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Final free pass

THERE'S just one free pass to this weekend's Lifestyle Medicines Conference in Sydney left as part of this week's **Pharmacy Daily** giveaway courtesy of Blackmores Institute.

Yesterday's lucky winner was Tom Rock from Aspen Pharmaceuticals, who was the quickest off the mark to answer that the website of the Australian Lifestyle Medicine Association is www.lifestylemedicine.com.au.

The final pass will go to the first **PD** reader today to correctly answer the question:

How many times (including this year) has the Australian Lifestyle Medicine Conference been held?

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

Pharmacist numbers up 2.3%

THERE are now more than 26,500 pharmacists across Australia, with the net overall number of registrations rising 2.3% over the last 12 months.

That equates to growth of 259 additional pharmacists, according to the second annual report of the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency which was released yesterday.

AHPRA ceo Martin Fletcher said the report showed the scope of the organisation's work, with one in every 39 Australians being a registered health practitioner.

The report details areas of focus for the Pharmacy Board of Australia, including the ongoing review of the extemporaneous dispensing (compounding)

guideline which is expected to be extended to address complex compounding and minimum training requirements.

There's also the review of accreditation standards for pharmacy programs, while priorities for the coming year also include the ongoing participation in the audit of pharmacists against registration standards.

The second year of operation of the National Law has also enabled a more comprehensive picture of notifications and outcomes across the country, with more than 360 pharmacist notifications received during the year - 211 about conduct, 14 over health and 151 relating to performance.

In the case of "immediate action cases" during 2011/12, one pharmacist was suspended, eight had conditions imposed and undertakings were accepted from three pharmacists.

Financial data included in the report indicates that the Pharmacy Board of Australia had registrant fees amounting to \$8.39 million along with examinations income of \$653,000 for the year.

New MRI availability

AN additional 191 Medicare-eligible MRI services became available from yesterday - 161 in metropolitan locations and 30 in regional towns - with the \$104.4m funding expansion aiming to make it easier for patients to get affordable scans close to home.

Another compounding recall in the US

THE US FDA has announced a voluntary recall of all products made by a compounding pharmacy firm called Ameridose, based in Westborough, Massachusetts.

The move follows an inspection of the company's manufacturing area, with the FDA's preliminary findings having raised concern about "a lack of sterility assurance" for items produced at the facility.

Ameridose shares common management with New England Compounding Pharmacy, which was recently linked to an outbreak of fungal meningitis (**PD** 10 Oct).

However unlike NECP, the Ameridose recall is not based on reports of patients who have contracted infections as a result of using the products.

New Lantus guidance released

SANOFI has welcomed new guidance published by the Australian Diabetes Society (ADS) on the safety of insulin glargine (Lantus), which the company says has finally closed the books on any link between the drug and cancer.

The new position statement says "ADS believes that the current data do not support a relationship between the use of insulin glargine and malignancy."

It adds that patients with diabetes taking insulin glargine (Lantus) do not need to change their insulin therapy, and glargine therapy can be initiated without concerns that it will increase the risk of developing cancer.

In particular ADS says there is no increase in breast cancer rates, with Sanofi acting medical director, Dr Tal Rapke, saying the updated statement helps bring clarity to patients and doctors on the appropriateness of insulin glargine as a treatment for diabetes.

The ADS announcement follows a large-scale epidemiological program conducted by independent researchers in northern Europe as well as in California and the University of North Carolina in the USA, which found there was no increased risk of cancer in people with diabetes treated with Lantus compared to those treated with other insulins.

PHARMACIST POSITION



The Victorian Pharmacy Authority (VPA) is responsible for the administration of the Pharmacy Regulation Act 2010 and wishes to appoint a full-time pharmacist.

The pharmacists' primary role will be to visit, assess and advise Victorian

pharmacies, pharmacy departments and pharmacy depots throughout Victoria.

Applicants must be a registered pharmacist preferably with around ten years or more experience in community or hospital practice and a good working knowledge of pharmacy legislation, practice guidelines and practice standards. A current driver's licence is essential.

The applicant will also be required to learn and participate in all of the administrative activities undertaken by the VPA.

The position offers the possibility of succession to a higher position.

Written applications should be forwarded to:
Registrar, Victorian Pharmacy Authority, Level 6, 369 Royal Parade, Parkville by not later than 30 November 2012.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Helen Newett on (03) 9356 8400 or enquiries@pharmacy.vic.gov.au.



