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Gold X has the power

THE Pharmacy Guild's Gold Cross subsidiary has announced the endorsement of Eutility as a "provider of electricity price negotiation services" to members.

The move means that most pharmacist members of the Guild who receive bills directly from power retailers will now be able to apply for the bulk tendering services of Eutility without extra cost.

As well as potentially generating savings on electricity bills, the Eutility service will offer on-line tools to manage power contracts and potentially reduce usage.

Eutility earns its income as a commission or brokerage from the electricity retailers.

The service isn't applicable where energy accounts come from a third party such as a shopping centre manager, or in the NT.

See eutility.com.au/goldcross.

Blackmores workshop

BLACKMORES is offering earlybird registration bonuses for its upcoming Mineral Therapy Workshop masterclasses which will take place in Vic, SA, NSW, Qld, WA and Tas in September and October.

Practitioners will pay \$44.95 and students \$34.95 for bookings before 29 August, with the events hosted by Blackmores naturopaths Elizabeth d'Avigdor and Dan Jones.

They'll discuss the application of Mineral Therapy supporting psychoneuroemotional factors in clinical treatments, and the implications of recent research for treatment strategies.

For more info call 1800 151 493.

Board to survey workforce

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has confirmed it will conduct a workforce survey later this year, in response to the ongoing concerns about burgeoning numbers of pharmacy graduates.

The move follows a discussion at the last meeting of the Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum (APLF), at which a number of member bodies raised the issue of growing numbers of pharmacists.

APLF, which includes the Pharmacy Guild, PSA, AACP, PDL, APESMA, Australian Pharmacy Council, Australian College of Pharmacy among other groups, says its members "considered that there is a need to establish the true situation regarding workforce and projections into the future".

The organisation has met with Health Workforce Australia on several occasions, with one outcome being a recognition that accurate base data on pharmacy workforce is vital for planning.

The Pharmacy Board has agreed to arrange for a survey to be

undertaken, and is inviting APLF members to submit questions.

Health Workforce Australia will assist with survey design, and the survey will accompany registration renewal notices to be lodged by 30 November 2011.

"For the survey to provide the vital information required to underpin pharmacy workforce planning it is essential that as many registering pharmacists as possible complete the survey," said the APLF in a statement today.

Once the information from the survey is collated, it's anticipated that a profession-wide workforce planning forum will be held in 2012 "that will aim to address some of the concerns being expressed about future pharmacy workforce".

CVS/pharmacy appt

US supermarket giant CVS has named Mark S. Cosby as the new President of its CVS/pharmacy division, which operates more than 7200 stores across the USA.

52-year-old Cosby moves from a senior role with US department store chain Macy's.

The appointment comes as CVS this week settled a US\$2 million consumer lawsuit which alleged the company had engaged in false advertising and "price-scanning violations" - i.e. charging amounts greater than the lowest advertised price at some of its stores.

CVS has not admitted wrongdoing but has agreed to pay over \$1m in penalties and institute a "scanner accuracy program".

Eight days to go...

PHARMACIES are reminded that they only have until the end of the month to order their 2012 API Calendars, which can be custom designed via the online system at www.pharmacycalendars.com.au.

For more details see **page 3**.

Double act for SHPA conference

THE upcoming Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia conference will see the Harvard Medical School husband and wife duo of Dr Eleanore Shore and Dr Miles Shore speaking together in Australia for the first time ever.

Dr Miles Shore is Harvard University's Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Harvard Division of Mental Health Services, and will make an address titled *Leadership, hospital pharmacy and the future challenges for health care* challenging attendees to change their thinking in order to solve old problems in new ways.

Dr Eleanore Shore will speak on *Leadership training to enhance and expand career opportunities*, focusing on preparing staff for extra responsibilities and providing practical guidance on how to expand careers in healthcare and academic settings.

SHPA Sue Kirsra praised the Medicines Management 2011 Conference Committee for being able to secure the "inspiring keynote speakers," who will also contribute an editorial to the Sep issue of SHPA's *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*.

Earlybird registration closes 02 Sep - see www.mm2011shpa.com.

Ecstasy versus cancer

A TEAM of scientists, including researchers at the University of Western Australia, say that the illicit drug ecstasy may be able to play a cancer-fighting role at some stage in the future.

A report in the *Investigational New Drugs* journal details how they have re-engineered ecstasy, with one of the variants increasing the drug's cancer-fighting effectiveness by more than 100 times.

