

Pain management

CHANGE Champions has extended the date for abstract submissions for its Optimising the Management of Pain seminar until 28 April.

The seminar aims to highlight innovative approaches to pain management and showcase models of service delivery/care.

See www.changechampions.com.au.

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GSKJPD00311

Symbion veterinary move

SYMBION Pharmacy Services has begun the process of acquiring leading Australian veterinary wholesaler, Lypard Australia.

It's the first Symbion acquisition since it was itself taken over by The Zuellig Group in Oct 2008, with ceo Patrick Davies saying the deal "reinforces our ongoing strategy to further diversify Symbion's earnings profile across a range of business units".

Lypard has annual sales revenue of about \$165 million, and Symbion has signed an agreement under which it proposes the purchase of all outstanding Lypard shares via a scheme of arrangement.

It's subject to a range of approvals and conditions, but the transaction has been unanimously recommended by the Lypard board of directors and is expected to be finalised by early July.

POTY- the movie!

THE winner of this year's QCPP Pharmacy of the Year Award, Orana Mall Pharmacy in Dubbo, is enjoying heightened attention following the creation of a three minute video to showcase their staff, business and how they fit into the community.

The Pharmacy Guild has praised the video, saying that "Community pharmacies do a lot of terrific work, and they deserve to feel good about themselves...here's a video that helps!"

The video is now online at the **Pharmacy Daily** Youtube channel - see youtube.com/pharmacydaily.

"We see a lot of complementary skills between our businesses, and we are looking forward to working with the Lypard team to grow and expand the business while maintaining the Lypard name and everything it has come to mean in the Australian veterinary industry," Davies added.

He said the deal also underlines Zuellig's commitment to grow its Australian-based businesses.

"We believe the Australian market offers further investment opportunities," Davies said.

Almost 26,000 of us

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has released a snapshot of the national registers, revealing that there are nearly 26,000 pharmacists across Australia.

AHPRA ceo Martin Fletcher said the national scheme made it possible for the first time ever to know how many registered health practitioners there are in Australia, because in the past the same person could be registered in different states and territories.

"Having access to this kind of accurate and detailed information is one of the benefits of national registration because it will assist in workforce planning," he said.

Pharmacists comprise just under 5% of the total of 528,000 health practitioners in the ten professions covered by the scheme.

The data also showed that there had been a nett growth of about 13,000 (2.5%) in the overall size of the health workforce since 01 Jul.

Easter dental warning

AROUND 40% of children under the age of 18 have had at least one filling according to the latest survey by Bupa Australia.

The survey took into account responses from 1,000 Australian parents, and found that of those children that had fillings around three-quarters had them done before the age of 10.

80% of parents also told researchers that whilst they planned to buy Easter eggs this year, they were aware of the dental damage that confectionery can cause.

64% of children were found to consume all their chocolate treats within a week of receiving them.

"Given chocolate consumption and Easter often go hand in hand, it's an ideal opportunity for parents to reinforce the importance of healthy dental habits so they can help protect their children against cavities," said Bupa Australia's Head of Medical Services Dr Bert Boffa.

Osteoporosis push

MSD has launched a new educational campaign titled *Osteoporosis: Are you getting all 3?* which aims to raise awareness of RACGP guidelines for the treatment of the condition.

The recommendations, which were updated last year, state that in addition to prescription medicines treatment should include an adequate intake of calcium and vitamin D, via supplementation if not achieved through diet and lifestyle alone.

For more details on the campaign see www.all3.com.au.

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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.

TEMPO Holidays has a stay-four-pay-three deal on a range of hotel properties in Paris, when booking and travelling before 25 August.

Hotels included in the deal are Sully Saint Germain, Hotel Jardin le Brea, Hotel Moliere and more.

Prices start from \$309 per person twin share for four nights with breakfast included.

For more info visit Tempo Hols at www.tempoholidays.com.

CAPTAIN Cook Cruises has released tickets for its Mother's Day cruise onboard its *MV Sydney 2000* vessel.

The line-up includes a breakfast, lunch or dinner cruise on Sunday 08 May, with prices for the breakfast cruise from \$55 per adult (and free for one child under 15 per adult).

