

## Inter professional Communication

Overcoming Psychological Barriers

### Event details:

Liverpool	1 May
Illawarra	5 June
Coffs Harbour	17 July
Penrith	24 July
Newcastle	18 Sept
Albury	23 Oct
Tweed Heads	13 Nov

10 Group 2 CPD credits

Register at:

[www.psa.org.au](http://www.psa.org.au)

### Get your calendars!

API is reminding pharmacists that they only have 24 hours left to order their 2012 API Calendars.

Ordering is easy and can be done in just three steps, see **page 3** of today's issue for more information.

### Heart rate still high

ONE third of all stable coronary artery disease (CAD) outpatients have too high a baseline resting heart rate, according to a study suggesting this could be an emerging risk factor for heart disease.

Titled CLARIFY, the research involved 33,649 patients worldwide between November 2009 and July 2010, and is the largest international registry ever carried out in CAD patients.

During the study researchers found that 44% of the patients had a resting heart rate greater than or equal to 70 beats per minute (bpm).

In addition, in adjusted analyses, they discovered that a heart rate of greater than 70bpm was independently associated with a higher prevalence and severity of angina, and with more frequent evidence of ischemia.

"These findings suggest tighter control of baseline heart rate with heart-rate-lowering medications may benefit CAD patients by improving symptom control and outcomes," said CLARIFY chairman Professor Gabriel Steg from the Hôpital Bichat in Paris, France.

The results of the massive study also found that medications such as aspirin and statins were taken by more than 90% of patients, whilst 75% of participants were taking beta-blockers.

## ASMI speaks out on supply

THE Australian Self Medication Industry has joined the debate over Pfizer's controversial direct distribution model, throwing the weight of its support behind "wholesale arrangements that would maintain the viability of the supply chain and ensure that consumers get the medicines they need when they need them".

In an official position statement, ASMI, which represents the

sponsors of non-prescription medicines, also said that its members are "committed to the National Medicines Policy and supportive of distribution arrangements which ensure timely access to affordable medicines by all Australians".

ASMI said it respected the right of companies to make commercial decisions that are in their own best interests, but added the caveat that this should only apply "to the extent that it would not adversely impact the public benefits of timely access and affordability".

"We also believe that the Government shares this view and, to that end, would take action if needed to protect the public interest in the event of unintended detrimental effects," ASMI added.

### Contact lens recall

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration is publicising an urgent consumer-level recall of Avaira Toric Contact Lenses.

Specific lots of the contact lenses are being recalled by the sponsor CooperVision Australia Pty Ltd, after the company received complaints of "temporary hazy or blurry vision and discomfort from wearers".

The recall is part of a global voluntary recall of specific lots of the product, after laboratory tests found the symptoms were caused by a small amount of residue on the lenses.

In all reported cases so far the symptoms were temporary and reversed after the contact lenses were removed, with no reports of permanent eye damage.

The CooperVision website at [www.coopervision.com](http://www.coopervision.com) has details of the specific lot numbers affected and consumers concerned about the products can also call the company's customer service line on 1800 722 310.

### Pfizer gets into milk

PFIZER Nutrition has signed a three-year license agreement with Jennewein Biotechnologie to develop and market two human milk oligosaccharides (HMOs).

Primarily the HMO products will focus on boosting the functional and immunological benefits of infant formulas, as HMOs are a major component in breast milk.

"The cooperation between Pfizer Nutrition and Jennewein Biotechnologie will accelerate the developments in this field by bringing together specific complementary competencies," said Dr. Stefan Jennewein, Jennewein Biotechnologie.

### Interstate arthritis

THE next series of Gerald Quigley's *Living with Arthritis* seminars will take place as follows: Cranbourne 21 Sep, Redlands and Nerang 11 Oct, Canberra (date TBC).

The seminars are free of charge for pharmacy staff and the public, see [www.geraldquigley.com](http://www.geraldquigley.com).

## WIN A MILKY FOOT PACK

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### Guild Update

#### This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild

**THE** Rural Pharmacy Intern Incentive Allowance (formerly the Rural Pharmacist Pre-Registration Incentive Allowance) provides financial encouragement for rural and remote pharmacies to employ much-needed graduate pharmacy students.

Each eligible pharmacy and hospital authority can receive up to \$10,000 for every intern employed for 12 months.

Eligible pharmacies and hospital authorities also have the option of employing intern pharmacists full-time for six months (or equivalent) to receive a \$5000 incentive payment.

Applications submitted between six and 12 months will be calculated on a pro rata basis.

In addition, joint applications between eligible pharmacies and hospital authorities wishing to share 12-month placements of pharmacy intern students can be submitted.

