

Summer coughs up

A RECENT survey conducted by Boehringer Ingelheim has revealed that 78% of Aussie participants reported having been struck by a cough during the summer months.

The company suggested the figures could show underestimation of summer coughs and risks due to the possible development of secondary infections.

Boehringer enlisted the help of community pharmacist Gerald Quigley to outline some tips to help arrest a summer cough, including the use of a mucolytic treatment to address the basis of the chesty cough, regular hand washing, and the use of a humidifier in bedrooms.

Call for scheduling feedback

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has today released the draft regulations related to the implementation of the new scheduling framework for medicines and chemicals, and is calling for public consultation.

Approved by the Governor General last year the new amending Act which covers the arrangements for scheduling is slated to come into effect on 01 July this year, and the amending regulations are designed to provide support for the provisions within the act and also provide guidance to applicants, committees and

decision-makers.

The draft framework includes definitions, rules and procedural regulations regarding the advisory committee for medicines and chemicals scheduling including committee constitution, meetings, miscellaneous (sitting fees etc) as well joint meetings.

Also covered in the draft regulations are the procedures for amendments to the current medicine and chemical schedules including preliminary divisions and definitions; procedure if the amendment is referred to the expert advisory committee, public submissions, secretary decisions, reconsideration and final notice as well as the procedure if proposed amendments are not referred to the expert advisory committee.

The draft framework is now available for viewing via the TGA website and all submissions should be delivered to the TGA no later than 5pm on 16 March 2010, with no time extensions to be considered.

WHO rotavirus push

THE World Health Organization has recommended that the new Rotavirus vaccine be included in every nation's worldwide vaccination scheme.

The recommendation comes on the back of two new studies published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* which found that Rotavirus vaccination schemes in Malawi and South Africa HAD reduced rotavirus infections by 61.2% and in Mexico by 65%.

"Rotavirus vaccine should be introduced immediately in high mortality areas and it should be used as a trigger to energize diarrhoea control programs and improve coverage for all the proven interventions for diarrhoea," said the study's editorial author, Mathuram Santosham, health professor at John Hopkins University.

Assistant web launch

A NEW logo and website has been launched today for the 2010 NSW Pharmacy Assistants Conference.

Designed to provide its users with all the latest conference information, the website also lists details of the Pharmacy Assistant of the Year competition, as well as registration for NSW Guild events.

To celebrate the launch, the Guild is launching a competition inviting pharmacy staff to come up with a catchy sentence or phrase that best describes the conference, with the winning entry set to become the conference tag-line.

The winning entrant will receive complementary conference and awards dinner registration as well as a brand new Nintendo Wii game console.

To view the new site go to www.nswpharmacyassistant.com.au and to enter the comp email entries to competition@nsw.guild.org.au.

Medicines Safety

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is advising subscribers its Medicines Safety Update email list, that it will send out an email reminder when each new edition of the Update is published on its website.

To subscribe to the list follow the prompts on the TGA website.

See www.tga.gov.au.

Corum cashflow

CORUM Group today released its quarterly cashflow statement to the Australian Stock Exchange, revealing a net increase of \$24,000 in cash held during the three months to 31 Dec.

The company, which is a major software supplier to the community pharmacy industry, also confirmed loan facilities of \$4.925 million.

However no further update was provided on the status of the company's ongoing negotiations with financiers, in the light of the 26 Feb deadline set for refinancing by Westpac (PD 19 Jan).

WIN A POUCHIE™



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with Sunpouch™ and is giving subscribers the chance to win a 7.5ml Sunpouch™ every day this week.

The cheerpack phenomenon has taken

the UK by storm...and now it's Australia's turn!

Sunpouch™ 30+ is a little pocket of sun protection you can easily carry with you.

It's packaged in a funky, convenient pouch that's small enough to keep in your bag, on your desk and at home.

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For your chance to win a Pouchie™ today valued at \$7.95, simply send your answer to the weekly question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Congratulations to Meagan Hocking of Mannum Rd Better Health who was yesterday's winner.

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CPD Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* Continuing Professional Development Calendar, featuring upcoming events and opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

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

20 Feb 2010: PSA Victoria, Pharmacy Management, Saturday Series, Victorian College of Pharmacy board room - 03 9389 4007.

20 Feb 2010: PSA Victoria, Diploma of Management, Victorian College of Pharmacy board room - 03 9389 4007.

21 Feb 2010: PSA NSW First Aid Course, 9am-3pm - melenyhui@psansw.org.au.

11-14 Mar 2010: The 19th Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition on the Gold Coast - appconference.com.

26-28 Mar 2010: PSA NSW March Weekend on the theme of Men's and Women's Health, at Mantra Ettalong Beach. 27.5 CPD credits - www.psa.org.au.

14-18 Apr 2010: Australian College of Pharmacy conference Barossa Valley - 1300 651 239.

