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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.

28-31 Oct: PSA's Pharmacy Australia Congress in Melbourne - details www.pac10.com.au.

01 Nov: PSA Qld In-Sights On Eye Infections, Boardroom Maroochy Events Centre, 07 3896 1900

03 Nov: PSA Tas, Early Career Pharmacist Social, The Quarry-Salamancas Place, lorraine.norris@psa.org.au

09 Nov: Pipeline Industry Training; Citigate Central, Thomas St Sydney; beryl.park@psa.org.au

10 Nov: Pain Management; Cairns City Library, kelly.moses@psa.org.au

11-14 Nov: The 36th National SHPA Conference, Medicines Management 2010 in Melbourne - mm2010shpa.com.

20/21 Nov: PSA Canberra Branch, Medicines Update Course, Canberra Business Event Centre, 02 6201 5897

20-29 Jan 2011: Pharmacy Study Tour, Mammoth Mountain California and Las Vegas - www.medic.com.au/events.

01-10 May 2011: The PSA's 2011 Offshore Conference in Venice, Italy and Salzburg - www.psa.org.au.

More superclinics

THE Federal Govt has announced the first stage in the delivery of 28 additional GP superclinics, with an Invitation to Apply issued to 11 communities.

The 'Invitation' period will kick-off on 06 Nov, and will be supported by local and national newspaper advertisements, with localities including Blacktown, Broken Hill, Coffs Harbour, Hume Region, Lismore, Liverpool, Nowra, Port Macquarie, Southern Central Coast, Tweed Heads and Western Melbourne on the list.

Overall the new superclinics are expected to cost a total of \$233m.

Plunkett criticises Guild

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has slammed the Pharmacy Guild for negotiating the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement without the involvement of the PSA, saying being locked out meant the Society had to "fight a more direct battle" with health department officials to ensure that there was still adequate funding of professional services.

Speaking at the opening of the Pharmacy Australia Congress in Melbourne, PSA President Warwick Plunkett said the society was continuing to push for a wider role for pharmacists, as evidenced by its development of the Future of Pharmacy project announced

New Mirixa forum

THE Pharmacy Guild has launched a new "MirixaTalk" online forum for users of the Mirixa system to share information and discuss professional services.

The system aims to help pharmacists access advice directly from other pharmacies who are implementing or have implemented Mirixa Australia programs - see www.mirixa.com.au/talk.forum.

Latuda approved

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Sunovion Pharmaceuticals' Latuda (lurasidone HCl) tablets, for the treatment of adults with schizophrenia.

The new atypical antipsychotic classed drug, was approved following four six-week controlled studies of Latuda in adults with schizophrenia, which found that the those on the drug had fewer symptoms than those on placebo.

Side effects include drowsiness, restlessness and the urge to move, nausea, movement abnormalities (stiffness, tremors, slow movement) and agitation.

MEANWHILE the FDA has also approved an additional indication for Sprycel (dasatinib).

The new indication allows Sprycel treatment in patients with Philadelphia chromosome positive chronic phase chronic myeloid leukemia (a rare blood cancer) when it is first diagnosed.

Sprycel is an oral kinase inhibitor, which works to inhibit the activity of specific proteins responsible for cancer cell growth.

earlier this year.

Plunkett claimed that the signing of the five year agreement means that in the mind of the govt "Australian pharmacy is done and dusted, off the political agenda.

"This agreement fails pharmacists in determining an appropriate role in the forthcoming changes around primary health care reform and preventative health," Plunkett added.

He said it was vital that pharmacy be part of the health reform process and become integrated into the primary health care environment.

Speaking later in the day Plunkett also said it was time for the PSA to stand up and be noticed.

He admitted that in the past the Society had been "timid", signalling a new more aggressive approach to ensure that pharmacists and professional services are highlighted in the evolution of the Australian health care system.

TGA legal spend

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised that its total legal expenditure, inclusive of GST, for the 2009/2010 period included \$878,055 for external solicitors, \$143,051 for external barristers, \$141,186 for "external expenditure on other disbursements", leading to an overall external expenditure of \$1,162,293.

The TGA also advised it spent \$3,016,198.57 on internal legal advice over the same period.

Medicare Locals

HEALTH minister Nicola Roxon this morning released a discussion paper on the planned roles, functions and governments of the planned so-called 'Medicare Local' network of primary health care organisations across the country.

Five key objectives for Medicare Locals are listed: identification of the health needs of local areas and the development of local services focused on prevention and early intervention; "improving the patient journey" through developing integrated and coordinated services; providing support to clinicians to improve patient care, particularly chronic disease management; facilitating primary health care initiatives; and being efficient and accountable.

Second chance for pharmacist

NSW pharmacist Peter Wing Keung Ng has had his registration reinstated after the NSW Supreme Court overturned the Pharmacy Tribunal of NSW's decision to terminate his status as a pharmacist due to professional misconduct.

Ng's activities were brought before the tribunal by the NSW Health Care Complaints Commission, with a range of allegations including failing to maintain inventories for drugs of addiction, supplying various medications including anabolic steroids and Rohypnol inappropriately, plus making 2000 false and/or misleading dispensing records for Alphapharm products to fictitious patients in order to get a better discount from the generics supplier.

The Tribunal upheld the complaints and revoked Ng's registration - however the pharmacist appealed the decision before the NSW Supreme Court.

