

Prostate praise

THE Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia has welcomed a \$4m budget injection over the next four years which will allow it to deliver support and management aids for men with prostate cancer and their families and carers.

SANE getting social

MENTAL health charity SANE Australia is encouraging Facebook users to vote for its video created as part of the Commonwealth Bank 'Community Seeds' project.

For every SANE vote on the bank's Facebook page, SANE will receive \$1 towards its helpline.

And the user who generates the largest number of friends who also vote for a Community Seeds project will win \$5,000, with an additional \$5,000 donated to their favourite community organisation.

See www.facebook.com/commonwealthbank.

NPS set to MedicineWatch

NPS Australia is set to monitor prescribing details from general practitioners, with funding for a post-marketing surveillance project approved in this week's Budget to provide better visibility and understanding of how drugs are being prescribed and their impact on the Australian population.

Part of a wider project co-ordinated and funded by the Department of Health and Ageing, MedicineWatch is designed to complement and expand on existing data sources.

"Often the long-term safety and effectiveness of medicines can

only be established once a drug has entered the market and is being used by millions of people experiencing its benefits and risks," said NPS CEO Dr Lynn Weekes.

"In an Australian first, MedicineWatch will provide important data on how medicines are being used, in what conditions and with what outcomes," Dr Weekes added.

The \$16 million MedicineWatch program will run for four years, and will collect data from 500 general practices across the nation, canvassing around 1.5-2.5 million (de-identified) patient records.

The program will be steered by a committee of stakeholders who will provide strategic advice and oversee its delivery; whilst the drug data generated by MedicineWatch will be made publicly available for health and research purposes.

"This information will allow policy makers and clinicians to make better-informed decisions about the registration, listing and prescribing of medicines and lead to better health outcomes for all Australians," Weekes said.

Medical certificates

LESS than 50% of students surveyed believe pharmacists have the requisite training to issue medical certificates, according to the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA).

The survey by NAPSA's Industrial Affairs Committee gauged responses from 101 NAPSA student members over the question of pharmacists issuing medical certificates.

The results found that whilst 64% of students were aware that pharmacists could issue medical certificates, less than half were confident that they had enough training to provide medical certificates to patients.

In addition only 11 out of 91 respondents (who said they worked in community pharmacy) were aware of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and Pharmaceutical Society of Australia guidelines regarding what disease states are diagnosable by a pharmacist, legal procedures and considerations when issuing a medical certificate.

Responding to the results NAPSA recommended that pharmacy schools and universities incorporate medical certificate education into their curriculums, to "increase awareness, decrease concern due to persecution and create a more consistent service amongst pharmacies".

To view the survey results visit www.napsa.org.au.

Health gets political

THE University of Sydney is hosting a free forum during which a panel of four Aussie healthcare practitioners including Professor Geoff Gallop, Senator Bob Brown, Dr Andrew McDonald and Prof Peter Baume will talk on their transition from health into politics.

The forum will take place on 16 May at the Footbridge Theatre, Parramatta Road, Sydney, from 5-6.30pm.

Pharmacy ownership

MEDICI Capital is inviting pharmacists who are looking to buy their own pharmacy or enter into partnerships to attend its annual program of seminars.

The sessions will cover the tools, structures and plans to make the transition from employee to partner successful for both the individual and the business, and will also help attendees understand what is possible and achievable, and pitfalls to avoid.

The seminars are being held in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

The full list of dates and topics is now available online at www.medici.com.au/events.

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WIN TASTY TREATS FROM SLIM SECRETS



This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win great packs of tasty treats from award winning, globally exported **Slim Secrets**.

Slim Secrets are the convenient and tasty treats to compliment your health, fitness and weight

loss goals. Each pack is valued at \$50 and contains one carton of 10 Protein Shots and one carton of 12 Designer Cookies.

Slim Secrets Protein Shots are packed with 14.5g whey protein, lower than a bench press in fat, naturally sweetened with stevia and less than 65 calories. Just add water or milk, shake to your favourite tune on your ipod and voila... your protein is served!

Designer Cookies are a great snack for between meals when you are craving something sweet but want a healthier alternative.

For your chance to win this exciting prize pack, simply be the first person to send through the correct answer to the question below:

Name two secrets about Designer Cookies.

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

Hint: Visit www.slimsecrets.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: **Stephanie Loui** from **Young's Pharmacy Rozelle**.



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.

HOLIDAYS To Europe has an eight night cruise from Southampton, UK onboard *MSC Opera* priced from \$1229 per person twin share on departures in August 2011.

The cruise will stop in ports of call in the Netherlands, France and Spain as well as passing through the English Channel.

