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New academic Board

THE Australian College of Pharmacy has re-formed its Academic Board.

The new Board is chaired by Professor Michael Roberts of Adelaide and Queensland Universities, and also includes Dr Treasure McGuire, Jenny Bergin, Jenny Giam and Trent Twomey.

The Board has also invited the National President of the Pharmacists' Division of APESMA, Dr Geoff March to join its ranks.

"Changes in the structure of the profession and the resulting need for community pharmacists to embrace a career structure that may not include pharmacy ownership require development of new educational offerings for pharmacists post-graduation," said Twomey.

"Whilst all pharmacists gain from advancing their knowledge base, employee pharmacists in particular will benefit from formal qualifications that attest to their advanced knowledge in specific areas," he added.

As part of its duties, the Board will also oversee the management and standards for the College's CPD program.

GMiA compliance

ADHERANCE to the Generic Medicines Industry Association's Code of Practice by members has been "substantial", according to a 2011 review.

The Code Administration Committee convened last month to review the Code and ensure its successful implementation and ongoing effectiveness.

Following the review the committee recommended that GMiA members provide an annual statement confirming their compliance with the Code, to which GMiA has since agreed.

In addition, an Independent Reviewer appointed to look at the Educational Event Reports submitted by members and conduct spot audits of members' marketing and promotional material, concluded that there was nothing to indicate any level of non-compliance by members.

New PBS medicine changes

THIS November marks the listing of a number of new therapies onto the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, including the antidepressant Citalopram-GA, GN Citalopram Hydrobromide in tablet 20mg (base) format.

The chemotherapy drug DBL Fluorouracil Injection BP, HH – Fluorouracil, Injection 1000mg in 20mL and 2500mg in 50mL is also now available to patients on the PBS, as is the cancer drug Irinotecan Actavis 500, TA – Irinotecan Hydrochloride Trihydrate, I.V. injection 500mg in 25mL.

Levitacord, RA – Levetiracetam, Tablet 250mg and Tablet 500mg have also been PBS listed, as well as Karicare Aptamil De-Lact, NU – Milk Powder—lactose Free Formula, Lactose-predigested powder infant formula 900g; Prochlorperazine GH, GQ – Prochlorperazine, Tablet containing prochlorperazine maleate 5mg; and Karicare Aptamil Pepti-Junior Gold, NU – Protein Hydrolysate Formula with Medium Chain Triglycerides, Compound powder 450g.

Other PBS additions include Roxithromycin Sandoz, SZ – Roxithromycin, Tablet 150mg.

Meanwhile the following fees, patient contributions and safety net thresholds now apply and are included, where applicable, in prices published in the Schedule: Dispensing fees: Ready-prepared \$6.42, Dangerous drug fee \$2.1, Extemporaneously-prepared \$8.46, Allowable additional patient charge (a discretionary charge to general patients if a pharmaceutical item has a dispensed price for maximum

quantity less than the general patient co-payment) \$3.92.

Additional fees (for safety net prices) are as follows: Ready-prepared \$1.09 and Extemporaneously-prepared \$1.44; whilst Patient Co-payments are: General \$34.20, Concessional \$5.60; and Safety Net Thresholds are General \$1317.20 and Concessional \$336.

For more details on the changes visit www.pbs.gov.au.

NPS back on TV

NPS launched its Brand Choices TV ad campaign over the weekend, to encourage safety in the context of multiple medicine brands.

The ads will run on Channel 7 and 7TWO until mid December.

Print ads will also appear in magazines including *New Idea*.

According to NPS, pharmacists received collateral earlier in the year to support their involvement in the campaign, including the Medicine brand choices brochure and the NPS Medicines List.

It's time to show us your lungs Australia



THE Australian Lung Foundation recently launched a new public health campaign, 'Show Us Your Lungs' to get Australians to take lung health seriously.

The launch follows recent research which found that in general, Aussies ignore their lung health.

According to the Newspoll survey one in three Australians do not consider their lungs to be important, despite the fact that around 50 Aussies die of lung disease every day.

The survey also found that whilst 84% of Australians rated their lung health as excellent, very good or good, one in three revealed they experience at least one of the signs of poor lung health.

"The survey results indicate that people aren't recognising signs of poor lung health and probably not speaking to their doctors about their symptoms," said Professor Christine Jenkins, Lung Foundation National Council member.

The Lung Foundation's 'Show Us Your Lungs' campaign aims to address this gap in people's perception of their lung health and the reality of their condition, and to get Aussies to speak to a health

care professional if they experience at least one of the following: Breathlessness walking up a small flight of steps (8-12 steps); chest infection at least twice a year; a new cough, persistent cough, changed cough or if they regularly cough up phlegm (not due to a cold or flu); or have an unexplained ache in their chest or back, tightness in chest or wheeze.

"Many lung diseases are treatable if they are properly diagnosed," said Jenkins.

"Identifying the early signs of lung disease and acting early is important," she added.