The Seafood Buffet Lunch cruise departs at 12 noon and is priced from \$75 per adult (with kids under 15 free with a paying adult), and the Seafood and Champagne Dinner cruise sailing out at 7.00 from Jetty 6 at Circular Quay priced at \$89pp with a free upgrade to a guaranteed window seat (until sold out).

For full details visit the Captain at www.captaincook.com.au.

THAI Airways has released a companion economy class airfare with return flights to Bangkok from \$895 per person flying out of Sydney including all taxes and Government surcharges.

Tickets are on sale until 31 May for departures before 30 September - see your travel agent.

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Blackmores profit up 6.4%

BLACKMORES yesterday released its financial results for the nine months to 31 Mar, with group sales up 6.2% to \$172m and net profit after tax up 6.4% to \$20.2 million.

The figures came despite a lacklustre local performance, with Australian sales up just 0.2%, with Blackmores seeing a particularly strong performance from its operations in Asia, where sales are up a hefty 37% year to date after a successful launch in Korea.

CEO Christine Holgate said the result was pleasing particularly given the tight retail environment in Australia and the cutting back of stock levels by major retailers.

"Consumer sales data suggests our brand continues to grow," she said, with recent initiatives including a significant brand

marketing campaign across all key markets and the rollout of 13 new products "which will underpin our future success".

The company improved its margins as a result of the efficiencies of its Warriewood campus and strategic sourcing of raw materials.

Holgate said Blackmores "remains cautious" about the Australian general retailing environment.

FDA MRSA OTC alert

THE US Food and Drug Administration has issued warning letters to companies making OTC hand sanitisers, telling them to stop making claims that the products can prevent infection from methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteria.

Some of the labelling also makes claims about preventing H1N1 and E.coli infections, with the FDA saying it "does not have sufficient evidence demonstrating that these products are safe and effective for these purposes".

Easter break for PD

THE next issue of *Pharmacy Daily* will be on Wed 27 April, due to the upcoming Easter and ANZAC Day long weekend.

WIN AN AL'CHEMY PACK



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving four lucky readers the chance to win a pack filled with hair products (valued at \$45), courtesy of Al'chemy.

Heat styling and environmental elements can wreak havoc on the hair but the right shampoo and conditioner can help repair the damage.

Made with certified organic ingredients, natural botanical actives and gentle cleansers, the Al'chemy range uses sophisticated combinations of cleansers to help leave your hair looking shiny and healthy, whilst retaining the essential natural oils and moisture.

Five selected winners will take home an Al'chemy shampoo, conditioner and a styling treatment, specially chosen by Al'chemy's Technical Team to suit their hair type.

For your chance to win your very own Al'chemy hair care pack, simply be the first person to send in a correct answer to the question below:

Where can you purchase
Al'chemy products?

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

Hint! Visit www.purist.com

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

DISPENSARY CORNER

VIAGRA in beer format.

In a dubious tribute to the upcoming nuptials of Prince William and Kate Middleton, a British brewery has created a new beer titled Royal Virility Performance.

According to reports the beer is made from ABV India Pale Ale laced with Viagra and also contains other aphrodisiacs including Horny Goat Weed and chocolate.

The creator, Brewdog Brewery, is claiming that drinking three bottles of the beverage is equivalent to taking one Viagra.

"As the bottle says, this is about consummation, not commemoration," said BrewDog co-founder, James Watt, who also told media that he has already sent a few bottles of the brew to Prince William.

YOU'D need a sedative afterwards!

A new activity has entered onto the world stage, and is claimed by its originators to be "the latest danger sport that combines the thrills of an extreme outdoor activity with the satisfaction of a well-pressed shirt".

"Extreme Ironing" has taken off on the internet, with YouTube clips of the sport's contenders ironing in extreme situations (including kayaking, rappelling and even skydiving) racking up thousands of views the world over.

It is believed that the genesis of extreme ironing began over a decade ago when a rock climber, Phil Shaw, decided to combine exciting climbing excursions with the drab household chore.

The latest extreme ironing stunt shows a man in a dressing gown and slippers ironing in the middle of an empty road.



Will the thrills ever end?