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Less than half have registered for PPIs

THE Pharmacy Guild says it's pleased that 2000 pharmacies across Australia have registered for the Fifth Agreement Pharmacy Practice Incentives - but that means that about 3000 are still yet to do so.

Pharmacies which fail to register before the 30 June cut-off date will still be able to be part of the programs, but will not receive any of the substantial one-off start-up payments under the scheme.

The payments are a new way for pharmacies to be rewarded for their contribution to delivering quality health services, with funds available for Dose Administration Aids (about \$1800 per pharmacy), Staged Supply (about \$1300) and Clinical Interventions (about \$3400) - details on 1300 555 262.

PSA elections

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia says it's received more nominations than available positions on its Branch Committees, necessitating elections in every state and territory except for Victoria and Queensland.

"This is a very unusual situation and reflects just how interested pharmacists are in the future of their profession" as it goes through a period of "great change and dynamism," said PSA National President, Warwick Plunkett

He said the elections meant it was likely there would be a "reinvigoration of the Society," with fresh faces bringing a wave of new enthusiasm to the PSA.

Biological regulation update

THE TGA has provided details of the regulation to be applied to each class of biological product, after considering submissions made during a consultation late last year.

The updated Biologicals Framework, which will commence operation on 31 May, now specifies requirements for Class 1, 2, 3 and 4 biologicals, with Class 1 being the lowest risk group.

Class 1 biologicals must have a justification as to why they are should not be in Class 2, 3 or 4, and are only required to attest to compliance with relevant mandatory standards.

Class 2 biologicals are those that have undergone only minimal manipulation and are for homologous use, and will be required to comply with relevant standards as well as manufacturing requirements.

Class 3 biologicals are those which have been processed in some way without changing an inherent biochemical, physiological or immunological property, and will also be required to demonstrate that they are "safe, efficacious and of high quality".

RB chief to step down

RECKITT Benckiser is undergoing sweeping management changes at its UK head office, with the shock resignation of its 54-year-old ceo Bart Becht.

He'll be replaced effective 01 September by the company's head of marketing Rakesh Kapoor.

Reckitt Benckiser shares slumped almost 7% after the news.

Hartmann website

PHARMACISTS now have access to a new website from healthcare company Hartmann.

The website features information about the company and its products, as well as its education offerings - see www.hartmann.com.au.

BioCeuticals in the swim against kids cancer



NATURAL healthcare company BioCeuticals joined in the fight against childhood cancer last weekend, as the gold sponsor of this year's Balmoral Swim which raised \$80,000 for the Children's Cancer Institute Australia.

The 1km charity swim attracted a whopping 1,200 entrants this year, the oldest of whom tipped the active ageing scales at a ripe old 89 years.

Entrants and their families were kept entertained throughout the day by TV celebrity Angela Bishop and comedian Adam Spencer (who also took part in the race) - while the BioCeuticals team also kept swimmers in top form with energy boosting CoQ10 Lingual and Ultra Potent-C formulas and then aided them post swim with Ultra Muscleze IsoWhey shakes.

Pictured above handing out BioCeuticals treats are staff members

Desiree McRae, and Linda Dal-Molin, while at right is the BioCeuticals relay team with Lara Hall (centre): Angus McFadyen, Kate Barry, Debbie Pallone and Kate Fitzgerald.



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Prebiotic push

NUTRICIA has this week hosted John Warner, Professor of Paediatrics at Imperial College London, in a series of presentations about how prebiotics found in breast milk could be the key to reducing allergies in infants.

"There is a growing weight of evidence that suggests specific mixtures of prebiotic oligosaccharides may have a good chance of reversing the growing prevalence of allergic disorders in countries like Australia - particularly in cases of atopic dermatitis or eczema," he said.

He cited the recently published MIPS study in Europe, which showed for the first time that the prebiotics reduce the risk of developing allergies in formula fed infants who did not have a higher risk via family history.

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.

- 10 Apr 2011:** Practical Diabetes Management for Pharmacy; Newcastle; for details call - 02 9431 1125.
- 17 Apr 2011:** Interprofessional Collaboration: Overcome Psych Barriers; Gosford RSL Club; for details call - 02 9431 1125.
- 01-23 May:** 36th PSA Offshore Refresher Conference, Venice, Salzburg, Rome, Bucharest - www.psa.org.au.
- 11 May:** Diploma of Management; Pharmacy Skills Centre, Hawthorn, Vic; for details call 03 9810 9988
- 08-10 Jun:** ConPharm 2011 in Darwin - see aacp.com.au.
- 17-19 Jun:** Pharmacy Expo, Darling Harbour Sydney - details pharmacyexpo.com.au.
- 06-09 Oct:** PAC11, Melbourne Convention Centre pac11.com.au

Supplement use on the rise

A **RECENT** study published by the US National Centre for Health Statistics has confirmed the rising use of dietary supplements in the US during the past few years.

According to the report over 40% of adults admitted to using supplements between 1988-1994, with this number jumping to over 50% between 2003-06.

Key findings of the report include that multivitamins are the most commonly used dietary supplements with approximately 40% of men and women reporting use during 2003-2006.

Make marketing work

DIAGNOSTIC data collated by the Good Pharma initiative shows that marketing is the second weakest business function across many Australian pharmacies.

In response, Good Pharma has created a tailored support program to lift the marketing performance of community pharmacies - for details see goodpharma.com.au.

The report also found that the use of calcium supplements rose from 28% during 1988-1994 to 61% during 2003-2006 among women aged 60 and over; whilst 34% of women aged between 20-39 used a dietary supplement containing folic acid.

Vitamin D supplementation was also found to be on the increase with 44% of women and 35% of men also reporting taking supplements enriched with Vitamin D between 2003-06.

Guild extends deadline

THE one-week deadline for registrations for funding from the Guild Members Disaster Appeal has now been extended until 13 May to allow more time for the worst hit pharmacies to access assistance through the initiative.

The appeal raised almost \$450,000 to help community pharmacies hit by the recent floods and cyclones, with the application form available by **CLICKING HERE**.

DISPENSARY CORNER

DEDICATION overcomes all.

A 41-year old armless artist, Huang Guofu, has had his dreams come true by being installed as the vice curator of the Chongqing Talents Museum.

Huang, a talented painter in his own right lost both of his arms when he was four years old after an electric shock.

His plans for the museum include painting a long scroll of the scenes of old Chongqing, and is often seen sitting at his computer researching materials for gallery additions and his new pieces, typing with a pen clamped in his right foot.

Huang trained as a painter after his amateur works generated a lot of interest which displayed at a local culture centre.

After his studies he traipsed around the country creating artworks on the street side to raise money for his ailing father.

Last year Huang presented his skills to the public at the Shanghai World Expo, and he now has several foot-and-mouth painters who have suffered loss of limbs under his tutelage.

"I want to let the younger generation know that there are no real obstacles in life. The only obstacle is if you want to do it," he said.

TRUE or false: cat births puppy.

Despite the obvious impossibilities, a cat owner in China's Jiangsu province, Zhou Yun, is claiming to media that her cat has given birth to a puppy.

According to Zhou after her cat gave birth earlier this month to two kittens, she noticed one was dead, and after a little while noticed the other was a dog.

A local vet has countered the claims however saying a cat cannot give birth to a dog, and that it was more likely that when it noticed its kitten was dead, it went out and grabbed a puppy from a newborn litter and returned home with it to nurse.

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.