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Guild online training

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia launched a new online training program at APP which offers a range of training and assessment services across a range of formats.

The e-learning Academy features several streams of directed education including pharmacist focused courses, as well as an Intern Training Program and a Pharmacy Assistant program.

The Academy is open to all Guild members and their staff, with Academy and CPD points allotted for completion of components.

Educational programs are spread over a variety of formats including workshops, distance education, webinars, face-to-face, online and clinical sessions.

The Academy website also features a FAQ and e-learning technical guide, and will also host business focused modules including 'Business Continuity Planning.

There's also a myCPD Repository and Events Calendar.

CLICK HERE for details.

Aussie/NZ pharmacist alliance

THIS week ties between the New Zealand and Australian pharmacy sectors were strengthened, with the signing of a strategic alliance between the The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand (PSNZ).

The signing of the alliance is designed to strengthen the professional role of pharmacists in both nations, and will enable the exchange of information, experiences and ideas.

"With this alliance we are able to strengthen the communication,

collaboration and cooperation between the PSA and PSNZ in policy development, education and training, political advocacy and commercial arrangements where there is mutual benefit," said PSA National President, Warwick Plunkett.

"There are clearly many areas where the professions of both countries share common ground and this new relationship will boost our ability to further the interests of our members," he added.

The alliance will initially focus on four key areas including: policy, workforce planning, events and products.

PSNZ President Elizabeth Plant, welcomed the new alliance saying it enabled both Societies to identify potential services that may be of benefit to either or both organisations.

"It is a great step forward for the pharmacy profession in both countries and one which will flow on and result in better health outcomes for consumers in both Australia and New Zealand," Plant enthused.

Twitter's mental health

MENTAL Health in rural Australia has been bolstered this month with the announcement of a new fortnightly social media 'tweetchat' titled Rural MH.

Set up by four mental health advocates, Chris Pycroft (Inspire Foundation), Briony Walker (Headspace), Tom Whitty (AgChatOz), and Alison Fairleigh (Australian Agricultural College Corporation), it is hoped Rural MH will help to tackle the stigma and lack of resources for mental health in rural Australia, as well as to discuss and raise support for mental health issues in local communities.

The first tweetchat will take place on 06 April between 7.30pm and 9pm and will focus on 'Mental Health in Your Community'.

To take part in the discussion Twitter users can utilise the #RuralMH hashtag.

For details - ruralmh@gmail.com.

Yervoy approval

A NEW treatment for late-stage (metastatic) melanoma, Yervoy (ipilimumab) has been approved by the US FDA.

For details see www.fda.gov.

Research is dropping

THE number of clinical trials conducted in Australia has fallen for the third year in a row, according to the latest figures from the TGA.

During 2010 only 574 clinical trials were started in Australia, 15% down of the 2009 figure, and the lowest number since 2001.

"The number of new clinical trials in Australia has fallen by an average of 13 per cent every year since 2007," said Medicines Australia chief executive, Dr Brendan Shaw.

"These are not the kinds of records we want to be setting - it's extremely disappointing," he added.

Shaw said the results highlight the need for the government to implement the Clinical Trials Action Group recommendations, which were created to fix the problem of dwindling clinical trial numbers.

"The very future of Australia's \$1 billion clinical research industry is at stake," he said.

"These trials save the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \$100 million a year, so the more clinical trials we conduct in Australia the greater the saving for the taxpayer," he added.

Soladek warning

THE US FDA is advising consumers to cease the use of the vitamin-solution product Soladek, due to dangerously high levels of Vitamin A and D.

Business Development Managers



Your Pharmacy Partner

On the back of an extremely successful launch at APP, APHS Packaging is recruiting for passionate and committed pharmaceutical sales professionals, with a demonstrable track record in achieving results.

APHS Packaging is a leading supplier of dose administration aids for pharmacies and aged care facilities across Australia. Through state of the art packaging and inspection systems, APHS Packaging produces easy-to-use medication sachets within a highly regulated manufacturing environment. With APHS Packaging poised for strong growth, this role will play a key part in the organisation's overall success.

Reporting to the National Sales Manager, these hands-on roles will focus on the new customer acquisition, as well as promoting the expanding product offerings to the existing customer base. You will achieve this by owning the customer relationships from origination to initiation.

Register your interest by contacting Peter Maloney,
0408 705 662 or peter.maloney@aphspackaging.com.au.

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Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

BENTOURS is promoting a four day Gota Canal Cruise special, travelling between Stockholm and Gothenburg, priced from \$1,694pp; or a longer six day journey from \$2,734pp.

