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PHARMACY ALLIANCE GROUP
Freedom to choose

PAC11 on pipelines

THE PSA has released details of a new PAC11 presentation, titled *New Drug Pipelines*.

Led by Dr Guy Gavagna, the talk will cover drug development, in particular relation to cystic fibrosis, Type 2 diabetes, advanced cancer and atrial fibrillation.

WIN an [A'kin] Day & Night Duo



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with [A'kin] this week and is giving five lucky readers the chance to win the [A'kin] Day & Night duo

valued at \$79.90.

Experience skin radiance with the [A'kin] Day & Night duo which includes the [A'kin] Rose De Mai, Anti-Oxidant Day Creme and [A'kin] Lavender & Rose, Repairing Anti-Oxidant Night Creme.

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

What skin type is the [A'kin] Lavender & Rose, Repairing Anti-Oxidant Night Creme suited for?

Hint! Visit www.purist.com
Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Joanne Campbell** of **Gosford Hospital**, NSW.

Interns being ripped off?

A **WAR** of words between the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia (APESMA) and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has kicked off this week, over claims pharmacy interns are being illegally underpaid.

According to comments made by APESMA yesterday, more than half of all Australian pharmacy interns are currently being paid under award wages.

Based on findings by Graduate Careers Australia and backed by its own research, APESMA says that interns should be raking in at least \$19.05 per hour, as opposed to the rate most interns are currently taking home, \$17.70 per hour.

"The evidence shows because most employers are illegally paying pharmacy interns less than they are entitled to they are the worst paid graduates in Australia," APESMA said in a statement.

"Pharmacists study hard at university and deserve better than being ripped off as soon as they get into the pharmacy workforce," the statement added.

The Guild has since responded to APESMA's claims by demanding a retraction, and arguing that first year interns do not work unsupervised and that to be fair "comparison wages should be compared to

full registration rates".

APESMA's claims of illegal payment levels to graduates, according to the Guild, are proven false by the recent Qld Audit by Fair Work Australia where over 500 pharmacies were intensively audited.

"APESMA does not understand the transitional arrangements for the pharmacy industry award," a statement from the Guild said.

"At the time GCA did their survey the first half intern rate in Queensland was \$17.65 an hour and not the \$19.05 as they claim.

"That rate is yet to be transitioned to," the Guild added. Questions over APESMA's potential bias were also raised by the Guild.

"What APESMA should be upfront about is their executives who are University staff who benefit from pharmacy being added back to Skilled Occupations List (SOL) which benefits their overseas student numbers," the Guild said.

Continence knowledge

HARTMANN has launched an online training module which is designed for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants to build their knowledge on incontinence and related issues.

The module takes 20 mins to complete and is available at www.itherapeutics.com.au.

Direct distribution

THE National Pharmaceutical Services Association (NPSA) has launched a new campaign to raise awareness of the health implications caused by Pfizer's direct distribution decision.

Titled, *No Monopoly on the Supply of Medicines to Your Pharmacy*, the campaign calls on pharmacists to get customers to sign a petition to the House of Representatives which asks the Government to introduce an amendment to the Health Act that prohibits exclusive supply of PBS medicines by manufacturers to community pharmacies.

According to the NPSA, the action was launched in response to the growing number of pharmacists calling for action because Pfizer's decision has made it more difficult for them to meet the needs of their patients.

"Patient care is being compromised because of this exclusive supply model," said campaign participant, Joe Saleh, Compounding Pharmacy Newport.

As part of the campaign, pharmacists will also display posters, hand out information flyers and contact their local member of parliament over the negative impact of direct distribution on patients.

Pharmacists are also requested to direct consumers to the campaign website which lists affected medicines, including drugs for life threatening conditions - see, nomonopolyonmedicine.com.au.



Annual Medicines Update

This program is being delivered in short course and full day format:

Short Course – Sydney CBD

- 15 June – Diabetes and Cardiovascular
- 22 June – Respiratory and Mental Health
- 23 June – Pain and Neurology

Full Day Program – Parramatta CBD

18 August 2011



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Packaging counts

A RECENT study has found that the way medications are packaged can have an effect on compliance.

