



Discover the formula for making the most profitable PBS reform decisions.

Book Now on 03 9860 3300
or email marketing@pharmacyalliance.net
Briefing held in: Melb, Perth, Syd Sth, Syd Nth & Bris

PHARMACY ALLIANCE
Freedom to choose

Helping kidneys in U.S

THE US FDA has approved Voraxaze (glucarpidase) to treat patients with toxic levels of methotrexate in their blood due to kidney failure.

Jazz Pharmaceuticals

JAZZ Pharmaceuticals has combined with Azur Pharma to form Jazz Pharmaceuticals, a specialty biopharmaceutical company based in Dublin, Ireland.

"As Jazz Pharmaceuticals plc, we are a growing, profitable specialty biopharmaceutical company with a diverse portfolio of products in the central nervous system and women's health areas," said Bruce Cozadd, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at Jazz Pharmaceuticals.

"We now have a strengthened management team, a broader commercial organisation and an efficient platform for further growth, with resources to build our product portfolio and a future pipeline," Cozadd added.

SHPA farewells Allinson

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists will farewell its CEO and industry stalwart, pharmacist Yvonne Allinson, next month.

Allinson will finish up at SHPA this year on 10 February, and has said that her time at the organisation has been "inspiring".

"In particular, it has been my pleasure to assemble a great team of staff at SHPA who each day strive to provide enhanced services to our growing membership," she said.

"I was inspired each day by the new involvements and activities of the members in so many areas of pharmacy practice," she added.

"The underlying goal is always to make the use of medicines safer and more effective for the individuals under their care, or to make the

system itself safer," she added.

SHPA President, Sue Kirska thanked Allinson for her hard work, adding that the organisation has "grown in so many ways under her leadership and guidance as CEO".

Kirska also confirmed that SHPA has begun the process of finding a replacement for Allinson as CEO.

Become TGA manager

THE TGA has begun the process of replacing Dr Rohan Hammett following his decision to retire from the position as TGA National Manager (PD 16 Jan).

The head hunt has begun with an advert in today's *Financial Review* calling for "an outstanding leader and manager with well honed policy advisory and resource management skills and a proven record of achievement as a senior executive".

According to the job ad, selection documentation can be obtained by emailing admin@ianhansen.com.au.

New hepatitis hope

PATIENTS with hepatitis C genotype 1 infection (the most difficult to treat) have new hope after researchers found a combination of drugs which suppresses the virus.

The study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, involved patients who had not responded to previous treatment with PEG-interferon alfa and ribavirin, and saw them treated with a combination of two investigational direct-acting antiviral agents (daclatasvir and asunaprevir) alone, or a combination of the former two drugs plus PEG-interferon alfa-2a and ribavirin.

All ten patients who were given the four drug treatment had sustained virologic response with undetectable virus at the end of treatment and at 12 weeks after stopping treatment, whilst four of the 11 patients given the two direct-acting antiviral agents only also achieved sustained virologic response.

Online Seminar

**Retail isn't
broken
stores are!**

*HBR

CLICK HERE

Guild Clinical training

GUILD Clinical Training will host a three part Stage One Accreditation workshop in February, designed to help prepare participants for the AACP Accreditation process.

The case based workshops will give participants practical experience in implementing a Medication Management Review process, knowledge and skills to undertake and implement HMR's and RMMR's, and how to complete Stage Two of accreditation.

Workshops will be held at the Pharmacy Guild in St Leonards, NSW on the following dates: 08 Feb, HMR Workshop; 15 Feb, RMMR Workshop and 22 Feb, AACP Workshop.

Call 02 94677132 for details.

INTERN ENROLMENT REGISTER NOW

GUILD CLINICAL INTERN TRAINING PROGRAM INTERN TRAINING PROGRAM

Don't miss the chance to enrol in the Guild Intern Training Program for 2012. Reap the rewards of this practical workplace program as you prepare for your future in pharmacy. Guild ITP will commence Intern workshops in February, so don't delay.

To download the Program & Forms visit www.nsw-interntainingprogram.com



Contact Guild Clinical on 02 9467 7124 or
email david.bryant@nsw.guild.org.au



Bring in the New Year with a new career at Webstercare!

Exciting career opportunities are now available at Webstercare, Australia's leader in Medication Management Solutions.

Webstercare are establishing a new team of three customer support personnel to assist pharmacy customers in our newest IT innovation, MedsPro VPC.

Click for more info on [MedsPro VPC](#)

Our candidates have strong customer service values, enjoy working with IT systems and are ready for a challenge.

A background in pharmacy and Webster-packing experience a must.

Willingness to travel, current drivers licence and access to own vehicle essential.

To apply, simply email a cover letter and resume to recruitment@webstercare.com.au

or call (02) 9563 4900 for further information.

