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Today's issue of PD

TODAY'S Pharmacy Daily features two pages of news, plus a full page from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia promoting next year's PSA Refresher Conference.

The conference will take place in Istanbul, Turkey from 27 Apr-03 May - for details see **page 3**.

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Aussie e-Health a step closer

HEALTH minister Nicola Roxon has appointed a consortium to drive "National Change and Adoption" of electronic health records in Australia, saying the move is a key milestone in the development of the country's e-health system.

The group is headed by consulting firm McKinsey and Company, and will "help educate and support the training and information needs of the health workforce who will use the system," said Roxon.

"The consortium will plan, design and develop training, guidance and tools in collaboration with clinicians and software providers," she added.

There is now less than a year until the 01 Jul 2012 deadline for Australians to be able to choose to have a personal eHealth record, which Roxon said would give individuals a "level of control over

their health information never previously available".

The implementation contract is worth almost \$30 million, with other members of the consortium including PricewaterhouseCoopers, Hill & Knowlton, Workstar, Event Planet, Ocean Informatics, Alfred Health, Salmat and the Australian General Practice Network.

MEANWHILE a new issues paper on the legislation governing the Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record (PCEHR) was released for consultation yesterday.

The document canvasses a range of measures around the scheme to particularly focus on safeguarding personal health information.

"People need to have confidence in the safety and security of their medical information, and strong legislation will be at the heart of this protective framework," said Minister Roxon.

The issues paper can be viewed at www.yourhealth.gov.au, and submissions will be accepted until 5pm on Wed 03 Aug.

Ansell acquisition

ANSELL limited has acquired Sandel Medical Industries, a developer and manufacturer of staff and patient safety disposable products in the US.

Sandel's portfolio includes six product categories: sharps safety, ergonomic safety, medication and specimen handling, safety kits, and safety products/correct site markers for patients.

"The acquisition is an important step in Ansell's strategy to grow both existing business segments, as well as to expand with integrated solutions in surgical safety," said Magnus Nicolin, CEO of Ansell Limited.

UK accreditation

THE Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has launched a new Accreditation Service which will cover events, training courses and materials "which meet our high standards and commitment to medicines management and patient care".

Accreditation does not cover products, devices or websites, and the RPSGB is also reviewing how it will accredit eLearning packages.

Gums and diabetes

THE link between periodontal disease and diabetes is explored in depth in the book by Dan Sindelar DMD, Refresh Life.

In it, Sindelar puts forth his theory that 93% of people with gum disease are at risk for diabetes because of recent research that the bacteria in your mouth is the same bacteria involved in diabetes.

See www.RefreshRightNow.com.

Alzheimer's spotlight

PHARMACISTS will have the opportunity to learn about the latest clinical strategies for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease at the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's upcoming PAC11.

The presentation will be delivered by noted expert, Professor Jürgen Götz, Chair of Molecular Biology and Director of the Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Laboratory at the Brain and Mind Research Institute of the University of Sydney.

His presentation, *Dementia – Understanding the underlying mechanisms and translating into practice*, will cover strategies including vaccination and the modulation of the formation, aggregation and clearance of proteins such as Abeta, and tau.

"To test treatment strategies, we established transgenic mouse models that reproduce key features of the human pathology," said Götz.

"These treatment strategies will be discussed in the context of ongoing strategies for AD in pharmaceutical settings," he added.

For info see www.pac11.com.au.

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Chinese health fair

APPLICATIONS are now open for sponsored attendance at the upcoming Hong Kong Chinese Medicine and Health Fair (ICMCM) which will take place 11-13 Aug.

Previous Australian and NZ attendees have included Lipa Pharmaceuticals, Generic Health, Friendlies Holdings (WA), Cochlear and Blackmores, and this year's theme is Milestone of Chinese Medicine Development.

The Hong Kong Trade Development sponsorship includes HK\$1500 worth of accom, free admission, free internet and snacks, complimentary business matching, invitations to official functions and seminars, plus a benefits coupons booklet - for details email peter.bosevski@hktcdc.org.

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.