The cheeky 'Show Us Your Lungs' campaign launch saw a team of "lung flashers" wander around the streets of Sydney in dubious trenchcoats flashing unsuspecting Sydney-siders their lungs (pictured above).

The campaign is being supported by consumer information flyers and posters available in GP surgeries, a new community service announcement and the campaign's creative and educational video content, featuring actor John Jarratt.

See www.lungfoundation.com.au.

Friday's winners

CONGRATULATIONS to Melessa Bone from APhS Packaging and Ghazal Ghodosi who were the winners of last Friday's comp.

Psoriasis petition

TO add your voice to Psoriasis Australia's online petition calling for a "better deal" on new treatments (PD 31 Oct) **CLICK HERE**.

Guild Update

This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild Pharmacy Students

Calling all pharmacy students who can play a neat cut shot or bowl a savage yorker, Pharmacy Cricket (of which the Guild is a silver sponsor) is on the lookout for new players.

Playing for a Pharmacy Cricket team is a great way to meet other people working in the pharmacy profession and make contacts for future employment ... or just have a yarn about the industry.

The cricket season is warming up and the National Cricket Carnival will be held on the Sunshine Coast in late January.

It doesn't matter if you can spin a ball like Shane Warne, or keep the drinks chilled as an expert 12th man – all skill levels are welcome, so dust off your cricket whites, grab your Gray-Nicolls and get involved.

Those interested are invited to contact Pharmacy Cricket president Greg Hodgson on 02 4862 2181, 0412 202 692 or via the email-

hodgsong@bigpond.com.

New members, especially students, are most welcome with special rates to play.

Visit the website at www.pharmacycricket.com.au for further information.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Annotated prescriptions

PHARMACISTS in New Zealand are now able to annotate a prescription where they have evidence that a patient is eligible for a subsidy via a specialist's recommendation, without requiring a counter signature or endorsement from the prescriber, following changes announced by PHARMAC to the General Rules in the Pharmaceutical Schedule.

In addition, where the pharmacy has an electronic record of an endorsement from a previous prescription written by the same prescriber, the pharmacist now may also annotate the prescription accordingly.

Annotations can only occur when it is not practicable to dispense the medicine prescribed, and any annotation would not be able to override any other Schedule restriction.

The rule change is designed to allow pharmacists to provide a funded product when an out-of-stock issue occurs for a particular drug, without requiring the prescriber's signature or notification from PHARMAC.

The changes have been welcomed by the Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand, which said that they would reduce some of the administrative requirements for pharmacists and practitioners.

"The changes are common sense ones," said NZ Guild Chief Executive, Annabel Young.

"As a rule, pharmacists are methodical and thorough professional people who have their patients' best interest very much in mind.

"They will take maximum care in ensuring that the medicine dispensed is suitable and appropriate," she added.

WIN A LE TAN PRIZE PACK



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with **Le Tan** this week and is giving away **Colour by: Le Tan** prize packs to five lucky readers.

Introducing Australia's favourite artificial tan & original award winning formula- Le Tan Self Tan. The confidence of bronzed glowing

skin is just a spray, pump or squirt away with Le Tan's instant & wash-off formulas.

Le Tan's instant self-tanners are tinted and deliver a long-lasting, streak-free, natural looking tan in an instant. Keep your skin glowing through all seasons with this **Colour by: Le Tan** prize pack.

Each **Colour by: Le Tan** prize pack includes Le Tan in Le Can 150g in Deep Bronze, Mini Le Tan in Le Can 45g in Bronze, Flawless Legs 75g in Deep Bronze, Foaming Mousse 110ml in Deep Bronze and Instant Face Tan 75ml.

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

Hint: Visit www.letan.com.au

How many seconds does Le Tan's 'How to Use A Wash-Off Tan' Video recommend that you wait after applying Flawless Legs

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Evan Walters**, Pharmacy student from **University of New England**.

DISPENSARY CORNER

BRUSH with death.

One incredibly fortunate driver was counting his lucky stars this week after having narrowly avoided death when hundreds of steel bars smashed through his front windscreen.

According to reports, the 24-year old driver, Yang Junsheng was trying to avoid detection from a police officer because his car was unregistered when he crashed into a pick-up truck carrying a large load of steel bars.

"My mind was very clear at that second, and I immediately dived down onto the passenger seat," he said.

"I heard an explosion and when the car stopped I couldn't move because the car was full of metal bars," he added.

Surprisingly, once free from his vehicle Yang walked away with just a few scratches on his cheek.



SKINLESS model still standing.

Supermodel Heidi Klum shocked onlookers when she turned up skinless to a Halloween party.

Rather than suffering skin removal and certain death, Klum opted to have her body painted to replicate a "dead body with the first layer of skin ripped off".

The rather gory costume, was completed when she was rolled up to the door of the Hollywood party on an autopsy trolley covered in a sheet.

Klum them peeled back the sheet and gave the hoards of photographers a picture of herself sans skin.



Quite the party trick