

National reach, collective strength,
trusted expertise

Pharmacy Solutions Australia
Pharmacy Business Brokers

FOLLOW US ON
f t

www.pharmacysolutions.com.au

What's in PD today

TODAY'S Pharmacy Daily features two pages of news, **PLUS** a full page from Pharmacy Alliance inviting pharmacists to join one of its three levels of membership - for details see **page three**.

2013 PBS Calendar

THE 2013 PBS Calendar is now available at www.pbs.gov.au.

The Calendar includes the 2013 deadlines for submissions to PBAC, for final documentation to support PBS listings, for premium changes and for price increase applications, as well as the important dates in the 2013 PBAC meeting cycles and suitable dates for sponsors to meet with the Pharmaceutical Evaluation Branch for pre-submission discussions.

Female emergencies

FEMALES are increasingly more likely to visit a hospital emergency department than males, according to research by Associate Professor Drew Richardson from the Australian National University.

Addressing the Emergency Medicine Conference today, Richardson discussed the findings of his observational comparison of population and ED data from July 2005 to June 2006 and from July 2010 to June 2011 in a tertiary ED. Presentations from the two periods were classified as primary, secondary, or non-local by stated location of residence.

According to his findings female ED presentations in the primary area increased by 6.7% in females but declined by 3.7% in males; whilst in the secondary area female presentations increased over the two periods by 28.1%, whilst male visits increased by less than half that rate, at 13%.

In addition age-standardised ambulance arrivals rose 12.7% in females and 7.7% in males from primary, and 22.6% and 21.3% from secondary.

"Age-specific presentations from this ED's primary population have increased in females but decreased in males over five years of increasing demand," said Richardson.

Complementary concerns?

AUSTRALIA needs to move beyond market forces and engage in "hard discussions and debate" about the place of complementary medicines in the Australian healthcare landscape, according to CEO of the Consumers Health Forum of Australia, Carol Bennett.

The comments come as part of the CHC's latest Health Voices issue, which delves into the landscape of complementary drugs, and questions how much consumers know about natural medicines.

"Consumers clearly believe there are real benefits in using complementary medicine, but what do we know about the products they are using? What safeguards are in place in terms of regulation, consumer protection and testing for quality, consistency and effectiveness?" Bennett said.

According to Bennett, "the issues around complementary medicine are multifaceted, complex and often contestable", and due to the murky waters consumers may not fully understand the products that they are taking.

MEANWHILE responding to the Forum's comments, the Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHCA) emphasised the regulatory vigour of the complementary medicines industry in Australia.

"Research shows that the majority of consumers know exactly what complementary medicine product they are buying and why," the organisation said in a statement.

"This goes to show that consumers deserve credit for their informed purchasing decisions," the statement added.

The CHCA also took aim at the CHF saying that whilst its complementary campaign may be well intended, their approach is unjustly generating fear amongst consumers whom do or would benefit from complementary medicines.

Rural suicide report

RURAL and regional communities face unique challenges in preventing and recovering from suicide according to a new report launched by the Minister for Mental Health.

Titled *Suicide in rural and remote areas of Australia*, the report found that higher rates of agricultural industry employment, divorce, and unemployment were associated with higher male suicide rates in rural areas, and that rural areas with higher levels of education had lower suicide rates.

In addition, the report found that work and financial problems strongly predicted suicide in rural areas; whilst protective factors included access to health services such as GPs, and supportive family relationships.

"Having access to good mental health services is an effective way to address and help reduce suicide in our community, because we know that the greatest single risk factor for suicide is mental illness," said Minister for Mental Health, Mark Butler.

Aubagio for MS in Oz

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has approved Aubagio (teriflunomide) 14mg, for the treatment option for people with multiple sclerosis (MS).

The drug is indicated for patients with relapsing forms of MS to reduce the frequency of clinical relapses and to delay the progression of physical disability.

Aubagio is an immunomodulator with anti-inflammatory properties.

According to Genzyme, Aubagio shows statistically significant efficacy across key measures of MS disease activity, including reducing relapses, slowing the progression of disability and improvement in a number of MRI measures.

The drug has shown significant reductions in both annualised relapse rate and disability progression in two large, phase III, placebo-controlled clinical trials.

Aubagio is not currently PBS listed, however it is available to appropriate patients with MS through a Product Familiarisation Program, conducted in collaboration with Australian neurologists.

Network - Education - Products & Service Solutions

Catch the early wave & secure your CPD credits!

CPD by the SEA -
NSW Convention 2013
(incorporating Zone Leaders Conference)

MARK THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY!

Fri 22 - Sun 24 February 2013
Novotel Manly Pacific

www.cpdbythesea.com.au

pbs
Pharmacy Brokers

PHARMACIES FOR SALE

Mid North Coast

- Growing Town
- Pharmacy located close to large medical centre
- 287 scripts per day
- Adjusted net profit \$800k

Sydney Northern Beaches

- Great first business
- T/O \$1.35M
- 85 scripts per day
- Adjusted net profit \$227k

NSW Country

We have available to qualified purchasers a national branded store in a solid country town. Let the brand do all of the work for you.

For information please call
Sean Roffey on
0408 882 111

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by **Cruise Weekly**.

