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Eye care examination

DR Patrick Versace, ophthalmic surgeon of Vision Eye Institute, Prince of Wales Hospital and University of NSW, is set to host an Eye Care Session at the upcoming CPEXpo, which details laser vision correction, see p3 for details.



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Australians called to arms

THE Government must take the lead on a cross sectoral approach towards tackling the antibiotic-resistance in Australia.

Addressing the National Press Club in Canberra this week, NPS Board Chair Dr Janette Randall said that the government needs to recognise that antibiotic resistance is an issue which involves not only the health sector but also the veterinary, agriculture and manufacturing sectors.

Want to join Council?

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) is seeking applications for two vacant Councillor positions.

Applications will be considered from pharmacists with some or all of the following attributes: sound understanding of governance responsibilities, management/financial and/or legal background, educational experience in pharmacy or otherwise, understanding of and/or experience with accreditation activities and quality assurance processes, understanding of registration and/or professional regulation activities, and a national perspective especially having regard to indigenous issues and with an understanding of the issues of remote and rural pharmacy practice.

Applications must address the attributes as above, include curriculum vitae, and must reach the APC Office no later than Wednesday 16 May 2012- email admin@pharmacycouncil.org.au.

"Government needs to take the lead and recognise where cooperation across portfolios is required," she said. "Industry and health researchers must be supported to invest in R&D and the development of new antibiotics.

"New mechanisms to fund drug development and bring new antibiotics to market through innovative reimbursement models are urgently needed," she added.

Randall also urged individuals, health professionals, communities, media, and industry to take action on an individual level.

"Data shows that the timeline between a new antibiotic becoming available and the development of resistance to that antibiotic is getting shorter and shorter," she warned.

"We are facing a world where infections from something as simple as a scratch have the potential to kill and where common illnesses once again become serious or untreatable and carry a higher risk of complications and death," she added.

For more info on antibiotic resistance, visit www.nps.org.au.

Hormone therapies

PHARMACISTS who sign up to the Australasian Academy of Anti-Ageing Medicine's two-day Hormone Therapies for Cardiovascular & Rheumatoid Diseases workshop before 04 May will receive a \$100 discount.

For details call 03 9813 0439 or **CLICK HERE**.

APLF supports vision

THE Australian Pharmacy Liaison Forum (APLF) has thrown its support behind the *Vision for Pharmacists' Practice in Australia* document, saying it is now timely for the profession to take ownership of the project and map a potential way forward.

The document was developed following wide consultation with the profession and is available to view at www.psa.org.au.

MEANWHILE the APLF also said it will endeavor to facilitate a position on pharmacist prescribing which is supported by the majority of pharmacy organisations.

"This work does not impinge on the National Prescribing Service's work on a competency framework for prescribing," a APLF statement said.

Mental health funding

THE NSW State Government has been granted Federal funds for three projects to improve the care and support provided to people living with severe mental illness.

The \$57.6 million funding will span over five years and support an expansion of the existing NSW Housing and Accommodation Support Initiative; as well as family focused support to mothers with mental illness and their children to keep them together, through the provision of high, medium and low packages of care and short term housing; and in-reach support services to boarding house residents who have been assessed as having mental health issues.

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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.

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

29Apr: Guild Clinical Senior First Aid Training; 9am-5.30pm; Pennant Hills, NSW - guildclinical@nsw.guild.org.au.

06 May: Primary Health Care Workshop; St Leonards; guildclinical@nsw.guild.org.au.

19 May: Tasmanian Pharmacy Assistants Seminar; The Woolstore, Hobart; Lorraine.norris@psa.org.au.

Pill for 13 and over?

THE UK National Health Service has released a new study which recommends that girls from 13 years of age should be granted access to the pill without a prescription.

The study looked at a program, running across five UK pharmacies, which granted teens and women aged over 16 years access to the pill without a prescription, and found that it successfully reached those who had never been on the pill before (46% using the scheme were first timers on the pill) and also reduced usage of emergency contraception.

Current regulations in the UK require girls and women to get a prescription for the pill from their GP, however following the results of the scheme the NHS report said authorities should consider not only widening its geographic scope to all of the UK, but also the age range of its reach to girls aged 13 and over.

Pharmacy Pfizer frustration

THE ongoing campaign against Pfizer's direct distribution model has moved into a new phase, with a number of pharmacists writing to **PD** this week to express their frustrations with the system.

Mary Bognar from Castlecrag Pharmacy expressed disbelief about the government's response.

"I cannot believe that the Department of Health can claim that it has not received any independent evidence of patient harm resulting from the Pfizer distribution model and its negative impact on the timely and reliable access to PBS medicines.

"As a pharmacist, I regard myself as "independent" and I have sent reams of complaints to the Department," she wrote.

"I can only conclude that my complaints have been ignored."

Bognar went on to detail a case where a child was unable to access Chloramphenicol ear drops for much longer than 24 hours due to Pfizer's failure to deliver the medicine.