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.

02 Feb: Anaphylaxis Training for Pharmacists, Charles Darwin University, email - sa.branch@psa.org.au.

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

Medication errors up

RESULTS from the South Australian Patient Safety Report 2010-2011 show the number of medication errors in the state's public hospitals doubled between 2009/10 and 2010/11.

The Report detailed the number of serious incidents or 'sentinel events' in the state's hospitals and revealed that in 2010/11 there were two medication errors leading to death, as opposed to one in 2009/10.

Maternal death rates were however down from five to three, as were in-patient suicide rates which were down from five to two, whilst the number of retained instruments stayed the same between both periods, at three.

"Each year, more than two million services are provided in our public hospitals and staff do an outstanding job protecting the safety of their patients," said South Australian Health Minister, John Hill.

"However, diagnosing and treating very sick or injured people is complex and unfortunately there are occasions where something goes wrong," he added.

Hill said that the system had experienced "considerable progress" in a number of other areas of patient safety including improved hand hygiene rates, new guidelines for staff handovers and initiatives to reduce the risks of patients being injured by falls.

Rise of rebate uncertainty

THE Government's plan to cut private health rebates is in jeopardy after Independent MP Andrew Wilkie said he would block the legislation.

The Government announced its plans to reduce the thresholds on eligibility for the blanket 30% rebate in the first half of 2011.

The plan would see a reduction of the rebate for singles earning over \$80,000 and couples who together earn more than \$160,000 per annum, a move which the Government has touted would save \$1.9 billion over four years.

The cut back plans have however not been received well from all quarters, with the coalition vocally opposing the changes, whilst Wilkie's blockage could prove the final death knell in the proverbial legislative coffin.

MEANWHILE the Department of Health has this week released a report which it says proves that means testing won't hurt the private health insurance industry.

According to the report, the private health industry increased its revenue by \$1.25b last year, representing an 8.8% increase on the previous year to a total of \$15.4b.

In addition, the report found that benefits paid out to members increased by 7.6% and that 45.3% of Australians were covered by private hospital insurance at the end of the last financial year.

Generic Yaz(R)

WATSON Pharmaceuticals has launched Vestura(TM) (3mg drospirenone and 0.02mg ethinyl estradiol), a generic version of Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s Yaz(R) oral contraceptive, in the US.

The generic is approved for use in the US for the prevention of pregnancy and for the treatment of moderate acne in women at least 14 years old (only if the patient desires an oral contraceptive for birth control).

DISPENSARY CORNER

UNDUE stress.

Passengers onboard a recent British Airways flight between the US and the UK had their blood pressures raised considerably when at 3am a message came over the intercom that the plane was about to crash into the Atlantic Ocean.

Assuming they were going to die, the passengers prepared for the worst, some crying, some panicking, others quietly making their peace.

A few minutes later however a crew member casually announced that the pre-recorded message was actually a mistake, and that the pilot had accidentally hit the wrong button.

British Airways has since issued an apology to the passengers for any "undue stress" the situation may have created.

RED Cross raised in the South Pole.

Ultra-runner Pat Farmer has just completed a gruelling 21,000km run from the North Pole to the South Pole to raise money for the Red Cross.

Running around 80kms every day since last April, Farmer crossed Canada, the US, and Central and South America to reach his final goal of the South Pole in Antarctica.

During his epic quest Farmer faced -40 degree Polar snow blizzards; got lost in the blazing deserts of Peru; dodged hungry polar bears and crocodiles, as well as armed bandits and rogue militas.

Perhaps the worst event however was when, just 8kms away from the Pole, his support vehicle with his guide and supplies broke down.

Rather than give up, Farmer chose to run alone for 8kms in Antarctica to plant the Red Cross flag.

"Running long distances is my gift, my way of making a difference.

"The money I raise by inspiring people from all over the planet to donate to Red Cross clean water and sanitary projects in the third world will save lives," he added.

See www.poletopolerun.com.

SUKIN, NATURALLY YOURS...



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with **Sukin** this week and is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a Sukin essential skincare pack, valued at \$109.60 each!

Each Sukin pack includes: Cream Cleanser, Facial Scrub, Hydrating Mist Toner, Rose Hip Oil, Facial Moisturiser,

Anti-oxidant Eye Serum, Night Cream & Hand & Nail Cream.

The best news is that Sukin offers everyone affordable skincare with no single product retailing for over RRP\$24. With everyday affordable luxurious skincare and environmentally friendly products, Sukin really is 'Skincare that doesn't cost the Earth'.

To win, simply be the first person to send the correct answer to the daily question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

**What is The Sukin Difference?
(List the 'NO's)**

Hint! Visit www.sukinorganics.com

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Tarea Kelly** from **Devonport Amcal Pharmacy, TAS.**