The cruise includes three- or five-night accommodation in a cabin category of choice with shared facilities and all meals - details at www.bentours.com.au.

TEMPO HOLIDAYS is discounting select departures of its four day *Delfin II* Amazon Cruise by \$220pp, now priced from \$2050ppts, when booked and paid in full by 30 April.

The *Delfin II* itinerary includes return airport transfers, bilingual guide, three breakfasts, two lunches, three dinners and jungle excursions/activities with bilingual guides.

Info at tempoholidays.com.

SPICERS Retreats, Hotels and Lodges is offering Easter, Labour Day and Queen's Birthday long weekend specials at seven of its properties in south-east Queensland.

The three night packages start from \$999 per couple staying at the Spicers Balfour Hotel in New Farm (a saving of up to \$268).

The package includes accom in an Executive Room, nightly canapes, full breakfast daily, gourmet picnic hamper and bicycle hire.

For full details on the package inclusions for the other six hotels visit spicersgroup.com.au.

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Humira pushes boundaries

TOMORROW'S PBS listing of Humira for the treatment of Crohn's disease is likely to see an expansion of the role of pharmacists, because the medication will be the only PBS listed only treatment patients can administer at home.

Humira (adalimumab) will be available on the PBS from 01 April for the treatment of adults with complex refractory fistulising Crohn's disease (a chronic inflammatory disease of the gastrointestinal tract).

Fistulae occur in around 17%-43% of Crohn's patients.

At present there is no known medical or surgical cure for Crohn's disease, and there are only a few treatment options.

Humira is an anti-TNF biologic that can be self-administered as a subcutaneous injection to bind and block the autoimmune effects of tumour necrosis factor alpha, a protein that when produced in excess, plays a central role in the inflammatory responses of Crohn's

disease.

"Fistulae can significantly impair the quality of life of a patient living with Crohn's disease," said gastroenterologist, Associate Professor Jane Andrews from Royal Adelaide Hospital.

"With Humira now reimbursed on the PBS, patients with fistulising Crohn's disease have greater access to a clinically effective and well tolerated treatment with the benefit of self-administration," she added.

NZ's Aussie summit

THE Australian College of Pharmacy is holding its annual conference this year in Auckland, between 14-18 April.

Themed 'Forever Young' the conference program features parallel streams for both community and clinical practice, with topics including: pharmacists' role in public health, anxiety and depression and balancing the cost and service mix.

For details - www.acp.edu.au.

DISPENSARY CORNER

IT'S a tough job, but somebody has to do it.

Two policemen, Rakesh Rasella and Ramphal, have been enlisted by the Indian and Pakistan national cricket teams as official taste testers for the players.

As part of their job description the pair must throw themselves on the fork and dig into three meals a day prepared at the Taj Hotel in Chandigarh for the cricket teams, to test for poisoning or other hygiene problems.

"I have tasted more than 18 different dishes before they were consumed by cricketers and I hadn't eaten many of them ever," said Rasella.

GRAVITY is nothing.

A Russian man has had his life saved by a tree after jumping from his seventh storey apartment whilst very, very drunk.

According to reports the man was discovered inebriated and entangled in the branches of a tree three storeys from the ground.

Rescuers were soon able to dislodge him from his possie, and take him to hospital to treat several scratches and bruises.

PUT the fork down!

The President of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, has urged his fellow countrymen to cut down on their calorie intake in a bid to curb the nation's rising obesity epidemic.

Chávez, a former paratroop commander, issued his request during his weekly TV and radio program, saying "We are eating better, that's been proven."

"We're leaving malnutrition behind - it no longer exists in the country, but be careful with obesity," he added.

The latest comments come on the heels of an earlier campaign against breast enlargement surgery where he railed against doctors who "convince women that if they don't have big bosoms, they should feel bad".

WIN A MOTHER'S DAY PACK



With Mother's Day only six weeks away, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers the chance to win a special pack which will spoil your Mum (or you!), courtesy of **Plunkett Pharmaceuticals**.

The pack contains two full size products - Advanced Collagen Lift Moisturiser and Advanced Skin Perfecting Exfoliator, valued at \$99.90.

Moisturise in the morning, and use the exfoliator followed by the moisturiser at night to rejuvenate and lift as well as reduce fine lines and discolouration. Available at selected pharmacies and online at www.plunkettpharmaceuticals.com.au.

For your chance to win this fantastic Mother's Day gift, simply send in an answer to the daily question below:

What is the percentage of glycolic acid in Skin Perfecting Exfoliator?

The first correct entry received each day wins!

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

Hint! Visit www.plunkettpharmaceuticals.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Courtney Challinor**, a pharmacy student from **The University of Sydney**.