

## 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](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au).

**14 Apr:** First Aid Certificate; 9am - 3pm; St Leonards, Sydney, NSW; - [beryl.park@psa.org.au](mailto:beryl.park@psa.org.au).

**15 Apr:** Cardiovascular Seminar; 10.30am - 3.30pm; Tweed Heads, NSW; - [beryl.park@psa.org.au](mailto:beryl.park@psa.org.au).

**18 Apr:** Immunology Session 3; 7pm; St Leonards, Sydney, NSW - [beryl.park@psa.org.au](mailto:beryl.park@psa.org.au).

**28 Apr:** Chronic lung conditions and smoking cessation; 8am - 3.30pm; University of Western Australia, Theatre Auditorium - [cpdhealth@uwa.edu.au](mailto:cpdhealth@uwa.edu.au).

## Children's cancer care

**THIS** week saw the opening of the new children's cancer centre at the Women's and Children's Hospital in South Australia.

"The Michael Rice Centre brings together a place where children and teenagers with blood disorders or cancer can be treated," said the Minister for Health Tanya Plibersek.

## Dementia needs priority

**DEMENTIA** must be a global health priority, according to the World Health Organisation and Alzheimer's International.

The call follows the release of the duo's first-ever report on the global impact of dementia: *Dementia: A Public Health Priority*.

Startling figures uncovered in the report include the fact that one new case of dementia occurs every four seconds worldwide, which equates to 7.7 million new cases per annum.

Soberingly the report estimated that in 2010 the total number of people with dementia worldwide was 35.6 million, and that this number will nearly double every 20 years, to 65.7 million in 2030 and 115.4 million in 2050.

WHO also estimated that in 2010 the total worldwide cost of dementia was \$604 billion.

"The challenges to governments to respond to the growing numbers of people with dementia are substantial," the report said.

"A broad public health approach is needed to improve the care and quality of life of people with dementia and family caregivers," the report added.

Priority areas of action suggested by the report include raising awareness, timely diagnosis, commitment to good quality continuing care and practices, caregiver support, workforce training, prevention and research.

"People with dementia and their families face significant financial impact from the cost of providing

health and social care and from reduction or loss of income," the report said.

"Universal social support through pensions and insurance schemes could provide protection to this vulnerable group," the report added.

In addition, the health and social care needs of the growing number of frail dependant older people should be a matter of "great concern" to policy-makers in all countries, the report's authors said.

"This challenges governments to develop and improve services for people with dementia, focusing on earlier diagnosis, provision of support in the community, and a responsive health and social care sector," the report said.

## Nominations extended

**GLAXOSMITHKLINE** has extended its calls for nominations for the \$80,000 Award for Research Excellence (ARE) until 30 April 2012.

The awards recognise outstanding achievements in medical research from Australian scientists and clinicians from a non-commercial research or university institute, and support recipients with a large grant to fund their research endeavours.

Award winners will be announced in September.

To nominate, simply complete the nomination form available via [gsk.com.au/research-development.aspx](http://gsk.com.au/research-development.aspx) and send to: [are.arenominations@gsk.com](mailto:are.arenominations@gsk.com).

## Takeda acquires URL

**TAKEDA** Pharmaceutical Company has entered into an agreement to acquire URL Pharma, a privately-held pharmaceutical company headquartered in Philadelphia.

The agreement will see Takeda pay an upfront sum of \$800 million, as well as future performance-based contingent earn out payments.

## Men's Health pharmacy

**POPULAR** Australian men's magazine, *Men's Health*, has this month published an article highlighting the crucial and often underutilised role pharmacy can play in men's overall wellbeing.

Titled *Good Chemistry*, the article says that pharmacists should be men's first port of call when dealing with minor ailments, adding that pharmacists "can help with compliance by advising you on how to fit a medicine into your routine".

National President of the PSA, Grant Kardachi has welcomed the article saying it serves to highlight health services available to the community via local pharmacies.

"The National Male Health Policy highlights a number of priority areas including improved health for males at difference life stages and a focus on preventive health for males, particularly regarding chronic disease and injury," he said.

"Pharmacists are the medicines experts as well as being the most accessible of health professionals and so are well placed to help meet these Male Health Policy priorities," he added.

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### Leave the PBS alone

**MEDICINES** Australia CE Dr Brendan Shaw is urging the Government to leave the PBS alone in this year's Budget, following the historic 01 April price cuts.

"Whatever measure you use, it is virtually impossible to make the case that the PBS is growing too much or, in fact, growing at all," he told delegates at the Future of the PBS Conference.

### WIN A PRESS & GO NAILS PACK



Every day this week **PD** is giving 3 lucky readers the chance to win a Press & Go Nails prize pack, valued at \$30.00 each.

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[comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**How many patterns are there in the Broadway Press & Go range?**

## NPS' flu vaccine warning

**THE** NPS is encouraging health professionals to offer patients a flu vaccine this flu season, particularly those at risk, including those with pre-existing medical conditions, such as chronic lung and heart disease, the elderly and pregnant women.

The NPS's stance echoes calls by the Chief Medical Officer and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners in relation to general populace inoculation.

"In Australia there are on average 85 deaths and over 4,000 hospitalisations recorded due to influenza illness each year," said NPS Head of Programs, Karen Kaye.

"Health professionals should let their patients know that despite there being no new strains of influenza identified in 2012, people who were vaccinated in 2011 still need to be vaccinated this year to ensure continuing protection," she added.

One caveat to the NPS' recommendation however, is that health professionals be vigilant in terms of the choice of vaccine used.

"Previous concerns about

influenza vaccination side effects have been fully investigated and the recommendations for the 2012 influenza season have taken these into account," Kaye said.

"Selecting the appropriate vaccine will ensure patient confidence," she added.

New recommendations for 2012, according to Kaye, indicate that Fluvax must not be administered to children under the age of 5 and should only be used in children between 5 and 10 if one of the other alternative vaccines is not readily available.

Other recommended vaccines (Agridipal, Fluarix, Influvac and Vaxigrip) may be used in anyone over 6 months.

In addition to selecting the right vaccine, NPS has urged health professionals to advise patients receiving influenza vaccines that they may experience mild reactions, such as redness and swelling at the injection site, but if they are worried they should contact their doctor.

For more info see [www.nps.org.au/health\\_professionals/vaccines](http://www.nps.org.au/health_professionals/vaccines).

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### DISPENSARY CORNER

**THE** kindness of strangers.

A blind author was rescued by a team of good Samaritan forensic police officers, after she discovered that the first 26 pages of her manuscript were blank.

The woman, Trish Vickers, lost her sight seven years ago due to diabetes, and had begun writing the book to keep her mind active.

Unfortunately Trish was unaware that the ink in her pen had run out, and when she showed her son her draft, he had to tell her that there was no writing.

Rather than panic, the pair put their heads together and decided to take the manuscript to the police station to see if the officers could do anything to help.

The station's forensic team agreed to help, and in their free time, spent the next five months carefully analysing the indentations on the pages using a system of lights.

In that time, the forensic team managed to decode the text and hand a full copy back to Vickers, saying that they couldn't wait to read the finished book when it was completed.

The working title for the novel is Grannifer's Legacy.

### Win a hair straightener

**HIGH** Tech Health is offering pharmacists the chance to win one of three GHD Limited Edition hair straighteners over the next eight weeks.

To be in the running, simply complete a new elearning module at [www.elearning.hthealth.com.au](http://www.elearning.hthealth.com.au).

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