Supreme Court Justice Adams J agreed that Ng's behaviour was below that expected and required of a pharmacist; however he found that in making its decision the tribunal had not taken into account Ng's genuine remorse, or a peer review of the pharmacy's operations after a review.

As such His Honour "not without some misgivings, in light of the admitted shortcomings displayed by Mr. Ng and detailed evidence" quashed Ng's deregistration, and remitted the matter to the Tribunal for determination "of the appropriate orders based upon its findings that the complaints were proved."

Pharmacy Daily Pharmacy Job of the Day!

Jobs4Careers is Australia's leading source for pharmacy jobs ... click here to find out more and see the Pharmacy Daily Job of the Day ...

jobs4careers.com.au

PAC10 goes off!

THE kick-off of PAC10 has seen South Australian pharmacist, Vivienne Mak, named as the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Young Pharmacist of the Year.

Presented by the Governor-General of Australia, Quentin Bryce, the award recognised Mak's dedication and commitment to pharmacy.

Mak graduated in 2006, and worked as a full time community pharmacist, before returning to university to complete a PhD in pharmacy practice.

Recently Mak received the Australian Postgraduate Award and Sansom Pharmacy Fund Research Scholarship to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacy.

"I am passionate about the future of the pharmacy profession and have an immense interest in improving the direction of pharmacy and the way pharmacists practice," said Mak.

MEANWHILE Sydney pharmacist Gerard Stevens was awarded the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's Lifetime Achievement Award, primarily for his innovative introduction of the Webster medication packaging system.

The PSA said the innovation "reduces nursing home medication administration errors, allows collaboration with allied health professionals, reduces medication wastage and government costs, and encourages better use of pharmacists' clinical and educative skills".

The first sessions of PAC10 also heralded the announcement of a range of initiatives aimed at aiding pharmacists to embrace industry change and secure the future of the profession.

The "PSA will be a significant funder of a major long-term, awareness campaign which intends to change policymakers' outdated views of pharmacists," said PSA president Warwick Plunkett.

The PSA, according to Plunkett, will also implement measures to assist members put in place "new systems, models and patient focused pathways, linking more closely with medical colleagues that will maximise their remuneration base and their service delivery to the community".

Students called to pre-register

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency is asking students to pre-apply for registration in the four to six weeks leading up to the completion of their course.

Part of the new streamlined registration process, the request is designed to help new graduates avoid delays during peak periods.

The pre-registration process divides students into two groups, each with different application requirements.

The first grouping applies to those who have never registered or been registered in Australia or overseas.

The process for pre-registration for this group (Group A) requires students to complete an application form on the APHRA website and post it to the Agency along with all required documentation, as well as the official academic qualification (if issued) and a personal (not student) email address.

The Group B category pertains to students who have been registered in a health profession either in Australia or overseas.

Students in Group B have to go through the same process of posting their application to AHPRA as Group A, with the only difference being that they will have an alternate application form.

As part of the pre-registration process, AHPRA is also encouraging students to familiarise themselves with the criminal history, English language, professional indemnity insurance, recency of practice and CPD Pharmacy Board Registration Standards, (available to view at www.pharmacyboard.gov.au).

In particular APHRA has stressed the importance of meeting the English language requirements, adding that overseas students may need to provide evidence that they meet the registration standard.

For info see www.ahpra.gov.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

UNFIT runners?

A new study in the US has found that running a marathon, rather than making you healthier, may in fact damage your heart.

According to the researchers, whilst running a marathon, segments in the runners heart decreased in functioning, with the strain picked up by other sectors of the muscle.

This strain, according to the study, could still be seen in some subjects up to three months after the completion of the run.

Runners with higher levels of fitness however, were found to have less heart function problems, and recovered quicker than their less fit counterparts.

"We aren't suggesting marathons are dangerous or that people shouldn't run," said Dr. Eric Larose, of the Quebec Foundation for Health Research.

"The one thing that is obvious is the more trained you are, the easier it is going to be on you," he added.

BUTT out.

Local Government officers in China's Zianyang City have implemented a new program which it hopes will help to cut down on the amount of old cigarette butts left discarded on its streets.

The scheme gives residents five for every used cigarette butt they pick off the street, and has already resulted in payments of adding up to 100,000 yuan for the collection of around 2m ciggies.

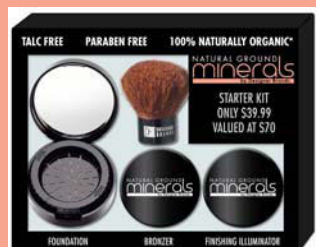
MY what a big mouth you have.

A 20-year old Angolan man, Francisco Domingo, has been officially recognised by the powers-that-be at the Guinness Book of Records, as having the world's widest mouth.

The illustrious title, was awarded to Domingo after he proved he could stretch his mouth over 16.5cm lengthwise.

Unlike most record hopefuls, Guinness actually spent two years tracking Domingo down after staffers saw a clip of him cramming a whole can of soft drink into his mouth on YouTube.

WANT YOUR SKIN TO LOOK FLAWLESS?



This week Pharmacy Daily is giving readers the chance to win an Natural Ground Minerals Starter Kit.

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.

A great way to start your Natural Minerals collection, everything you need is in this starter pack.

For your chance to win, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

What is the total value of the gift pack?

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

The first correct entry received will win!

Hint: Visit: www.dbcosmetics.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: Irene Nimorakiotakis from Pharmore Pharmacies.