pharmacy Board will today publish a consultation paper covering proposals for the "five mandatory registration standards" - professional indemnity insurance, criminal history matters, English language skills, previous practice and requirements for continuing professional development.

The Board met last week to finalise the paper, and acknowledged the "tight timetable for completion of the initial part of its work" which is required so that registrants can have advice ahead

of the 01 Jul 2010 introduction of the new scheme.

Comments on the consultation paper will be due by 24 Nov, with the Board urging stakeholders to respond promptly so their comments can be properly considered.

The Board also looked at how individual registrants will transition to the new categories set out in the proposed National Law, and also established a committee to oversee decisions on registrations.

The consultation paper is expected to be online at [www.aphra.gov.au](http://www.aphra.gov.au) sometime today.

## Meet the 2009 PSOTY!



ABOVE: Pictured here is the winner of the 2009 Pharmacy Student of the Year Competition, Simeon Ngweso from Curtin University in WA.

The competition was staged at the Pharmacy Australia Congress in Sydney, facilitated by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and sponsored by Alphapharm.

It provides students from universities around the country with the chance to showcase their counselling skills in front of an array of pharmacists and industry professionals.

Simeon's prize for winning the overall competition is a travel grant which will allow him to attend the International Pharmacy Student Federation Congress in Ljubljana, Slovenia in Aug 2010.

Jacquie Carbines, the president of the National Australian Pharmacy Students Association encouraged students to get involved in the competition next year.

"It is a fantastic opportunity to

further develop confidence in your counselling skills and to meet with members of the industry at a professional conference," she said.

Next year's event will take place at PAC 2010 in Melbourne.

Pictured above at the official winners ceremony are, from left: John Bell, PSA; Simeon Ngweso, winner of PSOTY 2009; and Jacquie Carbines, NAPSA.

## S100 workshops

AUSTRALIAN Healthcare Associates has announced revised dates for its series of workshops to discuss the current S100 Review of the National Health Act 1953.

The new sessions will be held:

- **Darwin 28 Oct** 3-5pm Novotel Atrium, 100 The Esplanade
- **Sydney 04 Nov** - Dept of Health, 1 Oxford St Darlinghurst 9.30-12 HSD/SA, 1-2.30pm AHSRA, 2.45-4.15pm ODT/CM
- **Perth 10 Nov** - Dept of Health, 152-158 St Georges Terrace 9-11am AHSRA, 11.30-1.30 ODT/CM, 2.30-4.15 HSD/SA
- **Melbourne 10 Nov** - Australian Healthcare Associates L5 126 Exhibition St 9.30-12 ODT/CM, 1-2.30pm HSD/SA, 2.45-4.00pm AHSRA

Participants must register to attend the workshops by calling 1300 788 667 or emailing [s100review@ahaconsulting.com.au](mailto:s100review@ahaconsulting.com.au).

## Sigma appoints pharmacist director

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals yesterday announced the appointment of David Manuel as a non-executive director.

The company said Manuel is a community pharmacist and "an active participant in industry affairs".

He's currently a Branch Committee Member of the WA branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, as well as being a member of the Guild National Workplace Relations and Small Business Committee.



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 Guild

## Dressing program

**THE** federal government has confirmed a \$164m program which helps funds dressings for patients with Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), a rare, debilitating genetic disease characterised by fragile skin and blisters.

Most commonly affecting children, EB treatment involves the constant management of wounds and protection of the fragile skin from trauma and infections.

Specialised dressings and bandages can cost up to \$5000 a month, and the condition most often affects children meaning the financial impact can be devastating.

The new EB scheme will commence on 01 Jan 2010, with the Health Dept currently finalising the selection of the organisation to undertake the scheme's administration.

Under the program a month's supply of dressings will be delivered to eligible patients' homes for a fee equivalent to one PBS co-payment.

## Pharmacist asthma guide

**THE** National Asthma Council Australia has produced a new quick reference guide for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants, to help them when dispensing analgesics to people with asthma.

"Pain Relievers and Asthma: Quick Reference Guide" aims to address the issue of aspirin and non-steroidal antiinflammatory drugs which can in some cases provoke asthma or rhinitis symptoms in some patients.

The resource includes an update on evidence on aspirin-intolerant asthma and a flowchart of the essential questions to ask patients requesting pain reliever medications.

