

Register now for PPIs

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is urging pharmacy owners to register for the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement Pharmacy Practice Incentives.

Significant start-up payments are on offer for pharmacies which sign up for the programs before 30 Jun - for details see **page three** of today's *Pharmacy Daily*, or sign up at www.5cpa.com.au.

FDA Invega approval

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Invega (paliperidone) extended release tablets for the treatment of schizophrenia in adolescents aged 12 to 17 years.

Invega was first approved for the treatment of schizophrenia in US adults in Dec 2006.

13 student plan teams

THE Pharmacy Guild says that 13 teams from six pharmacy schools across Australia will compete in this year's \$12,000 National Student Business Plan Competition.

Registrations are now closed, with the strong response following a revamp of the competition making it easier to enter this year.

Sponsors include Blackmores Australia along with Gold Cross Products and PDL, with entrants given 'Foundation Pharmacy' details on which to build their innovative businesses.

Business plans are now due on 28 Apr, and as in previous years finalists will pitch their ideas to delegates at the Pharmacy Women's Congress, to be held in Cairns in July.

API denies bullying claims

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries ceo Stephen Roche says Pharmacy Alliance/Independent Pharmacists of Australia Group has "misrepresented the facts to its members" in the current dispute between the organisations.

As revealed in *Pharmacy Daily* on Fri, the longstanding supply arrangement between API and Pharmacy Alliance/IPAG has broken down, with the group putting in place an alternative interim deal with Sigma and CHS while a tender process is under way (**PD** yesterday). In a statement late yesterday

afternoon, API said it "rejected allegations of improper behaviour made by the Pharmacy Alliance Group".

It also appears that API may use legal means to respond to Pharmacy Alliance's threats to refer API's behaviour to the ACCC, with Roche saying it was inappropriate to comment further "as the matter is subject to potential legal redress by API".

Valdoxan "paradigm shift" for depression

SERVIER Laboratories says its newly released Valdoxan (agomelatine) provides a significant new treatment option for depression in Australian patients.

The product was approved by the TGA this month (**PD** 06 Apr) and is now available to Australian psychiatrists and GPs on private prescription.

"Valdoxan is the first antidepressant to help resynchronise circadian rhythms by acting on receptors in the body's masterclock located in the brain," the company said.

Valdoxan does not increase serotonin levels, but is a melatonin receptor agonist and 5-HT_{2c} receptor agonist.

The medication is taken as one or two 25mg tablets at bedtime, with a month's supply expected to be \$59 for a 25mg/day retail at a community pharmacy.

PAC presentations

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has begun calling for abstracts for poster and oral presentations in the field of pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical science for the upcoming PAC11 congress.

The organising committee says it's particularly interested in submissions addressing pharmacy research, as well as "practice pearls" which share the practice experience without necessarily having undertaken structured research activities.

During the PAC11 program dedicated times will be allocated to viewing the posters in the exhibition area, during which presenting authors will be able to answer questions about their work and discuss with delegates.

Top oral presentation abstracts will be selected for a 15 minute presentation as part of the main program stream on Fri 07 Oct.

Submissions close at midnight on Mon 06 Jun, and must be done at pac11.com.au/program/abstracts.html

WIN A SPOT ON PSA'S POST OFFSHORE REFRESHER CONFERENCE RIVER CRUISE



The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is giving one lucky **PD** reader the chance to win a place on PSA's upcoming Post Offshore Refresher Conference Danube River Cruise.

This incredible prize includes a seven night cruise (14-23 May 2011) on the 5-star *MS Amadeus Diamond* (Haydn Deck) travelling from Budapest to Bucharest and including the Black Sea.

The prize includes all meals, sightseeing excursions, Bucharest transfer and attendance at the case study workshop sessions.

The prize winner will be able to add other elements of the Offshore Refresher Conference program if they wish through PSA Travel.

For your chance to win this fantastic prize, simply send in your answer to the question below by COB on Wed 13th Apr:

In 50 words or less, tell us why you think learning at PSA's Offshore Refresher Conferences would be so much fun

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au
The most creative response wins!



Click here for terms & conditions

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Guild Update

This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild New Pharma launch

THE Women and Young Pharmacists' Committee Breakfast at the 2011 Australian Pharmacy Professional (APP) Conference and Exhibition included the soft launch of the New Pharma program.

New Pharma is a truly unique and innovative online program to assist pharmacists with purchasing a pharmacy.

The New Pharma program has been designed by industry experts and successful proprietors exclusively for potential pharmacy owners.

The online diagnostic program will help prospective pharmacy owners to avoid the many pitfalls that exist in purchasing a pharmacy and set them on the right track to operating a successful pharmacy business.

