

Committee vacancies

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia is calling for nominations or expressions of interest for Committee members to be appointed as a member of the Pharmacy Board of Australia National Notifications Committee. **CLICK HERE** for details.

Ridge at PAC 12

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has secured the United Kingdom's Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Dr Keith Ridge, as a keynote speaker at this year's Pharmacy Australia Congress (PAC12).

Ridge is responsible for the development of the UK's General Pharmaceutical Council; an independent regulator for pharmacy, and also led the development of the highly regarded White Paper for pharmacy: *Pharmacy in England*.

He is also responsible for the development of the public health role for pharmacy, including the development of the 'healthy living pharmacy' concept, and led the Modernising Pharmacy Careers Programme, which includes a review of pre-registration training for Pharmacists and proposals for reform.

At PAC12 Ridge will be presenting at the pharmacy practice plenary and opening ceremony on Friday 19 October (9am – 9:15am); and at the business and management session 5: Viability and sustainability in pharmacy on 21 October (10:45am – 12:15pm).

See www.psa.org.au/pac.

Aussie boys to get Gardasil

BOYS will soon be able to get the Gardasil vaccine through school-based programs under the National Immunisation Program.

Announced this week, the initiative will see the Federal Government fund the vaccine for 12 and 13-year-old boys to protect them against developing a range of cancers and bolster the effectiveness of the vaccine in women.

In addition, boys in Year 9 will also be able to get the vaccine at school under a catch-up program for the next two years.

According to the Department of Health, it is estimated that a quarter of new infections will be avoided by extending the vaccine to boys.

"By building on Australia's world-class immunisation program, we're stopping preventable HPV related disease and cancers, and that makes a difference to the quality of life of our families," said the Minister for Health Tanya Plibersek.

"Already the HPV vaccine has had an impact – significantly reducing the number of lesions that lead to cervical cancer amongst women in the vaccinated age group," she added.

The announcement follows a recommendation by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee last year that the HPV vaccination program be extended to boys following a review of its cost effectiveness.

The HPV vaccination program for boys is expected to cost \$21.1

million over four years, with this cost set to include an information campaign, a vaccine register and monitoring of adverse reactions.

Mindhealthconnect

THE Department of Health has launched a new e-mental health portal called Mindhealthconnect to provide people with accurate information and good advice online.

"Four in five Australians continue to turn to the web for information about their health and around 50 per cent of Australians use the internet to diagnose a health condition," said the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler.

"Australians are busy and often 'a quick Google' is a convenient option for working people.

"Many also feel this is a more 'private' way of taking the first step to deal with a health issue," he added.

The new portal is designed to provide a trustworthy source of information and support, as well as to provide a gateway to therapy for people seeking information and assistance.

"Mindhealthconnect will revolutionise the way we get mental health services to those who need help," Butler said.

See mindhealthconnect.org.au.

Arthrotec generic

WATSON Laboratories has received US Food and Drug Administration approval for its diclofenac sodium and misoprostol delayed-release tablets, the generic equivalent to G.D. Searle's Arthrotec.

The tablets are indicated for the treatment of the signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis in patients at high risk of developing NSAID-induced gastric and duodenal ulcers and their complications.

Watson now plans to launch the product in the fourth quarter of 2012.

See www.fda.gov for details.

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.

14 Jul: Half Day Course, Financial Management for Pharmacists, Brisbane, cpd.training@qldguild.org.au.

24 Jul: Guild Business Bites: Retail Management - Product and Pricing, 6.30pm-8.30pm, St Leonards, NSW guild.clinical@nsw.guild.org.au.

03-06 Aug: Australian College of Pharmacy Annual Conference, Hilton Hotel Brisbane - for details phone 02 6163 6700.

07 Aug: Guild Business MasterClass: Retail Solutions for Pharmacy, 9am-4.30pm, St Leonards, NSW guild.clinical@nsw.guild.org.au.

07 Aug: First Aid Certificate, 9am-3pm, Cammeray, NSW beryl.park@psa.org.au.

03-05 Sep: Essential Pharmacy Financial Management 3-day Workshop, Marriott Hotel Circular Quay, Sydney, www.fmrbusdev.com.au/pharmacy-2/.

13-16 Sep: Pharmacy Business Network, National Convention Centre Canberra, pharmacybusinessnetwork.com.

02-06 Oct: Pharmacy Guild of Australia Offshore Conference 2012, Waikiki, Hawaii - pgahawaii2012@arinex.com.au.

19-21 Oct: PSA Pharmacy Australia Congress, Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre - www.psa.org.au/pac.

01-04 Nov: SHPA 38th annual conference - Medicines Management 2012, Canberra - mm2012shpa.com.

Guild Business Program – Register NOW

Pharmacy owners and managers can register to attend the retail and business short courses and full-day workshops hosted by Guild NSW. Identify opportunities to grow your business, develop retail strategies, benchmark your business against competitors and get your finances in shape. These practical workshops will identify key issues and enable you to create an action plan to take away and implement in your business today. The following topics will be presented by industry experts from Guild Financial Services, GoodPharma and Instigo, commencing on Tuesday 24th July (1 week to go – register now).