Aspirin/NSAID-intolerant asthma (AIA) affects 3-11% of asthma sufferers, with symptoms typically occurring within 1-3 hours of taking the analgesics orally.

People who experience sensitivity to one NSAID are likely to see the

same effect from other NSAIDs.

A person with AIA typically begins to experience the symptoms at the age of 30, firstly as severe rhinitis and then later a loss of the sense of smell, nasal polyps and chronic sinusitis.

The guidance document and flowchart will be distributed to pharmacies this month and are also online at [nationalasthma.org.au](http://nationalasthma.org.au).

## ARC research grants

**SEVERAL** one-year research grants worth around \$50,000 each will be available from the Australian Respiratory Council in 2010.

The grants are named after Dr Harry Windsor, a leading heart surgeon who died in 1987 and who was instrumental to the operations of the ARC for a number of years.

Applications for the grants close on 06 Nov 2009; in order to apply the Chief Investigator should send the Application ID number and the original title of their grant application submitted to the NHMRC in 2009 to [research@thearc.org.au](mailto:research@thearc.org.au).

## FDA backs flu drug

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration has approved the emergency use of the intravenous antiviral drug peramivir for the treatment of swine flu.

The move comes in response to a request from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and it allows the drug to be used for adult and pediatric patients who have been hospitalised and are not responding to inhaled antivirals or where other methods of drug delivery are inappropriate.

The decision makes peramivir the only intravenous treatment for influenza to be approved.

The authorisation ends when the declaration of emergency (PD yesterday) is terminated.

## Ferguson cook book

**SEASONAL** Flavours, the new cook book from Australia's authority on weight loss, Tony Ferguson, will be available to purchase from Nov.

The book features 60 low GI recipes based on the four seasons.

For more info or to order a copy go to [www.tonyferguson.com](http://www.tonyferguson.com).



## DISPENSARY CORNER

**THIS** could be ideal for customers who buy a lot of deodorant.

Japanese vehicle manufacturer Mitsubishi has launched a special new odour-fighting concept car at the Tokyo Motor Show.

The PX-Miev is claimed to have a special anti-smell coating on its upholstery, aimed at breaking down offensive odours.

The fart-fighting seats are complemented with special air conditioning which pumps out aroma molecules and enriched oxygen to reduce driver fatigue.

**POLICE** from a small town in Minnesota have announced they will auction a motorised lounge chair which they seized after a drunk driving accident (PD Fri).

The chair will be posted on eBay once the paperwork is completed, and could attract a sky-high price given the global coverage that the incident has attracted.

The chair is powered by a modified lawnmower engine and inbuilt equipment includes headlights, a nitrous oxide power boost system and a parachute.

**A MEDICAL** emergency on a flight between Penang and Kuching in Malaysia ended happily last week with the unexpected arrival of a new baby.

The AirAsia flight undertook an emergency diversion after one of the passengers went into labour, and the flight attendants managed to find a doctor on board to help with the crisis.

They almost made it - the plane was on final approach to its emergency landing in Kuala Lumpur when the new baby boy was born.

Although the incident caused major inconvenience to the passengers, the airline was thrilled at the happy outcome.

"To celebrate this momentous occasion, we decided to present both mother and child with free flights for life," said AirAsia Director of Operations, Moses Devanayagam, after visiting the pair in hospital.

## Win a HemAway Seat



**DID** you know that nearly 50% of the world's population will suffer from some degree of haemorrhoidal pain by age 50?

The new HemAway seat (pictured) is the answer, providing urgent immediate, pain-free relief!

Each day this week, HemAway is giving **Pharmacy Daily** readers the chance to win a HemAway Seat, valued at \$185.

The HemAway Seat is a heavy plastic seat that sits over your own toilet in the comfort and privacy of your home.

It's a haemorrhoid management system, providing pain relief and control over the haemorrhoids aggravation for hours after use.

**For your chance to win a HemAway seat, simply be the first reader to email the correct answer to the daily question below to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).**

### How does the HemAway seat work?

Hint! Take a look at the HemAway website at: [www.hemaway.com.au](http://www.hemaway.com.au).



**CONGRATULATIONS to Nat Hewiis of Calman Pharmacy in Picnic Point, NSW who was the first reader yesterday to tell us the HemAway seat is used for pain relief and management of haemorrhoids.**