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ACSOM members

THE TGA is seeking new members for the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Medicines (ACSOM).

Expressions of interest are sought from people with expertise in one or a number of areas including clinical pharmacology, clinical pharmacy, complementary medicine, general medicine, paediatrics, clinical immunology, hepatology and consumer issues.

More details 02 6232 8583.

Major discounter alliance

THE discount pharmacy sector is set for a major shake-up with the announcement of a new strategic alliance between Discount Drug Stores (DDS) and Good Price Pharmacy Warehouse (GPPW).

Franchisees and employees of both companies were told yesterday afternoon about the deal, which "will allow these rapidly growing retail brands to develop

stronger and more profitable relationships with suppliers and wholesalers, together with future joint development of essential retail support systems".

Together groups are comprised of around 125 pharmacy outlets.

Both brands have said they will be retained and will continue to focus on their respective niches, which see DDS operating from traditional retail pharmacy premises up to 350m², while a GPPW typically runs as a stand-alone warehouse-style store.

The new alliance does not include any exchange of equity between the businesses, which will remain as completely separate entities.

GPPW Director Anthony Yap told PD that the pact will give both brands "position in the market place so that we have a greater ability to compete and challenge for a position as one of the top three retail pharmacy business concerns in the Australian market."

He said the alliance would also help with back end cost control as well as offer economies of scale "so that we can provide franchisees with a competitive retail model while continuing to be one of the lowest cost operators in the industry."

TGA e-submissions

THE TGA is seeking comments on proposed mandatory requirements for electronic submission dossiers lodged under its streamlined submission process, with feedback required before 01 May - www.tga.gov.au.

Make a splash!

ARTHRITIS NSW is encouraging Australians to Make a Splash for Arthritis, as part of National Arthritis Week (27 March - 02 April).

To be involved, Sydneysiders are being invited to Australia's largest water exercise class at the Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre next Sunday.

The class, led by US comedian and arthritis sufferer, Dr Matt Iseman and will be followed by a breakfast extravaganza served by Masterchef contestant, Alvin Quah.

See www.arthritisnsw.org.au.

Macular competition

THE Macular Degeneration Foundation has launched a 'World Photographic Competition' with prizes worth up to \$6800 to be won.

The inaugural mEYE comp aims to raise awareness of the condition which is the leading cause of blindness in Australia.

Entrants must include 50 words explaining how their photo conveys the theme 'Eyes on the Future' - www.meyephoto.com.au.

Pharmacy Symposium big guns



ABOVE: This group of high profile experts were among the stellar line-up of speakers at last weekend's Pharmacy Guild APP conference on the Gold Coast.

They all presented at the annual Future of the Industry Symposium on Thursday, setting the scene for the conference by putting key issues on the table - such as Pfizer's direct distribution and the surprise move by the government to require Cabinet approval for additions to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, even for drugs recommended by the PBAC.

The group, pictured above from

left includes: Dr Martin Cross, president of the Generic Medicines Industry Association; Pharmacy Guild National President Kos Sclavos; David Learmonth, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing; Patrick Davies, Symbion ceo representing the National Pharmaceutical Services Association; Ralf Dahmen, previous president of the Australian Self-Medication Industry; Guild Executive Director Wendy Phillips; IMS Health gm Australia and NZ, Andy Jackson; and Will Delaat, Independent Chairman of Medicines Australia.



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Guild Update

This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild APP2011 wrap-up

With APP over for another year, the take out message from this year's very successful event is that all community pharmacists should register as soon as possible for Pharmacy Practice Incentives.

The start-up payments for the incentives, part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement, were unveiled at APP and they are available only to eligible pharmacies that register before 30 June 2011.

To be eligible, you must be a section 90 pharmacy, quality accredited (i.e. QCPP), and agree to comply with and display a patient service charter.

Registration is easy, and free! Go to www.5cpa.com.au to register and for more information.

