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APP2012 rego opens

ONLINE registration for the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference & Trade Exhibition (APP) in 2012 is now open.

APP2012 will be held 8-11 March at the Gold Coast Convention Centre, [CLICK HERE](#) for details.

TGA online drug crackdown

A JOINT operation between The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and the Therapeutic Goods Administration into the online supply of illegal and counterfeit medicines has resulted in a significant number of seizures, investigations and arrests.

The international 'Week of Action' took place between 20-27 September and saw 80 countries crack down on illegal and counterfeit online drug sales.

Locally the operation resulted in the physical examination of approximately 71 international parcels, resulting in 20 seizures and 36 detentions for TGA determinations; and more than 70,000 pills, tubes, vials and sachets being held or seized; and .

The majority of drugs seized were slimming and diet

supplements and erectile dysfunction medication, however there were also large quantities of antibiotics, steroids and so-called 'legal highs' held as well.

"The Australian public needs to be aware of the potential dangers associated with purchasing medications online," said Acting Customs and Border Protection National Director Trade and Compliance, Sharon Nyakuengama.

"While the internet can offer consumers a convenient way to access approved therapeutic goods, they need to be careful that they are not inadvertently breaking the law, wasting their money or damaging their health," Nyakuengama added.

Macular world first

AN Implantable Miniature Telescope procedure was performed this month for the first time.

Hailed as a breakthrough, the procedure allowed the patient to regain many of their visual activities after losing their central vision.

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Lung medicines growth

THE value of the lung cancer drugs market is expected to reach US\$13b by 2020, according to the new Lung Cancer Drugs Market in G7 Countries analysis.

Last year the market was valued at US\$4b, with the report forecasting this figure to grow at a Compound Annual Growth Rate of 13.5% from 2015 to 2020.

The market dominators in 2010 were Avastin, Iressa, Gemzar, and Tarceva, however the report posits that by 2020 this will shift, and drugs such as talactoferrin, Xalkori (crizotinib) and ARQ 197 will take the lead.

Vitamin B stress relief

A CLINICAL trial at the Swinburne University of Technology has found that increasing Vitamin B intake can reduce work-related stress.

The three-month trial saw 60 participants given a course of either high dose Vitamin B supplements (Blackmores Executive B Stress) or a placebo.

The participants were evaluated at the start of the trial for factors such as personality, work demands, mood, anxiety and strain, and then re-evaluated at 30 and 90 days.

The results, to be published in *Human Psychopharmacology*, found that Vitamin B takers experienced a 20% reduction in stress, whereas the placebo group experienced no change.

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Events Calendar

WELCOME to Pharmacy Daily's Continuing Professional Development Calendar, featuring upcoming events and opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

10-13 Nov: SHPA's Medicines Management 2011 conference in Hobart - www.shpa.org.au.

13 Nov: GuildCare training (afternoon and evening training sessions), St Leonards, Sydney, NSW- 02 9467 7100.

Pharmacist's highest honour

THE Fred J Boyd award has been presented to pharmacist Bill Thomson at The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia's 37th National Conference which kicked off in Hobart yesterday.

Described as SHPA's highest honour, the award is named in memory of SHPA's founding president and is awarded biennially to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to hospital pharmacy in Australia.

Thomson won the award for his outstanding contribution to hospital pharmacy practice throughout his long career.

Throughout his career, Thomson spent 20 years as director of pharmacy at the Preston and Northcote Community Hospital, then at the Austin Hospital and later at the Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre.

Thomson also served as the Executive Director of the Victorian Drug Usage Advisory Committee and the Victorian Therapeutic Advisory Group, and was instrumental in the formation of the Council of Australian Therapeutic Advisory Groups.

"Bill is a pharmacist who truly embodies the spirit of Fred J Boyd in the manner in which he has practised his profession and exhibited his leadership and

inspirational abilities," said Helen Matthews, Chair, SHPA Vic Branch.

"He has employed vision, perseverance and dedication to achieve his goals which have unilaterally benefitted the Australian pharmacy profession as well as community health," she added.

FASD funding for WA

THE prevention of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) has been given a boost this week with the announcement of funding for a FASD initiative in Western Australia's remote Fitzroy Valley.

Part of a wider community-led strategy developed by local Indigenous women to address the diagnosis and prevention of FASD in their community, the Lililwan Project kicked off with funding from a philanthropist, and saw the development and use of a medical history checklist to obtain info about antenatal exposures, early life trauma, health and development from parents and carers of all children born in 2002 or 2003.

The second stage now green lit with a National Health and Medical Research Council grant will involve a multi-disciplinary assessment of the health and development of the children surveyed in Stage 1.

DISPENSARY CORNER

NATURE vs nurture.

A photo of a tiger trying to cuddle up to a toddler has melted hearts around the world, after photographer Dyrk Daniels captured the moment for the media.

According to Daniels, the tiger became interested in the tot after spotting her leaning against the glass of its enclosure.

However rather than snarling at the child, the tiger sauntered over, put its paw to the glass and rubbed its face where the child was positioned.



A BIT of Savlon will fix that right up.

Wen Le needed minor medical attentions and a lot of insurance after slamming her car through a brick wall whilst learning to park.

The Learner driver was taking a lesson in an alley in Xiaolan, Guangdong province, when according to reports, she hit the accelerator instead of the brake, shooting the car, herself and her instructor through a wall.

"She was slightly hurt but luckily no-one was standing on the other side of the wall when she came through," said a police spokesman.

After being patched for a few slight bumps Wen told reporters that she still was not sure of what happened, "I was parking very carefully and the car just took off," she said.



The 'P' test may have to wait a while

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