"In short, a child was denied medication because the Federal Government refuses to act against Pfizer which will not allow the three established wholesalers to deliver its products," she said.

"If the wholesalers were able to hold Pfizer stock, this child would have had his ear drop within 24 hours," she added.

MEANWHILE speaking of her frustration over late deliveries, Amanda Bryce from Gerald Burns Pharmacy told *Pharmacy Daily* that "I can't overstate the stress that a non-delivery places on staff".

"Quite simply, Pfizer's model compromises patient care as they're unable to deliver even though we've bent over backwards to accommodate the restraints they've placed on us.

"If Pfizer chooses to deal directly with pharmacy, they have an obligation to provide the same level of service our wholesalers already provide, or get out of the game completely," she added.

DISPENSARY CORNER



MEDICATED penguins on the mend.

A seriously stressed group of penguins are now on the mend, following a course of treatment with anti-depressants.

According to reports, the penguins stress levels spiked after their enclosure at Scarborough's Sea Life Centre in the UK, was breached by an intruder, who then chased the sea birds.

Whilst being chased would not have been a major long-term issue for most birds (think seagulls and pigeons), penguins do not like changes in their routine, and so the break-in really shook them up.

Since their anti-depressant treatment however, the penguins have begun to relax and enjoy life at the Sea Life Centre, with two couples even having produced eggs.

"Penguins only lay eggs when they feel happy enough to do so," said a Sea Life spokesperson.

"This is a really good sign particularly as this is the first time for each couple," the spokesperson added.

WOULD you like a side of obesity with your pizza?

Pizza Hut has health authorities across the world cringing with the release of its newest pizza, the Crown Crust Burger.

Available only in the Middle East, the Crown Crust pizza is beef, lettuce, tomato and cheese topped, and its pisto de résistance is a dozen "cheeseburgers" which line it, embedded in its crust.

Advertisements for the Crown Crust call it the "most royal" pizza, and encourage diners to "relish a first of its kind deliciousness".



A pizza and 12 burgers for dinner.

WIN A BOTANI FACIAL GIFT PACK



This week *Pharmacy Daily* has teamed up with **Botani** and is giving four lucky readers the chance to win a Purify Facial Gift Pack, valued at \$123 each.

For your ideal in home spa experience, Botani offers you an exclusive gift pack to cleanse, treat and hydrate your skin. A perfect gift for a loved one or an opportunity to indulge and spoil yourself.

This pack contains the Botani Purify Facial Cleanser 50mL, Exfoliating Facial Cream 100g, Soothing Facial Mist 50mL, Olive Skin Serum 15mL & Boost Balancing Moisturiser 50mL, including a luxurious white face cloth, delivered in a Botani box.

To win this great prize pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below.

What is the fragrance used in the Soothing Facial Mist?

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

Hint! Visit www.botani.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Kirsten Barton** from **Lightning Brokers**.

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Saturday

Eye Care session

Open your eyes to laser vision correction, which is becoming increasingly popular as an alternative to wearing glasses and contact lenses. **Dr Patrick Versace**, Ophthalmic surgeon of Vision Eye Institute, Prince of Wales Hospital and University of NSW will discuss this procedure with particular reference to the patients experience and aftercare. He has been a clinical investigator for clinical trials including the first wavefront guided Lasik investigation, the implantable contact lens and crystal lens.

The Clinical Management of Bleeding session

Stop bleeding. **Professor Chris Ward** is a Clinical Haematologist in the Department of Haematology and Transfusion Medicine of Royal North Shore Hospital and Director of Research Northern Blood Research Centre. He will discuss the most significant complication of treatment with anticoagulants and anti-platelets – bleeding, and the clinical management guidelines for the reversal and treatment of bleeding in this session.

Sunday

New COPD Guideline session

What better than hearing from the **COPD-X** author himself on the updates of the guideline? Join **Professor David K McKenzie**, Head of Department, Respiratory and Sleep Medicine at Prince of Wales Hospital to find out the role of phosphodiesterase type-4 inhibitors in COPD and the new COPD “triple therapy”.

Iodine in Pregnancy, Child Development and Thyroid Disorders session

Do you have enough iodine in your body? Delve into the area of iodine deficiency, a now recognised global public health issue with **Professor Creswell Eastman AM**, Clinical Professor of Medicine the University of Sydney and a practising Consultant in Endocrinology and Public Health. Prof Eastman has recently retired after 16 years as Director of the Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research and Director of the Western Sydney Area Pathology Service but is still keen to share with pharmacists the functions of iodine in the body, epidemiology and complications of iodine deficiency, along with the role of pharmacists in improving the situation.

Saturday or Sunday sessions will provide you with up to 11 Group 2 credits each day.

Register now at www.psa.org.au/education/conferences/cpexpo
or contact the PSA via email on cpexpo@psa.org.au or call (02) 9431 1100