Developed by the Guild with the support of Guild Accountants and Meridan Lawyers, New Pharma is an indispensable resource for anyone wanting to buy a pharmacy.

The Guild hopes that the development of New Pharma will see many more pharmacists become owners and prevent situations where young pharmacists are attracted into partnerships where they have little equity or influence in the business.

Registrations of interest for the New Pharma program are now open at www.newpharma.org.au and the official launch will be held at the Guild's Pharmacy Women's Congress in Cairns 15-17 July 2011.

Sign up now by going to www.newpharma.org.au.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

NPS warns on Vit D testing

TESTING for Vitamin D deficiency is rising at a faster rate than any other medical test, prompting a warning from NPS Australia that greater consideration is needed before ordering a Vitamin D test.

Over the past ten years, testing for Vitamin D has increased more than tenfold, with a spike in GP interest coupled with increased media reportage of Vitamin D deficiency being cited as the main reasons for the rise.

As a result of this trend, the NPS has designed a new education program for health professionals aimed at providing clarity and guidance around common questions related to Vitamin D deficiency.

"There is a lot of conflicting information regarding vitamin D," said NPS clinical adviser, Danielle Stowasser.

"In the absence of clear Australian guidelines this NPS education program provides direction on how to identify and manage people at risk of vitamin D deficiency and those who are not,

and factors that may influence the vitamin D results you receive.

"It also addresses supplementation as a treatment option in addition to safe sun exposure," she added.

According to the NPS there are a number of different Vitamin D tests currently in use here, each with a "considerable degree of variability" between themselves and between laboratories.

In addition, the NPS said the association between Vitamin D deficiency and non-bone diseases such as type 2 diabetes and hypertension is "yet to be proven".

"This NPS program encourages assessment of risk through a targeted approach to testing rather than screening patients for vitamin D deficiency," said Stowasser.

The benefit of routine testing in low-risk populations is unclear, and studies show "moderate to severe vitamin D deficiency is uncommon in the general Australian population," she added.

For more information see www.nps.org.au/medicines/vitamin_d.



DISPENSARY CORNER

THE man with five lives.

Most people would love the chance to live five times, and for one veteran Hong-Kong actor, Law Lok-lam, that dream came true this week - but unfortunately he also had to die five times.

In what has yet to be confirmed as a world record, Lam was killed off in five separate soap operas over a period of 24 hours.

The spree included a brutal death in a martial arts fight (Grace Under Fire), vomiting blood before dying (Fate to Fate), and death after a long illness (Relic of an Emissary).

In his other two shows (Police No 7 and Virtues of Harmony) he never died on screen but rather his death was discussed by co-stars.

"When I get a job, I don't care if my character in the drama will die," said Law.

"If he is supposed to die, he should go on and die," he added.

DETOX that liver!

Authorities in Switzerland are aiming to curb binge drinking by banning the promotion of free beer to patrons at restaurants and pubs.

According to reports free beer promotions are both popular and common in the country, to the extent that the general population are often shouted a free beverage at public events.

The ban proposal has been met with strong opposition from several quarters including the hospitality industry, who have likened the rule to prohibition.

The government has however said that the proposal would still allow publicans to offer customers a free round every now and then.

A LOO with a view.

Sydneysiders will soon be able to make use of open-air urinals on Friday and Saturday nights near party spots in Kings Cross and Oxford Street.

It is hoped the move will stop drunk revellers urinating in public spaces and on walls.

WIN A \$200 EUKY BEAR PACK



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with FGB Natural Products this week and is giving three lucky readers the chance to win a Euky Bear pack (pictured to the left), valued at \$200.

Children's coughs can be stressful—particularly at night! Luckily there's a safe, natural way to provide overnight relief, even for babies under two.

The Euky Bear Vaporiser produces a gentle flow of soothing warm steam to help open up airways and ease coughing due to colds, croup or bronchitis. Adding Euky Bear Inhalant to the water helps further soothe with a unique clearing blend of essential oils.

To find out about the all-new Euky deals this year call 1800 003 431 or visit www.fgb.com.au

For your chance to win this fantastic Euky Bear pack, email your answer to the question below by COB on Friday to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

In 25 words or less tell us why you would use Euky Bear Vaporiser to help soothe your child's coughs & colds

Three most creative entries will win this fantastic prize pack and their names will be announced in *Pharmacy Daily* on Monday 18th April.

Delivering quality services in your pharmacy? Register now for Pharmacy Practice Incentives

Register at www.5cpa.com.au before 30 June 2011 to receive start-up payments.

Go to www.5cpa.com.au or phone 1300 555 262 for more information.

