

- Effective catalogues
- Supplier contract pricing
- Sharper trading terms
- Analysis on dispensary
- PLUS lots more!!

MASSIVE  
DISCOUNTS

**7% OFF**  
PBS Ethicals\*

\*Conditions apply

For more information, click here or contact Phytos Exa on 0411 071 418

Tuesday 29th June 2010

PHARMACYDAILY.COM.AU

## Guild Update

### This week's update from the Guild

#### PWC Registration

As the date approaches 30 June, pharmacists and pharmacy staff are generally very busy in the lead up to the end of the financial year.

There is a risk, however, that you may be so busy that you miss the opportunity to register for the upcoming Pharmacy Women's Congress in time to receive the early bird discount!

Early Bird Registration for the Congress closes on 30 June, which offers a handy \$55 discount for pharmacist/industry delegates and a \$45 discount for student and pre-registrant delegates.

Don't miss it.

The seventh annual Pharmacy Women's Congress will bring together female pharmacists from around Australia to discuss the future of pharmacy.

It will be held 20-22 August 2010 at West Point Hotel and Convention Centre in Hobart, Tasmania.

The major aim of the congress is to inspire women pharmacists to take a more proactive approach to owning or managing their own pharmacies, and to encourage them to take positions on committees that influence the direction of the pharmacy industry.

The 2010 congress theme "Reaching New Heights: Aspiring, Achieving, Elevating Your Career in Pharmacy" reflects this aim and sets the scene for an inspiring and motivating educational program, as well as a stimulating social program allowing plenty of time for networking with peers.

The congress will feature two and a half days of conference sessions, an industry trade exhibition, Welcome Reception, Congress Dinner, an optional dine around and optional tours.

For further information about the congress, including registration information and details of the early bird discount, visit [pharmacywomenscongress.com.au](http://pharmacywomenscongress.com.au) or contact the Event Coordinator, Kim Thorne, by phone on 07 3831 3788 or email at [womenscongress@guild.org.au](mailto:womenscongress@guild.org.au).



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

## Pharmacists key in safety

THE Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand has voiced concerns over the current general public perception that over the counter medications, such as paracetamol are completely safe and can be taken totally risk free.

The comments come on the back of reports in the NZ media that two toddlers in the past three months have suffered liver failure after overdosing on paracetamol, with both requiring urgent liver transplants.

"Access to these medicines is currently unlimited in supermarkets," said NZ Guild President and community pharmacist, Ian Johnson.

"It is of great concern to the Guild that paracetamol is easily accessible without the professional advice of a trained health professional," he added.

In justifying its concern, the Guild said that it was "optimistic" to think that instructions printed on OTC packaging could provide all the advice that an individual patient may need before taking any medication.

"What many people don't know is that paracetamol is present in multiple over-the-counter products and it is very easy to take more than the recommended daily dose," Johnson said.

In light of the recent overdoses, the Guild has said that rather than taking medicines with blind faith, patients should consult with their community pharmacist to ensure that both they and their children take the appropriate dosage that is

safe for their individual needs.

"It is essential to talk to your community pharmacist before you take any medicines," said Johnson.

"We are trained to assess the patient's condition and recommend safe and effective treatments. We ensure patients receive the right medicines for the right reason," he added.

### Sigma extension

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals agreed to extend the exclusivity period granted to suitor Aspen Pharmacare regarding a possible takeover of the company.

Late on Friday afternoon Sigma said that the original agreement gave the South African company "limited exclusivity" for four weeks, and now in response to a request from Aspen Sigma has agreed to extend the exclusivity period to 05 July "to enable Aspen to complete its due diligence review".

Sigma once again recommended that shareholders take no action at this time, saying "the due diligence process being undertaken by Aspen may or may not result in a formal proposal or a recommendation by the Board."

### US drug tracking

FROM Sep this year pharmacists in the US state of Iowa will be required to track OTC purchases of pseudoephedrine medications via an electronic, real time tracking system, in a bid to stop the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine.

## Get Good Pharma

THE free registration to the Practice Good Pharma site ends at midnight tomorrow, after which a \$1000 joining fee will apply.

The site itself provides pharmacists with an online diagnostic tool which analyses the best course of action for individual pharmacies, and also identifies which professional services are best suited to the businesses it looks at.

The Good Pharma program was funded under the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement and is managed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

MEANWHILE Mirixa Australia has said it is soon to add a module onto the Practice Good Pharma online implementation tool.

The module is aimed at showing pharmacists "what to do so [they] can implement [Mirixa's professional service programs] with confidence".

There are only 700 free sign-up spaces left, so if you are wanting to get in on the 'Good Pharma register at [www.guild.org.au/pcp](http://www.guild.org.au/pcp) or to visit the website see [www.goodpharma.com.au](http://www.goodpharma.com.au).

## Orphan Drug addition

VOISIN Consulting Australia's VX-770 has been added to the TGAs list of authorised Orphan Drugs.

Designed to improve pulmonary function in cystic fibrosis patients who have at least one allele with a G551D-CF transmembrane conductance regulator gene (CFTR) mutation or homozygous for F508del-CFTR mutation.

VX-770 is now available in 100mg and 150mg film coated tablets.

## PHARMACY FOR SALE

Located in the Northern Suburbs of Sydney.  
Well established business, currently operating under Management.  
Turnover potential \$2M+

Expressions of interest are sought,  
with the closing date being 5pm  
Monday 12 July 2010

All enquiries to Michele Roache Pharmacy  
Guild Sales & Valuations NSW Pty Ltd  
[michele.roache@nsw.guild.org.au](mailto:michele.roache@nsw.guild.org.au)



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia



### Associate Lecturer, Pharmacy Practice (3 positions) School of Pharmacy

**Salary range:** \$51,373 - \$69,717 (pro rata for part-time) per annum plus 17% superannuation.

**Gold Coast Campus**

**Closes:** 7 July 2010 4.30pm AEST

**Reference:** 491689

**Further information:**

To view the full position description and application requirements please click [HERE](#)

Accounting

Legal

Financing

Investments

Stay across it all with advice that matters.

