

BP noise link

PEOPLE who live near constant sources of noise are at a higher risk of developing high blood pressure, according to a Swedish study,

A report in the *Environmental Health* journal found that people constantly bombarded with noisy roads above 60 decibels had a 25% greater risk of developing hypertension.

World focus on TGA talks

A GLOBAL consortium of consumer groups has expressed strong concerns about the proposed "bilateral" talks between the Therapeutic Goods Administration and various industry associations about their codes of conduct (PD Wed).

Earlier this week Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Mark Butler, signalled a review of code of conduct arrangements, saying the government is "pursuing a level playing field on marketing obligations within the therapeutic goods industry".

Butler said the govt wants to see an industry-wide approach, but the consultations have attracted the attention of Health Action International (HAI), which is a "non-profit, independent worldwide network of over 200 members including consumer groups, health care providers and public interest non-government organisations in more than 70 countries.

Netherlands-based HAI director Dr Tim Reed has written to Butler saying that simply talking to industry groups "does little to earn or retain public trust in the Australian government's efforts to protect public health.

"Instead, it seems aimed at accommodating the industry's need to create markets for its products," he said.

"Your belief that removing code inconsistencies and adopting a national, industry-wide approach will push companies to follow the highest possible ethical standards may instead result in the adoption of code provisions of the lowest common denominator."

HAI is instead advocating a new approach involving a single code

applicable to all therapeutic claims and promotional practices, one complaint (and appeal) process, one monitoring process and once set of effective sanctions, including corrective advertising orders and fines related to the sales income of the product and company involved.

The process should be overseen by govt, funded by industry and carried out independently, HAI said.

The group said that for many years Australia's Medicines Policy had been a model to countries in the region, urging the government to take the lead in "formulating effective regulatory policies that enable companies to sell needed medicines and demand that they market them in a responsible way."

Guild training offer

THE NSW branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia is offering a new course to help pharmacists maintain their professional standing, in the light of new continuing professional development requirements.

The Guild said that many pharmacists allowed their registration to lapse last year after being faced with Pharmacy Board questions about their level of CPD.

"This is a loss of skilled health professionals that is not in the community's interest," the Guild added.

To address the issue Guild Clinical Training is offering an 11 CPD point opportunity through a course to be delivered by prominent academic Honorary Professor Peter Carroll from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sydney.

The training will provide an update on Type 2 Diabetes and Hypercholesterolemia and their pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatment options.

Topics covered will include the risk factors of developing diabetes, complications, insulin resistance, glucose intolerance and glycaemic index, as well as HDL and LDL cholesterol, saturated, unsaturated and omega 3 fatty acids.

It will also discuss the role of the pharmacist in managing these conditions.

The course will be held 07 Oct at the Guild training room in St Leonards and costs \$165 including GST and a light lunch - more info 02 9467 7170.

CSL swine flu vax

AUSTRALIAN pharmaceutical manufacturer CSL said this morning that preliminary data from the first study of its candidate H1N1 influenza vaccine

"demonstrated robust immune response in healthy adults after a single unadjuvanted 15mcg dose."

The data was published today in the *New England Journal of Medicine* showed that more than 95% of participants receiving the dose achieved antibody levels that correlate with the prevention of influenza infection.

The study also showed that the vaccine has a tolerability profile consistent with seasonal influenza vaccines.

240 healthy adults aged 18-64 were involved in the trial, with one group receiving a 15mcg dose and the other being given 30mcg of the vaccine.

CSL said the data "gives us confidence that a vaccination program can be successfully carried out in adults using a single dose of the H1N1 vaccine."

Esteem obesity link

A UK study has reported that children with self-esteem problems are more likely to be obese as adults, with the results particularly true for girls.

The research is significant because it demonstrates that rather than just being a medical metabolic disorder, emotional problems are also a risk factor for obesity.

The scientists from King's College London looked at 6500 participants aged 10 in 1970, and found that in many cases rather than obesity causing low self-esteem, it was the other way around.

They said early intervention could be the key in tackling adult obesity.

STOCK EXCHANGE

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* Stock Exchange column, where the industry is able to promote close to expiry or surplus items.

Today Rimas Chemist in Emu Plains, NSW, is offering Mesasal Tab 250mg x 100 exp Nov 09.

Sale price of \$40 including postage; more information Bachoo on 02 4735 4971.

If you have items you'd like to offer through PD's Stock Exchange column please email stockx@pharmacydaily.com.au.

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PHARMACY FOR SALE TWEED HEADS, NSW

Under instructions from Graham Killer and Michael McCann of Grant Thornton as Receivers and Managers.

Expressions of Interest are sought from persons interested in the Purchase of the "Panorama Pharmacy" business. Assets available include leased premises for adjoining Medical Centre and Restaurant.

Closing date for submissions will be Thu, 1 Oct 2009 at 5pm.

