



PA conference

THE Pharmacy Guild this morning confirmed the program for the upcoming NSW Pharmacy Assistant Conference which will take place at the Swiss Grand Hotel, Bondi Beach on 28 August.

Topics include incontinence, 'changing the way you sell', management of dentine hypersensitivity, baby formulas and "optimising promotions in-store".

Register online for the event at www.nswpharmacyassistant.com.au.

PNH funding push

A GROUP of patients with a rare blood disease called Paroxysmal Nocturnal Haemoglobinuria (PNH) have launched a campaign to raise awareness of the condition.

The extremely rare disease causes red blood cells to explode, but the patients have been denied "long-awaited medical funding promised by the Government" in this year's Federal Budget.

The auto-immune disease can be treated by Soliris (eculizumab) which is not on the PBS.

PSA urges e-Health rethink

A PROPOSAL by the Federal Opposition which would see it scrap the government's \$467 million e-Health strategy has been criticised by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

Part of the Coalition's budget reply included the measure, which was announced yesterday by the Shadow Minister for Finance, Andrew Robb.

PSA National President, Warwick Plunkett, said the parties should "think beyond politics when making health policy."

"There is no doubt that the development of the eHealth policy has been overly expensive and its implementation delayed far too long, but at this stage it would be unwise to simply abolish this strategy," Plunkett said.

Part of the opposition's rationale is based on privacy concerns, but Plunkett pointed out that "every single day Australians use electronic means to access their sensitive financial and banking

details and there is no reason why we can't do the same with our health records.

"The reality is that eHealth is the missing link in enabling genuine collaborative primary health-care teams to work effectively and improve the wellbeing of all Australians," Plunkett added.

The PSA said the increasing use of multidisciplinary primary health-care teams, including pharmacists, was "vital to the sustainability of Australia's health care system".

Trials under threat

PEAK pharmaceutical manufacturer group Medicines Australia this morning warned that Australia's ability to continue attracting clinical trials is under threat due to competition from emerging markets such as India, China and Russia.

MA ceo Brendan Shaw said that the pharmaceutical industry plays a crucial role in conducting trials in Australia, many of which are in collaboration with hospitals and academic institutions.

"This has been a great collaboration that has brought health and economic benefits to Australia," he said.

However increasing competition for R&D in other countries is already seeing a downturn in the number of trials conducted here.

Shaw said he hoped that the government's Clinical Trials Action Group, currently co-chaired by Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Mark Butler, and Richard Marles, Parliamentary Secretary for Innovation, would be able to remove "a number of regulatory barriers that act like a handbrake on clinical trials".

He said that issues included a lack of coordination between states for ethical approvals of trials, as well as outdated methods for recruiting patients to the trials.

Shaw added that the government's R&D Tax Credit plan (PD Thu) would also provide a useful incentive for clinical trials work in Australia.

"We need to ensure that we can maintain and grow a sufficient level of clinical trial activity or we risk losing our brightest minds offshore and seeing research facilities close," he warned.

Sigma departures

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals today announced the resignation of chairman John Stocker along with non-executive director Doug Curlewis, who will both retire from the Board at the company's annual general meeting which will be held on 21 Jun this year.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

SHOAL Bay Resort and Spa is offering a package deal for the Blue Water Country Music Festival on 12 - 14 Jun, from \$586.40 twin share including 2 nights accom in a one bedroom Waterview Apartment, tickets to Adam Harvey and Markus Meiers Concert on 12 Jun, b'fast and a bottle of sparkling wine on arrival, plus \$100 of bonus inclusions. For info call 1800 181 810.

QANTAS has domestic 'Winter Warmer' airfares for as low as \$79 one way from Sydney to Melbourne, and \$199 Sydney to Perth for travel between 01 Jun to 23 Jun. Other specials include Adelaide, Perth and Hobart to Melbourne and Sydney. For more specials or to make a booking see your travel agent or visit www.qantas.com.au.

ROYAL Caribbean International is offering savings of up to \$1739 for a family of four sharing a cabin on a South Pacific cruise.

The deal is on the "Tropical Treats" voyage departing Sydney 18 Dec on *Rhapsody of the Seas*.