 Guild

## Asthma efficacy

A NEW study, published in the 'Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology', has found that adding once-daily Singular (montelukast sodium) to the corticosteroid inhalant, fluticasone, is more effective in protecting children aged 6-14 years against exercise-induced asthma, compared to adding the long-acting beta-agonist, salmeterol.

The study also found that children treated with singular and fluticasone also recovered faster after exercise periods and had a better response to the 'quick-relief' asthma medication, salbutamol.

"Introducing Singulair in children not adequately controlled on ICS alone can reduce their reliance on reliever medication and optimise their ability to perform daily activities without the development of the tolerance or tachyphylaxis to short-acting beta-agonists such as salbutamol which is seen with salmeterol within weeks of regular use," said Professor Peter van Asperen, Head of Department of Respiratory Medicine at The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

## TGAs revised scheduling

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has said that despite the commencement of the revised scheduling arrangements for medicines and chemicals coming into effect from next month, the transition to cost recovery will not be immediate "and is unlikely to be fully implemented for another eighteen months or so".

Designed to improve the efficiency and timeliness of scheduling decisions, the new process will align the scheduling of medicinal substances with the therapeutic goods approval process - meaning that as of 01 Jul the decision to schedule a drug will be made within the TGA.

"In most cases this [scheduling decision] will be a logical consequence of a product application containing a new chemical entity that meets the scheduling criteria. Alternatively a scheduling decision may result from a request to re-schedule a substance, or as a result of an identified safety issue," the TGA

said in a statement.

According to the TGA the majority of sponsors will notice very little change in the current application and approval process, and they should continue to submit product applications as per the current arrangement taking into account the new Policy Framework's guidelines.

The TGA is urging all sponsors and industry stakeholders to familiarise themselves with the new Scheduling Policy Framework for Medicines and Chemicals, developed by the National Coordinating Committee on Therapeutic Goods.

The SPF sets out the scheduling process as well as guidance on amendments, classification systems, applications, public consultation, and confidential info - see [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

## Medicine sponsorship

MEDICINES Australia has awarded \$150,000 worth of scholarships to two indigenous medical students, Laura Fitzgerald and Brendan Philips, which will cover their full board and study costs for the next five years.

## Blackmores wins trust

BLACKMORES has taken out the coveted 'Most Trusted Vitamin and Supplement Brand' title, as judged by the 2010 Readers Digest 'Australia's Most Trusted' survey of 750 readers.

"Blackmores has long held the belief that trust has to be earned and is not given," said Blackmores Chairman, Marcus Blackmore.

"We are proud to be recognised as Australia's most trusted vitamin brand and will work to ensure that our customers' trust is well placed.

"Our commitment to our customers is to never compromise on quality so you get what you expect from every dose in every bottle," he added.

MEANWHILE Blackmores has also announced that its website membership numbers have skyrocketed to nearly 300,000, making it one of the largest online health communities in Australia.

See [www.blackmores.com.au](http://www.blackmores.com.au).



## DISPENSARY CORNER

### SHARKS can now fly.

Two leopard sharks are being spared the swim between Townsville and Melbourne, having nabbed themselves two special seats on a plane.

The sharks, part of a captive breeding program, are being transferred between Townsville and Melbourne aquarium's, firstly via car to Cairns, where they will be loaded onto a flight inside their special as yet to be completed - self-sustaining transport tanks.

According to Reef HQ's Stephen Menzies, the sharks will be put on a two day diet pre-flight in order to help maintain their water quality during transport.

"That's always fun when you unload some sharks after a long transport; that first feed, because they do feed with a bit of passion," Menzies said.

### EXTREME expo fan!

Chinese national, Bao Zhengbin, is hoping to swim some 750 miles in the murky waters of the Changjiang River in order to visit Shanghai's World Expo.

According to 56-year old Zhengbin, swimming the river has been a dream he has held onto since the tender age of 12, when his parents took him to Shanghai via the river.

"The scenery along the water way touched me a great deal, and I thought that one day I'd swim to Shanghai," he said.

Zhengbin expects his epic adventure will take him 32 days to complete, swimming at a rate of 25 miles per day.

Supported by friends travelling near him in a motor boat, Zhengbin plans to stay overnight in all the major cities along the way, with the aim of spending his "port calls" handing out environmental education leaflets.



Zhengbin in training

## WIN A MILKY FOOT PACK

Have you tried the easiest way to exfoliate your feet yet?



Each day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers the chance to win a pack of **Milky Foot** - Australia's easiest way to exfoliate your feet - no effort required!

Valued at \$24.95 for a regular size (or \$29.95 for a large), this innovative product from Japan is truly the easiest way to rid yourself of hardened, dead and tough skin including tough heels and calluses. All you have to do is pop on the Milky Foot pads for 60-90 minutes and 3-4 days after the

treatment, all your hardened skin will just peel away naturally. What's more it costs less than a salon pedicure! So if you want to get milky soft feet the easy way, try Milky Foot!

To enter today, simply send your answer to the following question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

How many sizes is Milky Foot available in?

The first correct entry received each day wins

Hint! Visit [www.milkyfoot.com.au](http://www.milkyfoot.com.au)

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: **Fiona Evans** from **Merewether Pharmacy**. The correct answer was: Milky Foot.

