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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.

30 Oct: Workshop: Clinical Interventions In Pharmacy; Salamanca Inn, Hobart, TAS; call 03 6231 2636 for info.

30 Oct: First Aid Certificate Course; North Sydney Leagues Club, Cammeray, NSW; call 02 9431 1125 for more information.

02 Nov: CPD Lecture 10: Dental First Aid In the Pharmacy; PSA Office, Unley, SA; visit www.psa.org.au for info.

05 Nov: Workshop: Mental Health First Aid; Pharmacy House, St Leonards, NSW; call 02 9431 1125 for info.

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

NAPSA Vampire Cup

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association achieved record results this year for its annual Vampire Cup blood drive, clocking 253 donations from members, their family and friends across its 13 branches.

Regulation change in the air

THERE is room for improvement to Australia's regulatory arrangement for complementary medicines, according to the Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing, Catherine King.

Speaking at yesterday's Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia's (CHC) National Conference, King said that whilst the govt is proud of Australia's regulatory arrangements for complementary medicines, the recent Australian National Audit Office report into the TGA's role in regulating complementary medicines (*PD 01 Sep*) highlighted some issues with the system.

These issues, including poor compliance rates, resulted in recommendations for improving the process of regulation for complementary medicines and the handling of advertising complaints.

Specific recommendations listed in the report, including: the timely completion by TGA of key guidance material for complementary medicines; improving the integrity of the self assessment process for listing complementary therapies whilst limiting the use of inappropriate claims and indications, have been accepted by the TGA and are now in the planning stages for implementation.

King also said planning is now occurring for further report recommendations including making information available to the public on each listed complementary medication; improving the quality

of the regulatory framework through the use of risk profiles; and the development of documented procedures for handling advertising complaints including timelines for completing investigations.

"The government has a responsibility to ensure that the regulatory regime for complementary medicines continues to strike the balance between safety and quality whilst not stifling innovation," King said.

In addition to the report an informal working group made up of industry stakeholders, healthcare professionals, government officials and consumer groups, also formed in response to consumer concerns over poor complementary compliance.

This group, according to King, examined regulatory arrangements for complementary therapies and the reasons behind the higher than expected non-compliance.

The group identified broad areas for improvement which the government is now considering.

These areas for improvement include clarity in the complementary medicines framework, after it was discovered that a lack of clarity led to confusion by industry members over what is required of them, as well as compliance encouragement due to the fact that the current system does not "sufficiently encourage compliance".

The group also discovered problems stemming from the public perception that the TGA has a higher level of regulation of complementary medicines than it actually does.

Possible initiatives to deal with these issues, according to King, are currently "being taken into consideration".

"The significance that 70% of Australians use complementary medicines is not lost on the government, nor is the fact that this is a \$1.9b industry that contributes significantly to the broader economy, and that it employs 5,000 people in manufacturing and 60,000 others rely on it indirectly" she said.

\$100m cancer challenge

GE is calling for final submissions for its \$100 million healthmagination Challenge.

The Challenge calls on healthcare professionals and students to submit "promising ideas that will improve breast cancer diagnostics and treatment".

GE hopes that the Challenge will accelerate innovation in breast cancer, and the company, alongside its partners will award up to \$100 million to fund breakthrough ideas that advance early detection, more accurate diagnoses and targeted treatment of breast cancer.

Close to 50 submissions have already been received from individuals and research institutes from around the world, but GE has said it would like to encourage more entrants from Australia to increase the likelihood of a home-grown winner.

Entries close on 20 Nov, see healthmagination.com/challenge.

Australia's health spend

AUSTRALIA'S health expenditure jumped \$7.9b between 2008-09 and 2009-10 to a total of \$121.4b, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

In its *Health Expenditure Australia 2009-10* report the AIHW found that the national health spend in 2009-10 was 9.4% of Australia's gross domestic product (GDP) and averaged out at \$5,479 per Australian.

In addition the report showed that between 1999-00 and 2009-10, Australia's expenditure on health in real terms (after adjusting for inflation) grew at an average of 5.3% per year, compared with average real growth in GDP of 3.1% per year.

According to the AIHW, the largest component of the growth was a \$1.5 billion rise in spending on public hospitals, followed by spending on medications, which grew by \$1.0 billion.

The area of expenditure with the highest percentage growth was health research which grew by 10.8%, followed by dental services which were up by 7.5%.

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* Conditions apply. Contact Ben Stitt 0410 038 633

Reform is not too late

REFORM Conference organisers are reminding pharmacists that it is not too late to register for the event which takes place at Penrith Panthers in NSW tomorrow.

Delegates can register online at www.reformmanagement.com.au or at the Conference itself.

Sigma Warehouse deal

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals has signed a new four year trading agreement with the My Chemist/Chemist Warehouse Group, with the deal including a "further reduction in payment terms".

