

Medici industry dinner

MEDICI Capital is hosting one of its topical dinners in Brisbane on 23 Nov with the topic 'Pharmacy Information Technology and Innovation'.

Speakers include Peter Fleming, ceo at the National E-Health Transition Authority; Aaron D'Souza from Mirixa and Shaun Singleton, Manager, Innovation & Control, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Qld.

It's at the Brisbane Club 241 Adelaide Street Brisbane and costs \$165 for Guild members and \$220 for non-members.

RSVP date is 16 Nov and the event is expected to sell out quickly, so early booking is advised.

See www.medici.com.au.

2010 Expo launched

THE Pharmacy Expo for 2010 will take place in Sydney 4-6 Jun and is expected to continue the significant growth of the last two years, with attendance increasing by 51%.

As in previous years there will be a large free trade expo including a new product showcase, as well as a series of educational seminars.

More details 02 9467 7127.

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 has been 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 last 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.

Where can you use the Hemaway seat?

Hint! Take a look at the HemAway website at: www.hemaway.com.au.



CONGRATULATIONS to Marc Segler of Noranda Feelgood Pharmacy and Angelo Street Pharmacy in Western Australia who was the winner of yesterday's competition.

PSA supports pain strategy

THE PSA has thrown its support behind the initial draft of the Federal Government's National Pain Strategy which was revealed at the recent National Pain Summit Leaders' Meeting, with the aim of addressing pain management as part of the proposed national health reforms.

The draft follows consultation between over 70 pain management specialists as well as allied health professionals and defines chronic pain as a 'constant daily pain for a period of three months or more'.

Chronic pain is estimated to cost the economy around \$11.7 billion per annum in productivity losses.

The report recommends four reform strategies, including the recognition of chronic pain as a disease in its own right; the initiation of a pain diagnostic code to document its prevalence, outcomes and costs; the inclusion of pain as the fifth vital sign when monitoring patients (along with blood pressure, heart rate, temperature and breathing rate) and the launch of a national

campaign to de-stigmatise pain.

Dr Lisa Nissen, National PSA vice president and the only pharmacy representative at the National Pain Summit Leaders' Meeting said the PSA supported the draft's intent, adding that the recent meeting "acknowledged that pharmacy has a key role in chronic pain management in the primary care setting, and that pharmacists need support in that role - including training to get the skills and tools to better manage chronic pain sufferers in the community."

"It is pharmacists who see people who are in pain but cannot get an appointment to see a GP for days, or to see a pain specialist for weeks, or months," she said.

The draft strategy is open for comment, and will be finalised at the National Pain Summit in Canberra on 11 Mar 2010.

UK container move

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has advised manufacturers of all liquid cough and cold products that they must provide the medications in child-resistant containers by Sep 2010.

The advice applies to all liquid formulations available over the counter authorised for the treatment of coughs and colds, incl antihistamines, antitussives, expectorants and decongestants.

The move follows a change earlier this year which advised that the products should no longer be used in children under the age of 6, as well as stronger warnings for products indicated for children aged 6-12.

Topical preparations including nasal sprays and drops and throat sprays are exempt.

Intravenous H1N1

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved the investigational antiviral drug peramivir intravenous for emergency use in certain adult and paediatric patients who are hospitalised with either confirmed or suspected H1N1 who are not responding to oral or inhaled therapies, or when other therapies are not dependable or feasible or when IV therapy is deemed appropriate for an adult patient by the clinician.

"...sales have increased markedly"

Read what Natalie Willis has to say, click here.



Dispensary
Loop



Bowel cancer worries

THE Gut Foundation says it's very concerned about figures released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare which showed that only 36.6% of the 686,000 Aussies in the target age ranges 50, 55 and 65 who were invited to participate in the govt's free bowel cancer screening scheme agreed to do so.

Foundation president, Professor Terry Bolin, said the statistics were "stark and tragic evidence" that Australian's don't understand their risk from the second-biggest cancer killer in the country.

As well as poor participation rates the AIHW report highlighted "some disappointingly low follow-up rates for positive results," with only 42.9% of positive results resulting in a health care practitioner visit.

Bolin urged the govt to review the "troubling findings" and urgently institute a nationwide education campaign so Australians know more about bowel cancer.

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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.

- 01 Nov:** First Aid Certificate Course, St Leonards, Sydney - melenyhui@psansw.org.au.
- 04 Nov:** Type 2 diabetes and hypercholesterolaemia with Prof Peter Carroll, Guild Training Room St Leonards 02 9467 7170
- 5-8 Nov:** National Medicines Management Conference in Perth - www.shpamm2009.com.
- 10 Nov:** CPD seminar on 'Unfair Dismissal' Laws- Fair Work Australia, Griffith University Campus - www.acp.edu.au/site.php?id=377.
- 11 Nov:** Type 2 diabetes and hypercholesterolaemia with Prof Peter Carroll, Guild Training Room St Leonards 02 9467 7170
- 12 Nov:** The ASMI annual conference and agm at the Australian Technology Park in Redfern, Sydney - asmi.com.au.
- 23 Nov:** Medici Industry Dinner - Information Technology and Innovation in Brisbane - more info www.medicicom.au.
- 9-11 Dec:** The Australian Pharmaceutical Science Association Conference, Hobart - www.pharmacy.utas.edu.au.
- 16-23 Jan 2010:** Pharmacy Study Tour in Aspen, Colorado - www.medicicom.au/study-tours.
- 4-17 Feb 2010:** PSA Expedition Education conference in Chile and Patagonia. Limited to 50 people - 1300 139 293.
- 18-19 Feb 2010** - Second World Health Professions Conference on Regulation in Geneva, Switzerland whpa@wma.net.
- 28 Apr-7 May 2010:** The PSA will hold its 35th annual offshore conference in Beijing and Shanghai - 1300 139 293.
- 4-6 Jun 2010:** The Pharmacy Expo will take place at Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre - pharmacyexpo.com.au.