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

26-28 May 2010: The NPS's National Medicines Symposium 2010, Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre - www.nms2010.org.au.

29-31 May 2010: The AACP's annual ConPharm clinical seminar at The Grand Chancellor Hotel in Hobart - details www.aacp.com.au.

15-18 Sep 2010: Pharmacy 2010, the Pharmacy Management Conference on Hamilton Island - www.pharmacyconference.com.au.

27 Sep-03 Oct 2010: Inagural Guild Offshore Conference in Penang - 03 9535 3646.

18 Nov 2010: The 2010 ASMI Conference - www.asmi.com.au.

Burns a hot topic for MPs

A **ROUNDTABLE** discussion centering on burn prevention is set to be convened by The House of Representatives Health Committee next month, and will include participation from a panel of experts as well as academics, health professionals and burns survivors.

In particular, the discussion will focus on both the impact of burn injuries on the individual, the family

and the health system and ways to prevent or minimise burn injuries and the associated cost to the health system.

Costing the community around \$150m per annum burns affect around 200,000 Aussies annually and are the third largest cause of injury in children under five years.

"These are astonishing figures and reinforce the fact that a focus on burns prevention is vital, not just from a personal but also a community perspective," said committee chair, Steve Georganas.

The forum aims to better understand ways to reduce the number and cost of burn injuries to Australian society and the health system, Georganas added.

The forum is set to commence on 01 Feb at 9am and will be webcast live at webcast.aph.gov.au.

PSA sexual health

THE South Australian branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is supporting the state's Sexual Health Awareness Week (SHAW) which will take place 14-21 Feb 2010.

An annual initiative of SHine SA, this year's campaign targets 18-30 year olds with the aim of increasing community knowledge about the safety, effectiveness and availability of emergency contraception.

Acting PSA president Grant Kardachi said that since pharmacy was the most accessible source of health advice and information, consumers were encouraged to go to their pharmacist for relevant, timely and accurate facts.

Kardachi will be part of a panel of health professionals at an Emergency Contraception Forum to be held on 22 Feb, and SHine SA staff will be present at the PSA's 02 Feb CPD lecture at Enterprise House in Unley.

BP dementia link

NEW research has linked hypertension with a higher risk factor of developing dementia.

Throughout the study researchers found a link between Alzheimer's disease and brain scarring caused by high blood pressure.

According to researchers this scarring can begin building up many years before the onset of dementia symptoms.

The US National Institute of Health has found the argument compelling and is now in the process of enlisting thousands of hypertension sufferers into a major study, to see if more aggressive hypertension management plans and treatment systems need to be put in place to stave off hypertension related dementia in future generations.

APP agreement info

PHARMACISTS attending this year's Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition (11-14 March) on the Gold Coast, will be able to examine the consequences of the fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement's remuneration changes during a special one hour and fifteen minute session titled 'Stop Press! Latest news on the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement'.

Guild members will also be hosted to a members only breakfast at APP on 12 Mar, during which President Kos Sclavos will present a confidential update on key issues affecting community pharmacy.

APP registration is now open, and for further information go to www.appconference.com.

S-P UK recall

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulation Agency has issued a recall notice on several of Schering-Plough's intravenous medications which have an expiry date over 18 months.

Included in the recall are several batches of IntronA 18MIU Multidose Pens, with the recall coming at the behest of Schering-Plough, who told the agency it could not measure the stability of the product over 15 months.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A DOG in Britain has had 13 golf balls removed from his stomach, after his owner noticed the canine was rattling.

Oscar the five-year-old black labrador is apparently regularly taken for walks on a golf course near his Dunfermline home.

When his owner took him to a vet, a scan showed the balls inside his body, with an hour-long operation necessary to remove them all.

The surgeon said "it was like a magic trick. I opened him up and felt what I thought was two or three golf balls. But they just kept coming until we had a bag full."

The dog is now well on the way to a full recovery, but has been ordered to wear a muzzle during his countryside strolls.

A THIEF with an annoying throat tickle was caught red-handed in the US last week, after he coughed up a two-carat diamond ring during police questioning.

Police were alerted when the ring went missing from a purse which was stolen from a woman's car last week, with a couple later attempting to sell it in a jewelry store some hours later.

The shopkeeper called officers, but the man swallowed the ring when they arrived.

However when they started to question him he began to cough uncontrollably, eventually regurgitating the \$20,000 bauble.

AN ANONYMOUS donor has launched a national weight loss program in Finland, encouraging the population to shed kilos with a 10 million euro pledge to improve literacy in Nepal.

The health benefactor has promised to give €15 for every kg shed by any citizen who takes part in the three month campaign, with the weigh-in to take place at participating churches across the country before the end of Feb.

The campaign is being coordinated by the Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare, with the money raised to help train teachers in Nepal.