

College conference

THE Australian College of Pharmacy will hold its Annual Conference at the Brisbane Hilton this year, from 3-6 August.

"This year's program has been changed to reflect what members told us they needed," said new College CEO Jenny Bergin.

The location is part of these changes, according to the College, which said that hosting the Conference in the Brisbane CBD made it more accessible to attendees and would reduce the cost of registration.

Other changes include an increased clinical focus, which together with the Conference's traditional business content, will "meet the CPD needs of members".

Thirty eight CPD credits are on offer during the Conference, with program highlights including sessions on SPCA Pharmacy Practice Incentives Primary Health Care group conditions – clinical and how to implement PPI services (diabetes, respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, and mental health).

See www.acp.edu.au.

AstraZeneca set to cut jobs

DRUG giant, AstraZeneca has responded to an 8.3% dip in its fourth-quarter profits by saying it will cut 7,300 people off the payroll.

The fourth quarter results saw the company's net profit down to US\$1.49b compared to US\$1.62b year-on-year, whilst the company's revenue was US\$8.66b, compared to US\$8.62b a year earlier.

The cuts are part of a program of "restructuring initiatives" designed to deliver an estimated US\$1.6 billion in annual benefits by the end of 2014.

"AstraZeneca remains fully committed to our long-term, focused, innovation-driven biopharmaceutical strategy," said AstraZeneca CEO, David Brennan.

"Since 2007, when we announced our first major restructuring program, we have taken decisive steps to improve returns on investment, recognising that this demands concerted, enterprise-wide action.

"Today's initiatives should be seen in this strategic context as we

continue to reshape our business to improve productivity and innovation and with it our long-term ability to compete in a rapidly changing healthcare environment," he added.

Restructuring initiatives will see AstraZeneca ditch its Canadian research facility in Montreal, and cut jobs at its Swedish facility, opting instead to create a new "virtual" neuroscience Innovative Medicines unit (iMed) made up of a small team of around 40 to 50 AstraZeneca scientists.

Other changes include a reduction in its sales and marketing regions from five to three, as well as clustering of smaller countries, however the company has said that it will boost new customer channels worldwide including digital technology and the use of call centres for sales and medical advice.

In addition AstraZeneca said it will outsource more of its manufacturing activity, particularly in relation to the production of active pharmaceutical ingredients.

New NDSS pen

A NEW 4.5mm insulin pen-needle, mylife Clickfine universal click, is now available to diabetes patients free of charge, on the National Diabetes Services Scheme. See www.closingtheloop.com.au.

Guild program update

THE Pharmacy Guild of NSW has released more details regarding programs for its upcoming NSW Convention, saying that the business, IT and communication streams will tackle risky business and how to boost performance, as well as payroll, electronic records and IT in the future.

Meanwhile the conference will also feature complementary medicine programs, including nutritional support in pharmacy, Omega-3's for Rheumatoid Arthritis and Cardiac Health - how to identify if the evidence is good and practical updates from Blackmores, Swiss, Ethical Nutrients and Dr Dodson from the TGA.

CLICK HERE for details.

February MIMS Monthly Medicine Update

NEW INDICATIONS

Actemra (**tocilizumab (rch)**) is now indicated for the treatment of active systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis in patients 2 years of age and older. Actemra can be given alone or in combination with methotrexate.

SAFETY RELATED CHANGES

Aclin (**sulindac**) is now contraindicated

in patients in whom acute asthmatic attacks, urticaria, or rhinitis are precipitated by aspirin or other NSAIDs; patients with active peptic ulcer, or with a recurrent history of gastrointestinal ulceration; treatment of peri-operative pain in the setting of coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery; patients with severe heart failure; pregnancy and

lactation. Arthrexin (**indomethacin**) is now contraindicated in patients with severe heart failure.

Deca-Durabolin (**nandrolone decanoate**) is now contraindicated in patients allergic to peanuts and soya (arachis oil content).

Serious cases of rhabdomyolysis, often leading to hospitalisation,

have been reported in patients taking Roaccutane (**isotretinoin**), particularly in those undertaking vigorous physical activity.

Stocrin (**efavirenz**) is not recommended for patients with moderate or severe hepatic impairment because of insufficient data to determine whether dose adjustment is necessary.

There is no experience with the use of Stocrin (**efavirenz**) in patients with severe renal failure and close safety monitoring is recommended in this population.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.



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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.

06 Feb: Glaucoma Update, University of Tasmania, email - lorraine.norris@psa.org.au.

24-26 Feb: Guild Pharmacy Academy-NSW Convention; Novotel Manly Pacific-**CLICK HERE.**

02 Feb: Issues in Regulatory Compliance lecture, Sunshine Coast Qld, email - Deborah.Stevens@psa.org.au.

US diabetes care up

A US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study has linked the establishment of medicare cover for foot care and enhanced foot care to a 65% decline in diabetes-related amputations in US patients over the past decade.