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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist Manager** - Fraser Coast, QLD (Job# 2009362).
Overall pharmacy management. Above market remuneration.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - North Coast, NSW (Job# 2009275).
Sole pharmacist role, immediate start. Customer focused pharmacy
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - South Coast, SA (Job# 2009424).
Overall running of the dispensary, experienced support, seaside location.

Blackmores Lyme disease workshop

BLACKMORES Professional has announced a new two hour Mineral Therapy workshop on Lyme disease.

Lyme disease has been in the news recently, over concerns that the tick-borne infections disease is becoming increasingly prevalent in Australia.

According to Blackmores, researchers are warning that medical professionals need to be alert to the possibility of detecting the disease early, because of its "potentially devastating neurological consequences".

The workshop, presented by Rita Cozzi and Elizabeth d'Avigdor will cover common misconceptions and myths, complex treatment options including antibiotic medication, and the role of complementary medicine in the condition.

The 14 Nov workshop, one of a series around the country, will take place at Blackmores campus in Warriewood, NSW - more info from aswerdlow@blackmores.com.au.

2013 PA conference

PHARMACY Assistants are being urged to save the date for the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference, which in 2013 will take place on the Gold Coast from 24-26 October.

This year's conference wrapped up last weekend at the Outrigger Surfers Paradise.

Sandy pharmacy site

US pharmacists have risen to the challenge of helping people affected by the devastation of Hurricane Sandy in recent days, which has smashed many areas of the country's east coast.

A special emergency website has been activated to help patients find nearby pharmacies that are still open after the so-called 'Frankenstorm', with the site covering 11 states: New York, Ohio, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Connecticut, Delaware and Rhode Island.

See www.rxresponse.org.

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DAILY

No PBS changes this month

USUALLY the start of a new month marks a number of changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, with the addition and deletion of various items.

However this month is different, with no alterations to the PBS in November because of a major transformation of the information management systems used by the Department of Health and Ageing's Pharmaceutical Benefits Division.

The new system is called PharmCIS (Pharmaceutical Consolidated Information System) and the cutover is currently under way meaning the next schedule update will be on 01 December.

The department said PharmCIS would deliver "two key changes that will support E-health initiatives now and into the future".

These include the introduction of Australian Medicines Terminology (AMT) into the published PBS schedule and its underpinning data.

The National E-Health Transition

Authority has been assisting the Pharmaceutical Benefits Division with implementation of the AMT and alignment with the current PBS schedule, and from next month it will include AMT identifiers and preferred term descriptions.

In particular it will use the Medicinal Product Pack as the standardised descriptor of dosage form and strength, resulting in the consistent depiction of pack size.

The introduction of PharmCIS also provides an opportunity to structure the indication information contained in restrictions, including authority required and authority required streamlined items.

The aim is for a uniform structure to simplify the development of medical software, with this change to be progressively rolled out.

Interested pharmacists are advised to subscribe to the latest news at www.pbs.gov.au/subscribe so that they can be kept abreast of developments.

Pharmacist (full-time and part-time)



An exciting opportunity exists for experienced and dedicated Pharmacists to join our dynamic pharmacy group UFS Dispensaries Ltd. UFS is a thriving and progressive not-for-profit healthcare organisation that operates 15 retail pharmacies in Ballarat and the Western Region.

UFS is known as an employer of choice and offers excellent working conditions for staff.

- A generous salary package including Health Insurance
- Professional development opportunities
- Generous leave and flexible working arrangements
- Well trained support staff

For a position description and to apply online please visit our website ufs.com.au

Please note: Applications not submitted through the above website may not be considered.

For further information contact
Tony Diamond on (03) 5327 7767.
Please submit your resume and covering
letter by close of business (5.00pm)
Friday 9 November 2012

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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.

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

04 Nov: Primary Health Care Workshop; 10am-3.30pm; Batemans Bay Soldiers Club, Batemans Bay; email guildclinical@nsw.guild.org.au.

05 Nov: Discussion Group, Parkinsons Disease; Hobart, University of Tasmania; 7pm-8.30pm; guildclinical@nsw.guild.org.au

07 Nov: How to Conduct MedsCheck and Diabetes MedsCheck; 9am-1pm; The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, St Leonards, NSW; email lorraine.norris@psa.org.au.