GSK/Monash collaboration

GLAXOSMITHKLINE and Monash University's Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences have announced the establishment of a \$3 million "technical collaboration" in Melbourne.

The Victorian Government will provide \$1.5m in funding for the partnership, which aims to "see

NPS stroke push

NATIONAL Prescribing Service says more than 5700 health professionals across Australia have participated in NPS professional development activities focusing on stroke prevention.

Yesterday was World Stroke Day 2009 with the aim of providing global awareness of stroke prevention and encouraging optimal management of patients.

The NPS therapeutic program focuses on warfarin therapy to reduce the risk of thromboembolic stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation - see www.nps.org.au.

API share offer

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries this morning released details of its retail share entitlement offer (**PD 21 Oct**), which is part of a \$150m capital raising planned to reduce debt, provide financial flexibility for future growth and "allow for continued investment in the highly successful Priceline brand."

Eligible shareholders are being offered the opportunity to subscribe for 2 new shares for every three existing API shares at the offer price of \$0.65 per new share - a 38.4% discount to the closing price of API shares on Tue 20 Oct 09.

New diabetes website

ACCU-CHEK ambassador, V8 Supercar driver and diabetes sufferer, Jack Perkins, has become the face of a new web campaign titled 'Join Jack's Journey'.

It aims to provide diabetes sufferers with a platform to interact, share info and learn about better diabetes management practices.

"I'd love it if we could end up with thousands of people all sharing information and their success stories of how they manage the challenges of diabetes," said Perkins.

See www.joinjacksjourney.com.au.

cutting edge university science linked to industry expertise and manufacturing skills to design next generation pharmaceutical formulations with improved drug action and patient compliance."

It is hoped that the project will boost Victoria's overseas bioscience exports which generated \$1.2 billion for the state in 2009/09, in addition to providing significant industry employment opportunities.

The project forms a strong new platform for the \$41m Victoria's Science Agenda Investment Fund, the government said.

The Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences was established last year and comprises the largest and most experienced group of pharmaceutical scientists in Australia, with a therapeutic focus on infectious disease, cancer, central nervous system disease and metabolic diseases.

Pharmacists culpable?

A CASE that it is currently being held in the Nevada Supreme Court could have wide ranging effects regarding the accountability of US pharmacists who supply prescriptions to possible drug abusers.

The lawsuit revolves around the case of Patricia Copening, a prescription pain killer addict, who in Jun 2004 killed one man and injured another after she lost control of her car.

According to Nevada state officials 14 letters were sent out to pharmacies around the Las Vegas area by the Nevada controlled-substance taskforce, following the flagging of Copening as a potential drug abuser, after she bought nearly 4,500 doses of prescription pain killers in one year.

The case is asking whether the pharmacies that received the warning letter can be held liable for continuing to fill prescriptions with that knowledge and is part of a broader US movement to place a greater responsibility for patients' prescription drug use on pharmacies.

US pharmacists are arguing that if the pharmacists are found to be liable it will create higher insurance costs resulting in higher priced prescriptions.



DISPENSARY CORNER

WHAT'S one measly arm when there's work to be done!

A collection of two hundred-year-old naval journals has surfaced recently, giving historians a detailed account of day to day life onboard British warships.

Of particular medical interest are the accounts from surgeons at sea - in particular those who tended to the war injuries of the famous British Admiral, Lord Nelson.

According to his surgeons, just 30mins after having his right arm amputated (after a musket ball was shot into the limb and split an artery) Lord Nelson was up and barking orders at his men.

The account goes on: "Admiral Nelson; amputated arm; continued getting well very fast. Stump looked well; no bad symptoms whatever occurred... the sore reduced to the size of a shilling in perfect good health, one of the ligatures not come away."

MONA really is smiling....or not?

Scientists from the Institute of Neuroscience in Alicante believe they have cracked the enigmatic Mona Lisa smile code, saying the Leonardo da Vinci masterpiece can be seen by people as both smiling and not smiling.

They said people respond differently depending on which cells in the eye's retina pick up the image, and then which channel it's transmitted through to the brain.

HISTORIANS compiling exhibits for a science and technology exhibition that opened this week in New Delhi, have found what is possibly the first documented case of plastic surgery - in 600BC.

According to the evidence, in a time when many criminals were punished by having their noses cut off, the surgeon Susruta, pioneered nose reconstruction in India by taking forehead skin and using it to rebuild the nasal area.

Susruta is also credited with writing a medical text detailing over 650 drugs, 300 operations, 121 medical instruments and 42 surgical procedures.