The Veterans Ann Arbor Health Service Hospital study, looked at 118 patients with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder and found that 40% of schizophrenia sufferers were only partially adherent to their antipsychotic medications.

Researchers then introduced a group to Webster-paks and found after six months, patients on the program filled medications for 91% of outpatient days compared to only 64% for patients receiving usual care.

Astellas launches in Australia

THE first Japanese pharmaceutical company to ever operate in Australia has opened its doors in NSW, Astellas Pharma.

The new operations, based in North Ryde, are set to bolster local employment as well as research and development, and in the future will introduce "important new medications" to the Australian market.

"We are extremely pleased to be expanding our operation into Australia," said Masaaki Usui, Managing Director for

Astellas Pharma (Australia).

"Firstly, and most importantly, this allows us to provide innovative solutions to local patients with conditions where significant unmet medical needs still exist.

"Additionally, this also places us in a country where there is significant respect and recognition on a global level – in terms of quality research, highly skilled medical professionals and extremely diligent and sophisticated regulatory processes," he added.

Astellas Pharma is the second largest Japanese pharmaceutical company in the world, and operates in 40 countries with a worldwide workforce of 17,000.

ASMI appointment

THE Australian Self Medication Industry has appointed Ms Filomena Maiese as the new Marketing & Business Development Director of ASMI.

Maiese comes to the position with 15 years of consumer healthcare industry experience under her belt, having worked for Warner Lambert Consumer Healthcare, Pfizer Consumer Healthcare and the over-the-counter (OTC) division of Johnson & Johnson Pacific as Franchise Director.



DISPENSARY CORNER

BWARE a swollen eye, you never know what it might contain.

A woman in China has had a 6cm piece of chopstick removed from her eye socket after complaining of eye pain.

The woman, Ci Yang, contacted doctors in Chengdu, to try to find the cause for her persistent swollen red eye.

Doctors gave Ci a CAT scan and discovered a 6cm object in the right corner of her eye.

Immediately after the scan surgeons operated and removed the chopstick.

Later it was discovered that the utensil got into her eye 11 years ago after she slipped and hit her head on the table, causing what was thought to be temporary eye damage, which cleared up with anti-inflammation medication.

According to Ci, since then her eye flared up periodically but was calmed with anti-inflammatory drugs.

Doctors have since told her that she was lucky that the chopstick lodged in the gap between her eye and her socket, otherwise she would be blind.

ANIMAL instincts.

A particularly maternal spaniel, Kraska, has adopted an abandoned wild lynx kitten and is raising it as her own.

Keepers at a Polish wildlife park made the decision to try nine-year old Kraska out as an adoptive mum, after the lynx was rejected by her own mother.

Kraska had just given birth to a litter of pups when the baby lynx, named Mis, was given to her care.

"Now they are inseparable and love playing with each other," said the wildlife park owner, Marta Kowalska.

"Mis is a true part of Kraska's family," she added.

NAPSA shows-off its new kids on the block



THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association has announced the election of its new council for 2011/12, led by incoming National President Timothy Mizzi (Charles Sturt University).

Announced at this year's NAPSA Annual General Meeting, the members of the new 2011/12 Executive Committee include Timothy Mizzi; Stacey Gough (Curtin University), Arron Sparkes (University of Queensland) and Ezekiel Steindl (Queensland University of Technology).

NAPSA's 2011/12 Committee Chairs (pictured above from left) include Ayden Brown (Congress Chair 2013); Julia Hruz, University of Canberra, Pharmacy Awareness Chair; Madeline Orange, Queensland University of Technology, Education Chair; Jon Cooper, Griffith University, Industrial

Affairs Chair; Stacey Gough (VP); Steve Stanton, University of Sydney, IPSF Chair; Ellen Pedler, University of South Australia, Rural and Indigenous Chair and Bethany Cooper, Griffith University Publications Chair.

Meanwhile NAPSA also agreed upon the University of Tasmania in Hobart to host its 2013 Congress, chaired by Ayden Brown.

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