Retail Management - Product & Pricing Strategies

Are You & Your Finances Ready for Retirement? • **Retail Solutions** • **Grow Your Pharmacy** • **Stand Up Against Your Competitors** • **Market Strategy & Outcomes**



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Click **HERE** for further information or call **Guild Clinical** on **02 9467 7132**



Arthritis warning

AUTHORITIES in the UK are warning arthritis patients to steer clear of "a potentially-dangerous unlicensed and unproven medicine for arthritis and other medical conditions", called Arthroplex.

The medicine which comes in both capsule and gel formulas is being marketed illegally on the internet and via ads in UK publications, with claims that it relieves the symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis and joint pain.

"This product is unlicensed meaning it has not undergone any testing for quality, safety and effectiveness so it could pose a serious health risk to people who use it," a statement from the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency said.

"Adverts like Arthroplex make attractive claims but the fact is just because products are described as natural it does not mean to say that they are safe," the agency added.

For more information visit the MHRA at www.mhra.gov.uk.

Hunting headache solutions

A NEW survey currently being conducted by headache.com.au is hoping to shed light on the success rates of various therapeutic approaches to headaches according to the type of headache pain.

"Head pain is often cited as the most common reason people seek health expert assistance," said Dr Jerome Dixon, Editor of headache.com.au.

"Most of these cases can be solved – it's a case of knowing where to start," he added.

Speaking about the survey, Dixon said that given that headaches and

migraines have numerous causes, it is important for health professionals to look at underlying causes, including neck tension, jaw clenching, eye strain, poor blood sugar regulation, food triggers, tension, stress and dehydration, in addition to pathology.

"Too often sufferers are diagnosed with a 'common headache' or 'common migraine' after lots of scans, only to be told to take medications," Dixon said.

"It is important to rule out pathology, but not to limit therapy to medicating for symptoms only when the treatment can usually be taken so much further into addressing the underlying causes," he added.

The study will run until the end of the year, and headache.com.au is currently calling for Australian headache sufferers to jump online and participate.

Preliminary results will be released mid-September.

MEANWHILE headache.com.au is also in the process of building a Practice Directory for health professionals including pharmacists; optometrists; chiropractors; ENTs; neurologists; orthodontists; psychologists and dentists.

"Unlike other directories that are often one-dimensional according to the profession that is represented, this will be a multi-professional directory of health experts relevant to head pain," Dixon said.

"The directory will cover Australia and NZ, as well as selected international health professionals," he added.

According to Dixon, the site contains independent expertise from leading health professions, as well as latest commentary on research and news about headaches and migraines.

See www.headache.com.au.

Guess that Gargle

BETADINE Sore Throat Gargle has launched a Guess that Gargle competition which gives people the chance to win \$1,000 every week by guessing the national anthem being gargled.

See www.facebook.com/BetadineAU.

DISPENSARY CORNER

IPHONE gets brail.

HumanWare Communicator has launched a new multilingual face-to-face conversation app for deaf-blind individuals which works via the connection of a HumanWare Braille device with an iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch.

According to the company, the app allows users to pair their HumanWare Braille device to an iPhone, iPod, or iPad using Bluetooth technology, and from this point the HumanWare Communicator app then facilitates conversation.

As such, the user can converse through the Braille device with a sighted person, who uses the touch screen keyboard to respond.

The face-to-face conversation appears in real time on both the refreshable Braille display and the iOS devices' screen.

"The HumanWare Communicator app breaks everyday face to face communication down to its simplest form and will get everyone talking," says Greg Stilson, HumanWare product manager.

IT may be the man.

Researchers from the University of Queensland have determined that women who are in relationships put on more weight than those that are not.

The researchers looked at weight gain in 6,458 women over a decade long period and found that an average woman weighing around 63kgs, would put on 9kgs if she had both a baby and a partner, 6kgs if she had a partner, and 5kgs if she had no partner and no baby.

Researcher posited that the reason that women in relationships gain more kilos than those that are solo, may be the fact that they match their eating habits to that of their partner, and in doing so consume more calories than they actually need.

WIN A NUTRI-SYNERGY PACK



This week **Pharmacy Daily** has teamed up with **Plunkett Pharmaceuticals** and is giving 5 lucky readers the chance to win a Nutri-Synergy prize pack.

Each prize pack includes NS-7 Dry Skin Moisturiser, NS-8 Rough Skin Treatment, NS-5 Protective Hand Cream and NS-3 Lip Balm.

The Nutri-Synergy pack contains NS moisturisers to keep your skin smooth and soft in winter, as well as NS Hand Cream and Lip Balm.

Nutri-Synergy effectively moisturises and treats dry, sensitive and problem skin while minimising irritation. Nutri-Synergy works with your skin by using lipids similar to those in your skin, increasing moisture levels and reducing moisture loss.

Proudly Australian made and owned. Available from Priceline and pharmacies or visit www.nutrisynergy.com.au.

For your chance to win this great pack, simply be the first person to correctly answer the question below.

What areas of the body can NS-8 Rough Skin Treatment be used on?

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

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Suzanne MacRae** from **Bathurst Base Hospital Pharmacy**.