Please forward all enquiries to:

Graham Wriggles 0403 374 301 wriggs.g@bigpond.net.au

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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.

12 Sep: Finding Drug Information on the internet seminar at Sydney University 02 9431 1120.

13 Sep: Pharmacy Practice Foundation Retail Seminar Series Sydney University 02 9351 7829.

15 Sep: Opioid Replacement Therapy Programs in Pharmacy, Vic Uni of Technology Sunshine - 03 9389 4012.

16-19 Sep: Pharmacy 2009: The Pharmacy Management Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Sanctuary Cove - www.pharmacyconference.com.au.

17 Sep: ACPPM seminar 'Making Personalities Work for You' in Melbourne - 03 9810 9999.

20 Sep: PSA Tasmania Finding Medicines Information on the Web - Uni of Tas Sandy Bay; more info 03 6231 2636.

10-11 Oct: Stage One Accreditation Medication Management Review Workshop in Townsville - 07 4725 8915.

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.

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.

NPS palliative medicine push

THE National Prescribing Service will shortly release a new report into appropriate, safe and effective medicines for use in palliative care.

Achieving quality use of medicines in the community for palliative and end-of-life care is claimed to be the first report to document a "shared understanding of the barriers to the best use of medicines during the end stages of life."

It identifies key issues affecting medicines in palliative care, as well as opportunities for action.

"This report is extremely significant for anyone involved in palliative care: doctors, pharmacists nurses, patients, families and carers," said NPS ceo Lynn Weekes.

"The principles of quality use of medicines are often forgotten during the end stages of life, when really this is the most critical time for best practice," she said, with patients often taking a large number of medicines to manage pain and other symptoms, and a potentially rapidly changing

medicine regime.

The report will be presented at the tenth Australian Palliative Care Conference in Perth on 25 Sep.

TGA PI/CMI delay

THE TGA has changed its plan for the uploading of Product Information and Consumer Medicine Information documents onto its website, as part of the project to make all PI and CMI details available online.

Initially the "back capture process" was scheduled to commence from last Wed 09 Sep but the TGA says the timeframe has been revised due to a number of usability issues on the site.

Despite the delay the TGA says it's still planning to publish the PI/CMI documents from 31 Oct.

"This will require some revision of our PI/CMI strategy to ensure that our objectives relating to back-capture and publishing remain achievable, without placing undue pressure on sponsors," the TGA said.



DISPENSARY CORNER

DE-GAS would have been quite helpful for an Austrian man, who was this week fined \$100 for breaking wind while being questioned by policemen.

20-year-old Hansi Sporer was charged under "anti police abuse laws" after the officers said they were humiliated due to the laughter of passers-by.

"This was no accident. He clearly intended to make a laughing stock out of the officers and deserved what he got," said a spokesman.

Sporer's lawyer accused the police of an abuse of power, with the law "intended to protect police officers from serious attacks by members of the public, not some trivial incident."

MEN with long ring fingers are more likely to drive too fast, overtake dangerously and park illegally, according to researchers at the University of Mainz in Germany.

They studied 77 male drivers, with an average age of 38, and had their left hands measured for the difference in length between the ring and index fingers.

This was then correlated with details of their driving offences over the previous five years.

The results, published in the *Accident Analysis and Prevention* journal, showed those with longer ring fingers were more likely to have a higher rate of traffic violations.

The scientists postulated that bad driving might be programmed from birth, because finger length is associated with exposure to testosterone in the womb.

AND while we're on the subject of birth, the parents of a child who made its way into the world in the ACT on Wednesday shouldn't have much trouble remembering the child's birthday.

Dhara and Sudish Patel said they were thrilled at the arrival time of their new baby girl, who was born at 9.09am on the 9th of September, 2009.

They said they expected 9 would be the child's lucky number.

WIN TANNING CREAM

CONGRATULATIONS to Sarah Orchard of Success Foods in Queensland, who was the first *PD* reader yesterday to tell us that it takes **FOUR HOURS** for the tan to develop.

Le Tan has teamed up with *Pharmacy Daily* once again this week to give readers the chance to win a tube of Le Tan's new Original Tanning Cream.

Valued at \$12.99, the Le Tan Original Tanning Cream is an easy to apply cream that spreads on evenly, leaving a no-streak flawless finish.

With the colour developing over four hours, apply at night to wake to a beautiful healthy glow.

The delicious caramel fragrance also eliminates any 'fake tan' smell.

Proudly Australian, Le Tan has been providing affordable suncare and self tanning products to Australians for many years.

To receive your very own tanning tube for **FREE**, simply send through the correct answer (along with details of where you work in pharmacy) to the following question:

What colour is the Le Tan Original Tanning Cream?

Send your answer through to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

The first correct entry will win the prize, so be quick!

Hint: Most answers can be found on the Le Tan website at www.letan.com.au.