The cruise stops at several ports including the Isle of Pines, Mystery Island and Lifou.

Cabins start at \$5899 quad share including all meals, accom and entertainment - see your travel agent to book by 25 May.

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WANT YOUR SKIN TO LOOK FLAWLESS?



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving readers the chance to win a Natural Ground Minerals product, courtesy of **Total Beauty Network**.

100% Naturally Organic, with an in-built no waste grinder so make-up is protected from light, air and bacteria. It also contains ingredients that care for your skin such as Poly Peptides & Pomegranate. Apart from a foundation there is a bronzer to give healthy, natural sun-kissed glow and a finishing Illuminator to set your make-up for an all day fresh finish. No nasties, no fuss application and suitable for even the

most sensitive skin.

For a chance to win your very own Natural Ground Minerals product, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

**Natural Ground Minerals contains minerals,
..... ingredients and minerals**

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

The first correct entry received will win!

Hint: Visit: www.tbn.com.au.

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: **Belinda Tod** from **Plunketts Chemmart Pharmacy**. The correct answer was: light, air and bacteria.

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Stay across it all with advice that matters.

Guild



ABOVE from left: Si Banks, Pharmacy Guild NSW Branch President; Stephen Allan, The Urunga Pharmacy; Malcolm Henriques, Rozanna's Pharmacy; Albert Regoli, Marayong Pharmacy; Ara Badam, Willoughby Rd Pharmacy.

Guild roadshow in Sydney

THE Pharmacy Guild's member update roadshow came to Sydney last night, with Guild President Kos Sclavos explaining the full details of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, as well as taking feedback from members.

The exclusive pictures on this page were taken at the event.



ABOVE from left: Kamal Vyas, Shelley's Pharmacy; Tim Hewitt, Albion Park Pharmacy; Belinda Johnston, St Vincent's Private Pharmacy; Meryl Kane, Pharmacy Guild; Trisha Gorga, Bligh Park Pharmacy).



LEFT: David Preswick, Vincents Night Chemist; Michael Noonan, Shiekens Pharmacy; Bill Warner, Bill Warner Chemist; Phillip Walsh, Walsh Village Pharmacy; Steve Nguyen, Health Line Pharmacy; and Richard Walsh, Walsh Village Pharmacy.

RIGHT: Wai Ling Chew, Barwell Pharmacy; Mandy Wong, Gardiners Pharmacy; Trinh Vu, Gardiners Pharmacy; Maria Keskerides, Terry White Chemist Stanhope Gardens; and Anderson Leong, Moorebank Pharmacy.



LEFT: The men in grey!~ Peter Saccasan, Guild Group; Paul Sinclair, Barnes and Banks Pharmacy; Ian Campbell, Director Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch; Jim Jackson, Gorokan Pharmacy; and Denis Leahy, Stanmore Station Pharmacy.



DISPENSARY CORNER

RAZOR sales are set to soar in the Japanese town of Iseaki, where the local government this week banned its male employees from growing facial hair.

An official told reporters: "We have decided to ban our workers from growing a beard as we have received complaints saying they are unpleasant."

He confirmed that the move also includes moustaches, sideburns and facial stubble.

SCAMMERS can come in all shapes, sizes and ages.

A group of elderly South Korean women has been charged over allegations of duping fellow senior citizens out of thousands of dollars for fake arthritis cures.

The seven grannies were arrested by police who claimed they had made over \$250,000 out of the scam in the last year.

They apparently sold cheap garden herbs at prices more than 1000 times their cost, with promises they would cure the victims' aching joints.

"They targeted low-income elderly people who don't know about herbs and are easy to deceive," said a police spokesman.

He said many victims hadn't reported the fraud over fears that they would be ridiculed by their children.

A BRITISH man has been accused of manslaughter after he killed his wife with a single blow - allegedly because she overcooked his birthday dinner.

Police allege that 48-year-old Jonathan Wicks either punched or slapped wife Sarah, after she threw plates at him because he complained about the well-done roast beef dish.

Unfortunately the blow ruptured an artery in the woman's neck and she died immediately - much to the regret of her distraught husband who called paramedics.

In a trial over the case in the UK this week lawyers for Wicks claimed he was acting in self-defence because of the plate-throwing incident.