There's also a phone number for general inquiries 1300 555 262.

The practice incentives are available for six priority areas: Dose Administration Aids (DAAs), clinical interventions, staged supply, primary health care, community service support and working with others.

The good news is that most quality accredited pharmacies are already providing the relevant services to a high standard, and will not have to make any significant changes to their work flows to be eligible.

They're a new way for pharmacies to be rewarded for their contribution to delivering quality services and improving health outcomes for patients.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Pharmacists: close the gap

THE life expectancy gap for Indigenous Australians could be significantly closed if the same level of pharmaceutical care was applied to those living in remote communities as it is for the rest of the Australian population, according to Pharmacy Consultant, Rollo Manning.

In an article published in *On Line Opinion*, Manning calls for greater prescription medicines management in relation to both monitoring and adherence.

"Patients attending Aboriginal health services in remote communities are being dispensed medicines with little recording, probably no label and scant advice on what to expect of it," Manning said.

"This is the outcome of ten years

of bulk supply of PBS medicines from an Approved Pharmacy with no involvement of a pharmacist in the dispensing process," he added.

In stating his case Manning argues that indigenous Australians living in remote communities are severely disadvantaged by not having access to the services and advice of pharmacists.

"The diseases killing Aboriginal people at a young age were not there 40 years ago and have been brought on by lifestyle choices," Manning said.

"This makes it even more important that information is provided to help the patient understand what the medicine is going to do and how it will work to help them live longer," he added.

Guild endorses MyGene

AUSTRALIAN gene testing firm, MyGene, has garnered the support of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia (through Gold Cross Products) for its genetic test based weight loss program, Weightloss Complete.

The program involves a cheek swab gene test, which analyses key genes associated with carb and lipid metabolism, the results of which enable the MyGene team to develop a personal eating and weightloss program.

"Pharmacists, with the assistance of MyGene, are ideally placed to help modify or manage health risks associated with their patient's genes," said Nick Argyrou, Managing Director MyGene.

Pharmacy comp win!

CONGRATULATIONS to Anna So of Harrison's Pharmacy Rhodes who was the winner of last Friday's PD KeySun Fabulous Nail competition.



DISPENSARY CORNER

AN ice cream vendor in New York has been arrested on charges of allegedly selling prescription drugs from his truck.

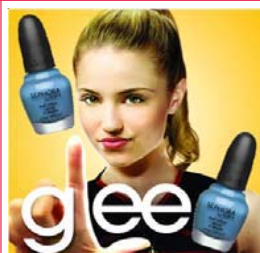
As well as choc-tops and snow cones, Louis Scala is claimed to have specialised in oxycodone, having sold more than 40,000 pills in the last 12 months.

Prosecutors said Scala and his accomplices made more than US\$1m from the pills during 2010.

HE may need some joint care now. 400-pound sumo wrestler, Kelly Gneiting, has become the heaviest person ever to complete a marathon.

Gneiting finished the LA Marathon in nine hours, 48 min and 52 secs, admitting that after the first eight mile jog, he decided to walk because he felt "delirious".

WIN A NICOLE BY OPI PACK



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving pharmacists the chance to win a 'Glee' Lacquer Pack valued at \$105, courtesy of Nicole by OPI.

Nicole by OPI is a new range of fashion forward nail lacquers designed for the young fashionistas brought to you by OPI.

Nicole by OPI nail lacquers contain no DBP, Toluene, or Formaldehyde. NO NASTIES! Nicole by OPI is available at Terry White Chemists and leading pharmacies. For stockists contact 1800 358 999 or visit www.nicolebyopi.com.

For your chance to win this great pack, simply send in an answer to the daily question below:

What is the retail value of Nicole by OPI?

The first correct entry received wins!

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

Hint! Visit www.nicolebyopi.com

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Caitlyn Adsett from Jadin Chemist Group.

Need help with the Pharmacy Industry Award?

www.guild.org.au/pia



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia



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