11 Nov: Apply First Aid; Bathurst, NSW; NSW; phone 02 9966 9750.

13 Nov: Australian Self-Medication Industry conference and awards, Homebush NSW - www.asmi.com.au.

21 Nov: Business Bites & Masterclass; Guild Building, St Leonards, NSW; phone 02 9966 9750.

19-26 Jan 2013: Medici Capital Pharmacy Study Tour 2013, Val d'Isere France - see www.medic.com.au/events.

22-24 Feb 2013: NSW Guild Convention 'CPD by the Sea' at Novotel Manly Pacific

21-24 Mar 2013: Pharmacy Guild APP 2013, Gold Coast

31 May-02 Jun 2013: PSA NSW CPEXpo, Hordern Pavilion

21-23 Jun 2013: NSW Pharmacy National Convention & Exhibition, Darling Harbour.

New sunscreen standard

A **NEW** standard for sunscreens will come into effect from 10 Nov, after an update of the Australian/New Zealand Standard 2604 *Sunscreen products - Evaluation and Classification*.

The new version, produced by Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand, is AS/NZS 2604:2012, superseding AS/NZS 2604:1998.

The TGA says the Therapeutic Regulations 1990 have been amended accordingly, meaning that from Saturday week new sunscreen products listed in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods will have to comply with the new standard.

However Regulation 49 allows products listed on the ARTG prior to 10 Nov to continue to comply with the 1998 standard.

The new standard was published in May this year, and sets out procedures for determining the performance of sunscreen products in terms of their protection factors.

It applies to products suitable for topical use to protect human skin from the adverse effects of UV rays, covering both the determination of the sun protection factor (SPF) and broad spectrum performance.

MS treatment update

CANCER drug alemtuzumab has shown effectiveness in the treatment of multiple sclerosis, according to a study published in *The Lancet* this month.

The trial, conducted by scientists at the University of Cambridge, say that the drug, normally used for the treatment of leukaemia, works with MS by eliminating compromised immune cells, forcing a new immune system to be "built from scratch".

The study contrasted the use of alemtuzumab with interferon beta-1a, and found the cancer treatment was about 50% more effective in preventing relapses.



DISPENSARY CORNER

THIS is what happens when you use drugs inappropriately.

The global backlash against disgraced cycling champion Lance Armstrong has seen a number of sanctions including being stripped of his Tour de France titles.

But things have gone further downhill for the drug cheat, after he was chosen as the latest celebrity to have his effigy burned during the upcoming Bonfire Night celebrations in the English town of Edenbridge.

Local residents have built a 10m-tall model of Armstrong, which will be set alight this weekend as part of the annual Guy Fawkes' night.

The effigy includes a sign saying 'For sale, racing bike, no longer required'.

SOME Listerine required here.

A 27-year-old British man is attracting worldwide attention because of his quest to lick every cathedral in the UK.

Lawrence Edmonds is responding to a dare from a friend, who challenged him to complete the task within 2 years.

Edmonds apparently started his noble quest earlier this year at Norwich Cathedral and has now licked the walls of 60 out of the total of 64 cathedrals in Britain.

According to the UK *Sun* newspaper, he said that Lichfield Cathedral near Birmingham tasted best because the "reddened sandstone was beautifully warm on the tongue."

In contrast, Perth Cathedral was "a little gritty," he said.

A **SUPERCOMPUTER** developed by IBM is set to teach medical students at a university in Cleveland, Ohio.

The artificially-intelligent Watson gained fame when it beat human contestants on US game show *Jeopardy* last year, but will now be utilised to help the aspiring doctors to diagnose challenging cases.

LOOK YOUNGER FOR LONGER



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with **Plunketts** this week and is giving ten lucky readers the chance to win exciting prize packs.

Each pack is valued at \$57.90 and contains NEW John Plunkett Multi Vitamin Moisturiser 60ml and Glyco Peel 15ml.

The 5 Anti-Ageing Vitamins in new John Plunkett Multi Vitamin Moisturiser can help keep the cosmetic surgeon away! Therapeutic levels of vitamins A, B3,

B5, C and E can help smooth wrinkles, reduce brown marks and redness, increase hydration and soften roughness.

John Plunkett Glyco Peel is a salon-strength night-time exfoliator with 25% glycolic acid.

To win this exciting prize pack, simply be one of the first two people to correctly answer the question below.

**What is the RRP of
Multi Vitamin Moisturiser?**

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

Hint! Visit www.johnplunkett.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners, **Han Le** from **Visible Results Australia** and **Emily Keleher** of **Good Price Pharmacy**.