The study, published in *Diabetes Care*, found that in America foot and leg amputations dropped from 11 to four out of every 1,000 adults with diabetes over the period 1996 – 2008.

The figure is even more dramatic taking into account that during the same period the number of US citizens with diabetes more than tripled.

In the report, researchers noted several contributing factors to the decline including improvements in blood sugar control, diabetes management and foot care.

"The message from this landmark study is clear – proactive foot care and protective therapeutic footwear are important components of a comprehensive health, diet and lifestyle plan to help prevent amputations and other complications related to this chronic condition," said Dennis Janisse, Director of Scientific Affairs at Orthofeet.

Discount Drugs now online

DISCOUNT Drug Stores is expanding its consumer reach, launching into online retailing with a new e-commerce platform.

According to the company, the online presence will not take business away from its 100 pharmacies Australia-wide, but will rather allow each Discount Drug Stores pharmacy to have its own online store, giving the customer the ability to shop online but from their local Discount Drug Store.

"Australian consumers are turning to online shopping at a rapidly increasing rate and as a brand that prides itself on customer care we felt it imperative that we enter this space," said the General Manager of Discount Drug Stores, Douglas Kuskopf-Dallas.

"For us our priority is capturing this market through our existing franchise stores and that is why we have developed this unique online retailing strategy," he added.

The website, designed by the technology brand Pharmacy4u, will feature health, beauty, medical and lifestyle products, and will provide customers with a forum in which

they can ask and obtain health information and advice.

The site will also give consumers the ability to monitor and purchase their prescriptions online with email or SMS reminders sent to notify them of when they must refill their medications.

The decision to launch an online platform that "deals with the issue of online retail's success" affecting Australian pharmacies, comes in the wake of a recent prediction from research company Frost and Sullivan that online spending will grow at least twice as fast as the total retail market over the next four years.

"Local businesses are finding it harder and harder to compete against the large online stores," said Kuskopf-Dallas.

"This system solves the problem by enhancing the business of each individual store and ensuring our owners don't have to compete with a centralised e-commerce site," he added.

The site is currently in its beta stage, and is expected to launch early this year.

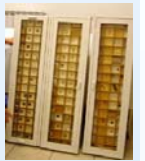


DISPENSARY CORNER

BODY art?

A hospital in the Croatian town of Sibenik has created an unusual "art work" made out of objects removed from patients bodies over the past 80 years.

The framed objects are each contained in their own mounted display box, and include things such as needles, animal bones, coins and even a communist red star.



Dyskinesia market

A **NEW** report from GlobalData has found that there is an unmet need for the effective treatment of dyskinesia despite the growing numbers of Parkinson's sufferers.

The global market for dyskinesia therapeutics was valued at around US\$302.3m in 2011 and is expected to reach US\$480m by 2019, however according to the report, the dyskinesia therapeutics market currently fails to cater to need due to the absence of approved products to treat the disorder.

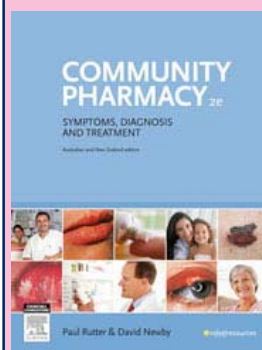
"In order to reduce the risk of tardive dyskinesia (TD), doctors are attempting to shift the antipsychotics prescription pattern from typical antipsychotics, such as haloperidol, to atypical antipsychotics, such as olanzapine," GlobalData said.

According to GlobalData's research, Xenazine (tetrabenazine), a Huntington's disease drug, is the preferred off-treatment for TD, despite it not being approved for this use by the FDA or the EMA due to "unfavourable side effects".

"The dyskinesia therapeutics developmental pipeline is weak, with 13 molecules in various phases of development," GlobalData said, adding that the late stage pipeline has only one molecule, ADS-5102 from Adamas Pharmaceuticals, currently in Phase II/III and estimated to enter the market by 2016.

"However, this is a product extension of amantadine and is not expected to have a significant impact on the market," Global Data said.

WIN A COMMUNITY PHARMACY BOOK



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with **Elsevier Australia** this week and is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a *Community Pharmacy: Symptoms, Diagnosis and Treatment 2e* book, valued at \$115 each.

Now in its second edition, *Community Pharmacy: Symptoms, Diagnosis and Treatment 2e* by Paul Rutter and David Newby is an essential pharmacy resource. Ideal for both practicing pharmacists and pharmacy students, *Community Pharmacy*

provides a guide to differential diagnosis of symptoms commonly seen by community pharmacists throughout Australia and New Zealand.

For more information visit: <http://elsevierhealth.com.au>.

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

What is the other term used for threadworm infections?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Lindsay Scott** from **Broken Hill Base Hospital Pharmacy**.