CRUISE WEEKLY

Sponsored by Cruise Weekly
your FREE cruise newsletter
Subscribe now

www.cruiseweekly.com.au

THERE has never been a better time to visit Egypt, with normally crowded tourist attractions much less busy than usual - and to make it even more attractive, Tempo Holidays has a two-for-one deal available until 31 Dec.

The 11 day trip takes in Cairo and Alexandria as well as a four night Nile cruise with private transfers, most meals, entrance fees and flights within Egypt.

It now costs just \$3162 per couple valid for travel until the end of September 2013 - see your travel agent ASAP or call Tempo on 1300 362 844.

PHARMACY staff living in Queensland and northern NSW (postcodes 2450-2490) should head to the Gold Coast for a VIP Family Pack deal at Warner Bros. Movie World, Sea World and Wet'n'Wild Water World.

The special offer for locals costs just \$79.99 each for purchases of four or more, and gives unlimited access to the theme parks until 30 Jun 2013 plus free entry into Movie World's special White Christmas event.

See www.ThemeParks.com.au.

ROYAL Caribbean Cruises has today launched a Flagship Sale, offering savings of up to \$1700, onboard credits and reduced deposits for Australian, NZ and South Pacific sailings on board *Voyager of the Seas*, *Rhapsody of the Seas* and *Radiance of the Seas*.

See your travel agent quickly - the offers are only valid for new bookings 25 Nov-01 Dec.

Chemo threats to hospitals

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia is calling on the Government to ensure that after 01 December all cancer patients have continued safe access to their life-saving chemotherapy, at no additional cost, at an accessible location, particularly in rural and regional areas.

The calls come in the lead up to changes to remuneration for preparing and dispensing chemotherapy which take effect from 01 Dec, and may see private hospitals choose not to administer chemo medicines such as paclitaxel, docetaxel, gemcitabine and oxaliplatin; used to treat breast, lung, prostate and colon cancers.

"The cumulative effect of changes to remuneration for preparing and dispensing chemotherapy is threatening the viability of private hospital pharmacy services that provide 60% of chemotherapy to cancer patients," SHPA said in a statement.

"Over time some chemotherapy

pharmacy services will no longer be financially viable, thus jeopardising the supply of all chemotherapy through affected hospitals, and resulting in restrictions or even closures of their oncology service," the statement added.

Backing up its argument, SHPA said that the changes pose a "great threat" to the public hospital system, which may be flooded with patients exiting the private system to continue their chemotherapy.

"Public hospitals, limited by infrastructure, personnel and capacity of their oncology and chemotherapy services, would be unable to accommodate this demand," SHPA said.

In terms of hospital pharmacies, SHPA said that the changes would lead to "significant budgetary stress".

"Viable chemotherapy and clinical pharmacy support services should be available from both public and private health services," SHPA said.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A TEAM of scientists from North Carolina have launched a project to examine the microscopic ecosystems of peoples' navels.

The Belly Button Biodiversity project has taken a series of belly button swabs from volunteers, with the aim of teaching the world that many bacteria are harmless or helpful.

They grew bacteria from the samples and found that most ecosystems are unique, with more than 2368 types of microorganisms discovered.

See www.wildlifeofyourbody.org.

DR Chuck Gerba, who's professor of microbiology at the University of Arizona, says that contrary to popular opinion, the toilet seat is probably one of the cleanest places in the average home.

Gerba has published a study showing that on average there are about 50 bacteria per square inch on a toilet seat, which mean it's "one of the cleanest things you'll run across in terms of micro-organisms," according to the BBC.

"Usually there are about 200 times more faecal bacteria on the average cutting board than on a toilet seat," he said.

But rather than cutting vegetables on the toilet, he recommended cleaning chopping boards with the same vigour as we use on our bathrooms.

TEENAGE boys should work on their muscles, according to a Swedish report which has found a link between a limp grip and early male deaths.

The 24-year study of more than a million teenage young men found that low muscle strength in arms and legs had a correlation to an early demise, with 2.3% of the men dying during the study.

They said they believe weakness reflected general fitness which could explain the link to early mortality, with the deaths mostly due to accidents, suicide, cancer and cardiovascular events.

CLEAN SKIN ALL YEAR ROUND

smooth, soft skin nature's way



cleanses whilst balancing the skins natural pH levels and Pomegranate Face Spritz - a wonderfully refreshing antioxidant enriched facial spritz, designed to refresh and hydrate your skin.

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

*What type of plant is the
Konjacu Fibre from?*

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

Hint! Visit: www.maskinacup.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Sigrid Hamacher** from **Actegy Health**.



“I trust and believe in the Pharmacy Alliance purchasing solutions and systems. I believe we have categorically and definitively quantified that a pharmacy business cannot and does not purchase more effectively than the Pharmacy Alliance model.”

Jason Cockman, Currambine Pharmacy and newsagency.

Join one of our three levels of membership and we'll help improve your business too. Become a Buying Alliance member and you'll enjoy significantly better buying terms. Plus you'll benefit from an extensive range of member support services. Become a Complete Alliance member and, as the name suggests, we'll provide you with a complete business solution tailored to your needs. Become a Partner Alliance member and we'll also manage all the day to day operational activities for you. Sound good?

Call 03 9860 3300 or visit pharmacyalliance.com.au now.