According to an ASX update, the previous contract expired on 30 Jun and since then talks have been under way regarding the extension and renegotiation of the deal.

Sigma ceo Mark Hooper said the terms of the pact 'align with Sigma's commitment to building the business through sustainable profit growth and earning a commercial return on invested capital".

Complementary changes

A **NEW** era has dawned for complementary medicine with the unveiling of the Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia's (CHC) new look.

Revealed yesterday at the CHC's National Conference in Sydney, the new logo has been designed to reflect the maturation of the industry and the CHC's desire to be taken seriously as a peak industry body rather than a members association.

The launch marks the first time in 15 years that the CHC have made a design change, with a spokesperson saying the refreshed logo is symbolic of a paradigm shift in the organisation and is indicative of its focus on industry best outcomes as well as its co-ordination between nature, science and health for all Australians.

Addressing National Conference delegates, CHC Executive Director, Dr Wendy Morrow said the new look and feel represents the CHC of

today and the future "An Australian professional revitalised recognised and authoritative entity playing a crucial role in the preventative health agenda and areas of industry policy, health policy and regulatory policy".

As part of this revitalisation the CHC Board has worked up a number of key priorities for the organisation over the coming phase which include the establishment of Australian/NZ therapeutics agency.

"We support the government's decision to pursue that agenda and to exclude complementary medicines from the original model, we do believe that gives us an opportunity to look at whether there is a better regulatory structure for complementary medicines for Australia potentially along the lines of what's happened in New Zealand," said President of the CHC, Richard Henfrey.

"Given the state of the current regulatory environment the CHC must act proactively to capitalise on the increased focus on the preventative health agenda," he added.

The CHC is also now focusing in on an issue dear to many in the healthcare profession: government funding for research and development of complementary medicines, including scientific research, clinical trials and cost effectiveness.

A further focus for the CHC over the coming phase is improved export conditions to provide a level playing field for Australian manufacturers and brands.

And finally the CHC said it will also mount a major push for supported industry innovation in terms of easier pathways to intellectual property protection.

"We've got a pretty busy program of work ahead," Henfrey said.

Infection check

THE MyHospitals website has released hospital infection rates for staph blood infections so Aussies can check how their local hospital stacks up.

See www.myhospitals.gov.au.

Medici Capital move

PHARMACY valuation provider Medici Capital is moving offices to Level 10, 52 Collins St Melbourne, Victoria, 3000.

The company has said its phone number however will remain the same (03) 9853 7933.

GSK enjoys increase

IT has been a good quarter for GlaxoSmithKline, with the manufacturer seeing its Q3 profits up 7% on last year's results to \$2.13 billion.

The increase has been attributed in part to sales growth in Japan which was up 57%, as well as growth in its emerging markets of 11%.

Top performing areas included vaccine sales which jumped 16%, whilst its asthma drug Advair (seretide) was responsible for 23% of the company's overall vaccine and pharmaceutical sales.



DISPENSARY CORNER

DRINK driving no longer a problem.

A test of the world's first driverless car was undertaken in Berlin recently.

Created by experts at Berlin's Free University, the car is a modified VW and is controlled by a computer which steers, brakes and accelerates whilst a scanner, radars and camera watch the road.

A GPS also keeps the car on course.

WOMEN can have a beard too.

A Canadian fashion line, Beardowear, has released a new beanie which in addition to a woolen head warmer, features a built in adjustable acrylic beard, which can fit any face.

The company claims the beanie is "always guaranteed to be full, perfectly coiffed, and super soft" with no itching or scratching".

For occasional beard dabblers, the attached beard can be stored inside the beanie during wear, or pulled out and displayed in all its glory.



WIN AN EMU SPIRIT PACK



This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving 10 lucky readers the chance to win an Emu Spirit Pamper Bundle, courtesy of **Emu Spirit**.

Our Pamper Bundle is the perfect combination for those who cherish their skin.

Each bundle is valued at over \$110 and contains: 1 x Moisturising soap bar, 1 x 100g Day Crème Refresh and Renew, 1 x 100 g Night Crème Repair and Restore and 1 x 125ml Oil of Emu.

Emu Spirit's Oil of Emu is a natural anti-inflammatory that can be used to treat all aches and pains to skin conditions such as psoriasis and eczema. Best of all, Oil of Emu can also be used to promote general health and wellbeing and is a wonderful source of 'skin food' to assist dry itchy skin, scars, and fine lines.

For your chance to win an Emu Spirit Pamper Bundle, simply be one of the first two people to send in the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

How many sizes does Oil of Emu come in?

Hint! Visit Emu Spirit website at: www.emuspirit.com

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Kathrina Casella** from **Ayr Hospital Pharmacy, QLD** and **Susie Patton** of **Griffith University, QLD**.