- 09 Jul:** Workshop: Clinical Interventions in Pharmacy - Brisbane 07 3896 1999.
- 10 Jul:** Annual Medicines Update 2011; Bendigo Vic - details judy.sinclair@psa.org.au.
- 10 Jul:** Discussion Group - Gastroenterology; University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay Tas - lorraine.norris@psa.org.au.
- 13 Jul:** Short Course - Diabetes Patient Management; St Leonards NSW - for more info email beryl.park@psa.org.au.
- 24 Jul:** Vitamin D Pharmacy Only Seminar; Sydney - 1300 650 455
- 14-18 Aug:** Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2011, Mount Buller, Victoria - www.medici.com.au.
- 06-09 Oct:** PAC11, Melbourne Convention Centre pac11.com.au
- 13-15 Oct:** Pharmacy Assistant National Conference, Gold Coast - pharmacyassistants.com.au

Print your own certificate

PHARMACISTS can now print out a copy of their Certificate of Registration taken directly from the National Register of Health Practitioners.

The action is part of a new online service launched by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) yesterday.

The print-your own certificate will be labelled as a copy produced from the national register, and is designed to give practitioners the ability to supply a registration certificate for employer records or to support skills assessment applications for visa purposes.

"The service prints the information held on the National Register at the time and records the date it was printed," said AHPRA CEO Martin Fletcher.

"The certificate also directs users to the online public register for the most up-to-date registration information," he added.

AHPRA said the service was

created in response to practitioner demand, and pharmacists will also continue to receive a traditional Certificate of Registration every year from AHPRA when they renew their registration.

"Employers should always refer to the online National Register to access the most up to date information that a practitioner is registered to practise in Australia", said Fletcher.

See www.ahpra.gov.au

Plain packaging

PLAIN packaging on cigarettes is one step closer to becoming a reality following this week's introduction of the *Tobacco Plain Packaging Bill* into the Parliament.

If passed, the world first plain packaging law will come into effect from 01 Jan 2012.

The government has chosen dark brown for the packaging colour after it was found to be particularly unappealing to smokers.

WIN A VITAMIN C SERUM



U Little Beauty has had a make-over!

U Little Beauty are proud to announce that not only have all of their products had a complete package redesign, but have also brought on Australia's favourite girl next door Toni Pearen as the face of the brand.

To promote the new packaging, **U Little Beauty** is giving away a Vitamin C Serum to 10 lucky **Pharmacy Daily** readers.

This very popular serum helps to combat stressed looking skin and wrinkles with a strong concentration of naturally derived Vitamin C which is a natural stimulant of

collagen and is rich in antioxidants.

To win your very own U Little Beauty Vitamin C Serum, simply send in the correct answer to the daily question below to:

comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Vitamin C is a natural stimulant of _____?

First two entries received will win!

Hint! Visit www.ulittlebeauty.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners, **Rebecca Hill** of the **Pharmacy Guild of Australia** in Canberra and **Kristen Peck** of **APHS Calvary Healthcare** in Wagga Wagga, NSW.

DISPENSARY CORNER

THE ultimate Fatso.

If you think Australia never had any really cool dinosaurs, think again - we had a giant wombat!

The mega-wombat, known technically as a herbivorous diprotodon weighed in at around three tons, and was the largest marsupial to ever roam our wide blue planet.

Believed to have lived between two million and 50,000 years ago, the mega-wombat would have graced Australian shores alongside mega-kangaroos and rather large crocodiles.

Last week scientists in Queensland unearthed the most complete mega-wombat skeleton ever found, a discovery which promises to shed a ton of light on our ancient mega-fauna.

Describing the look of the ancient beasts Professor Sue Hand, who was part of the unearthing team said: "They basically looked a lot like a wombat, a very big beefed-up wombat, much bigger than obviously anything that's around today".

It is hoped that the new find may also help scientists to unravel the mystery of whether humans played a part in the demise of the nation's mega-beasts.

A RUSSIAN girl has apparently been cured of a rare sleeping disorder by having a nice holiday in Chechnya.

Nine-year-old Sasha Pisarenko is claimed to be the only child suffering the condition in Russia, and her plight was noticed by Ramzan Kadyrov, the leader of the former separatist region.

Kadyrov arranged for the girl to spend six months with her family in a luxury flat in the Chechen capital Grozny.

"During her stay, Sasha suffered only one sleeping attack and her migraines stopped," according to a statement on the government website chechnya.gov.ru, citing the region's "sun, smiles and hospitality" for her recovery.

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