Children under 18 can cruise for free (port charges still applicable) when sharing a cabin with two paying adults.

See holidaystoeurope.com.au.

CORAL Seas has a deal at the Iririki Island Resort and Spa in Vanuatu priced from \$1149 per adult and \$399 per child for seven nights.

The deal includes Air Vanuatu airfares, airport transfers and brekkie daily, and is on sale until 15 May for travel until 24 June, as well as travel between 21 July to 21 September and 04-31 October.

For full terms and conditions visit coralsess.com.au.

TEMPO Holidays is offering savings on its coach and sailing tours through Croatia.

Up to 15% is being discounted from the eight day Adriatic Paradise Cruise, which is now priced from \$913ppts for departures in May and June.

Also discounted is the Grand Tour of Croatia coach tour offering 10% off.

The tour takes in Zagreb, Split, Dubrovnik and more and is now priced from \$938ppts for May and Jun departures.

See www.tempoholidays.com.

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Type 2 diabetes gets a serve

PATIENTS suffering from type 2 diabetes will benefit directly from new funding earmarked to support the supply of needles, according to Eli Lilly Australia.

The comments follow the Budgetary announcement of \$3.1 million to be put toward the National Diabetes Services Scheme which supports the supply of needles and syringes for patients with type 2 diabetes who require injectable non-insulin blood glucose lowering medications.

Eli Lilly welcomed the decision saying that it will not only provide patients who are prescribed Byetta with free needles through participating NDSS pharmacies, but it "means more patients will be able to access the medicines best suited to meet their needs".

At present around one million Australians currently suffer from type 2 diabetes, however this

figure is expected to rise by around 600,000 patients by 2050.

New hospital tool

THE NPS has launched a new drug use evaluation tool for the discharge management of patients with acute coronary syndromes (DMACS e-DUE).

The new tool is designed to promote adherence to the National Heart Foundation and Cardiac Society of Australia and NZ guidelines, and is a standalone Windows application that can be downloaded and used by pharmacists and other healthcare practitioners.

The tool automatically generates a report of selected quality measures allowing care aspects which require improvement to be identified, as well as a toolkit of educational resources.

See www.nps.org.au/dmacs_due.

Blackmores helps to boost breast cancer funds

LAST weekend a record 120,000 Australians signed up to participate in the annual Mother's Day Classic Walk/Run events across the nation, in a bid to raise much needed funds for breast cancer research.

In fact the events clocked the highest ever number of participants that Mother's Day Classic has ever enjoyed in its 14 year lifetime, with Melbourne alone seeing 47,000 eager contestants pit themselves against the various endurance events.

Blackmores, gold sponsor of the event, painted the races pink, with its own team of pink branded t-shirts and shoelace wearing participants pounding the pavement to help in the fight against cancer.

"The Blackmores community came together in big numbers right around the country in support of breast cancer research", said Kerry Cunningham, Blackmores Director of People & Communication.

"Sunday's event showed how passionately we feel about helping support causes such as this, our enthusiasm for healthy living, and our dedication to helping improve the health and wellbeing of Australians," Cunningham added.

Although the final tallies are not yet in, organisers have said they are hopeful that the total funds donated will overturn previous records and sit in excess of \$10m.

Pictured right is Team Blackmores taking a breather at the company's event tent in the heart of Sydney's Domain.



DISPENSARY CORNER

LESS parade injuries?

A bad tempered Shetland pony, named Septimus Quartus, known for biting and kicking, is being retired from his official duties as mascot for the Australian Defense Force's First Battalion RAR.

Farwelled at a massive defense-do this week in Townsville, Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Hocking told media that he was sad to see the old pony move into retirement, but he felt that a lot of people may have turned up to make sure the cantankerous Septimus actually left.

"Luckily he didn't kick anyone or bite anyone, which he has a tendency to do," Hocking quipped.

CIGARETTES have a new enemy.

In a bid to raise awareness of the degradation to the environment caused by discarded cigarette butts on city streets, Parisian fashion designer, Flore Garcia Bour, is creating a dress out of them.

Bour plans to spend the best part of two months collecting butts and creating the dress.

"I hope my dress shocks smokers and plays a role in making them more aware of the damage they do by throwing their butts away that degrade in 18 months at best or 12 years at worst," she said.

MAGNET boy.

An extraordinary six-year old boy in Croatia is enjoying the limelight after he discovered he was magnetic, literally.

Objects from cutlery, pans, dumbbells and even mobile phones stick to the boy, with his family now claiming he is able to heal the sick through his touch.

The family also claim the boy has super strength.



is this boy a real life superhero?