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Liverpool1	May
Illawarra5	June
Coffs Harbour17	July
Penrith24	July
Newcastle18	Sept
Albury23	Oct
Tweed Heads13	Nov

10 Group 2 CPD credits

Register at:

www.psa.org.au

Guild Update

This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild

Blue September

COMMUNITY pharmacies are encouraged to participate in the Blue September toilet paper charity promotion being conducted through Quilton, Symbion and API.

A limited edition Quilton toilet tissue pack has been designed with a message to get men to take action for better health – just in time for Father's Day.

The Blue September packs are exclusive to pharmacy and each has a variety of men's cancer awareness messages printed on the paper, combined with sport and humour trivia facts to lighten the message.

Quilton is a market-leading household brand – known to pharmacy and well recognised. For each pack sold, \$2 will be donated to Blue September.

To order, visit www.guild.org.au and go to the Blue September page under Events (in the News and Events section). Details of how to order from Symbion or API using PDE can be found there.

All participating pharmacies will go into the draw to WIN a range of prizes, including five nights at the Villagio Spa and Inn in the Napa Valley, California, for two people including dinner and a wine tour, valued at \$9000.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

PBAC farewells Sansom

EMERITUS Professor Lloyd Sansom has been honoured by the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) after he stepped down as chair of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

Sansom had held the senior role since being appointed by the Health Minister in January 2001, with the APC saying he and his fellow committee members had "worked extremely hard to initiate and successfully cement a robust dialogue with stakeholders including consumer groups, industry and prescribers".

Sansom was the first non-medical appointment to the PBAC Chair in the committee's 58-year history, and says the role has "consumed his life for the last 11 years".

Health Minister Nicola Roxon has formally acknowledged his contribution, saying she was aware of the many contentious issues which have been faced by the PBAC during his chairmanship.

"The unfailing commitment and dedication that all Committee members under your stewardship have shown through these difficult times is a reflection of the professionalism with which it operates and deserves to be commended," she said.

"Thank you for your significant contribution, loyalty and commitment to the PBAC and for assisting it in maintaining outstanding service to the community by providing all Australians with affordable access to quality pharmaceuticals," Roxon added.

Ipilimumab AusPAR

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has published a new Australian Public Assessment Report detailing the approval process for Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia's Yervoy (ipilimumab) treatment for melanoma.

WIN AN AUSTRALIS COSMETIC PACK



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with Australis this week and is giving Paparazzi Perfect High Definition packs to five lucky readers.

Introducing Australis Paparazzi Perfect High Definition range! A revolutionary range containing an intelligent mix of light reflecting properties and skin balancing pigments which provide a flawless, smooth complexion under any light! Bring on the Paparazzi!

Each pack includes Blush in Poser, Foundation in Natural Beige, Eyeshadow in Snap Attack, Tinted Moisturiser in Med-Dark and Paparazzi Perfect Keyring Camera.

For your chance to win this exciting prize pack, simply be the first person to send through the correct answer to the question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au:

What is the main benefit of the Australis Paparazzi Perfect range?

Hint: Visit www.australiscosmetics.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: **Katy Duldig** from The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, QLD.

Hearing awareness

MINISTER for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler, has launched the Deafness Forum of Australia's special 'Access to Communications and Access to Life' Expo at Parliament House in Canberra, to mark the commencement of Hearing Awareness Week.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A RESEARCHER in the USA has come up with a new form of artificial skin which is claimed to be able to stop bullets.

Randy Lewis from Utah State University has developed a commercially viable way to manufacture super strong fibres, using special silkworms genetically modified with spider genes.

An initial proof of concept involved a collaboration with Dutch artist Jilila Essaidi who created a bulletproof fabric woven from human skin cells and the modified silk.

Although the artwork was able to stop bullets, Lewis said he "doesn't see that as a tremendous application at the moment," with the new technology instead targeting the regrowth of damaged tendons and ligaments.

THE latest alternative health therapy in Indonesia involves lying across train tracks.

Normally thought of as a highly hazardous activity, a growing number of Jakarta citizens have taken to lying across a particular junction, claiming that a mild current passing through their body helps with pain.

Anecdotal evidence from some of the "patients" indicates several miraculous cures - but the 'therapy' isn't so helpful for railway officials who are having difficulty keeping the trains running to time.

There haven't been any accidents yet, but "this activity is very dangerous for them," according to the stationmaster at nearby Rawa Buaya station.



TIME IS RUNNING OUT!



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2 Design, create and approve your calendar baseplate.



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api



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ENDS AUG 31st