To find out more on the allowance see [ruralpharmacy.com.au](http://ruralpharmacy.com.au) or contact the Rural Pharmacy Workforce team on 02 6270 1888 or [ruralpharmacy@guild.org.au](mailto:ruralpharmacy@guild.org.au)

Applications are open to all remote, rural and regional pharmacies, with the following exclusions; Sydney and suburbs; Melbourne and suburbs; Adelaide and suburbs; Perth and suburbs; Brisbane and suburbs; Hobart and suburbs; Canberra and suburbs; Cairns; Sunshine Coast; Gold Coast – Tweed; Townsville; Geelong; Newcastle; Wollongong and Queanbeyan.

Applications must be received by the Guild within three calendar months of the commencement date of the graduate.

The Rural Pharmacy Intern Incentive Allowance is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

## Nurofen Plus recalled in UK

**CONSUMERS** across Britain are being warned to urgently return all stocks of Nurofen Plus tablets, after "rogue blister strips" containing other medications were found in some batches of the analgesic.

Reckitt Benckiser says one of the batches contained AstraZeneca's Seroquel XL 50mg tablets, and one contained the Pfizer product Neurontin 100mg capsules.

A Class 1 Drug Alert has been issued to UK healthcare professionals, urging them to contact patients wherever possible and return any Nurofen Plus tablets to the pharmacy where they were purchased or dispensed.

All pack sizes are being recalled as a precautionary measure, with Reckitt Benckiser working with police at Scotland Yard to see whether the product had been tampered with by a saboteur.

"The safety of our consumers is paramount," the company said.

"Even though there have been no serious health consumers to any consumer, we will not take any risk regarding the quality or safety of our products".

It's estimated the recall will affect as many as 250,000 packs of Nurofen Plus, with the rogue Seroquel found in packs purchased via the Boots chain in London.

## A pharmacist, a bike, and 4,200kms of open road



Ross in motion

**LOCAL** hero and pharmacist, Ross Cairns, is planning an epic solo ride from Perth to Newcastle in a bid to raise much needed raise funds for Ovarian Cancer Australia.

Hailing from Raymond Terrace, NSW, Ross will undertake the grueling 4,200km ride unsupported, carrying all his own food, water and camping equipment, across four states, kicking off on 05 September.

So far, he has managed to raise \$6,000 from his local community, as well as Chemmart and Symbion Pharmacy Services.

If you would like to follow Ross' progress, he will also be carrying a GPS locator which will broadcast his position (accessible at <http://tinyurl.com/TransOz>, from 05 September).

Donations can be given via the site [www.everydayhero.com.au/ross\\_cairns](http://www.everydayhero.com.au/ross_cairns), with all of the funds going towards Ovarian Cancer Australia.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

**EXPLAIN** that bite in the ER!

A rather desperate US snake lover has been busted stuffing his pants with exotic reptiles at his local pet store in Arizona.

The 22-year old man was caught on the store's CCTV camera, after seemingly browsing the reptile enclosures, all the while dropping five snakes into his pants.

"He hangs out here for an hour with the animals in his pants, he doesn't just take off with them he hangs around," said one bewildered pet store worker.

After his snake smuggling escapade, the man walked with his slithering bounty to another nearby pet store and sold the snakes for around US\$1,000 plus a reptile tank.

He was apprehended shortly after.

**NO** need for high tech labs, there's a 12-year old on the case!

A twelve-year old girl has shown up a police squad and their lab, after solving a crime from clues they had missed.

The junior detective, learned the tricks of the trade at a kids detective camp over her school holidays, and put them into practice recently in the wake of an investigation into a robbery at her great grandmother's house.

According to reports, the girl inspected her great-grandma's house and found signs of forced entry in the garage, which the police had not noted.

"The windows were broken and there were finger prints by the glass," she said.

The girl then went to a local pawn shop where she found her great gran's property, and obtained photographs of the man who had sold them.

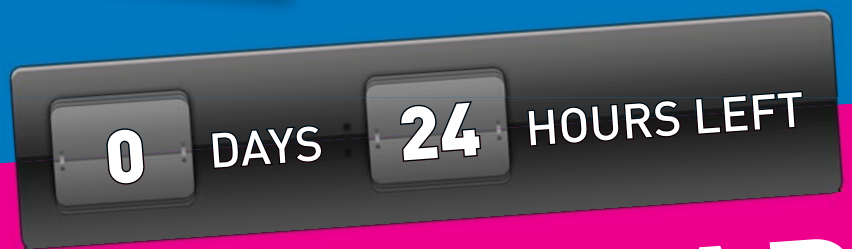
Soon after the girl and her mother tracked down the address of the robber and went to his house to confront him.

"At first he denied it, but then he confessed," the sleuth said.

Despite this evidence, no arrests have yet been made.



# TIME IS RUNNING OUT!



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ENDS AUG 31st