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Diabetes workshop

GUILD NSW and Charles Sturt University will host the first of the new CPD combined program with a one-day workshop on 21 October. The workshop will give pharmacists an overview of diabetes management and will explain how they can be useful using the 5th Agreement services of MedsCheck and Home Medicines Review using case studies. For details **CLICK HERE**.

FDA attacks online frauds

THE US Food and Drug Administration has taken aim at dangerous internet pharmacies, saying that fraudulent Internet pharmacies put consumers health at risk. The new consumer awareness campaign launched last week and aims to raise public awareness about the prevalence of fraudulent Internet pharmacies.

According to FDA figures, nearly one in four internet consumers have purchased prescription medicine online, despite data from the US National Association of Boards of Pharmacy which indicates that less than 3% of online pharmacies meet US state and federal laws.

The figures were part of a NABP study of 10,065 online pharmacies, which found that a whopping 97% violated US laws and/or NAPB safe practice standards.

"Buying medicines from rogue online pharmacies can be risky because they may sell fake, expired, contaminated, not approved by FDA, or otherwise unsafe products that are dangerous to patients," said FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg. "Fraudulent and illegal online pharmacies often offer deeply discounted products.

"If the low prices seem too good to be true, they probably are," she added.

The FDA struck out at the online fraudsters saying that they use sophisticated marketing efforts or phony web storefronts to appear

legitimate, and that patients who purchase their medicines from these sites may be putting their health at risk because the products may contain the wrong ingredients, contain too little, too much, or no active ingredient at all, or be made with other harmful ingredients.

To combat the rise of dodgy internet pharmacies and to protect consumers, the FDA has said that patients should only buy prescription drugs through online pharmacies that: require a valid prescription from a doctor or other health care professional; are located in the US; have a licensed pharmacist available for consultation; and are licensed by the patient's state board of pharmacy.

New endo treatments?

BAYER HealthCare and Evotec AG have entered into a five-year, multi-target collaboration with the goal of developing three clinical candidates for the treatment of endometriosis.

Under the agreement both parties will contribute innovative drug targets and technology infrastructures and will share the responsibility for early research and preclinical characterisation of potential clinical candidates in the disease area of endometriosis.

"Endometriosis is a disease with insufficient treatment options today for women who suffer from this painful condition," said Prof. Andreas Busch, Head of Global Drug Discovery.

"It is one of Bayer's strategic research indications and our new collaboration with Evotec will perfectly complement our activities in this field of high unmet medical need.

"We look forward to working with Evotec's team on the development of novel drug candidates," Busch added.

Rural brekkie at PAC12

PAC12 will feature a Rural Special Interest Group brekkie on 20 Oct at which a panel of expert speakers will discuss the professional and personal opportunities offered by practice in a rural setting.

DON'T SIZZLE... WIN A SUNSCREEN PACK!

Everyday this week **PD** is giving two readers the chance win a sunscreen pack, courtesy of **Hamilton**. One of Australia's most trusted sun care brands, founded by pharmacist Milton Blake in 1932, Hamilton has been protecting Australians from the sun for over 80 years.

The prize pack includes x3 SPF 30+ sunscreens: Everyday Face Sunscreen (Hamilton's best selling product); Family Sunscreen Lotion (for the whole family); and Quadblock (ideal for sports & 4hrs water resistant).

For your chance to win, be first to send in the correct answer to the daily question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What activity is Hamilton Quadblock ideal for, and how many hours water resistant is it?

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Pharmacy Practice Incentives (PPI)

DAA's/Clinical Interventions claim form due by 14 October 2012

The DAAs/Clinical Interventions claim form **MUST** be lodged with Medicare between 1- 14 October 2012

Click to access Claim form

IMPORTANT: Claims received by Medicare after 14 October 2012 will be rejected.



This Project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Just one click away from keeping up to date with all the breaking news as it comes to hand...



Guild Update

Pharmacy eCensus

The first major census of community pharmacy in Australia since 2006 is now underway online, and the Guild is urging community pharmacy owners to take a few minutes of your busy day to complete the survey.

What's in it for community pharmacists to complete the census? Is it a free iPad? A set of finely honed steak knives? No, it is none of these things. The benefits of completing the census are much more important than that!

The census will update info on individual pharmacies which will inform publicly searchable sites such as

www.findapharmacy.com.au.

Pharmacies with updated and relevant info on findapharmacy have a competitive advantage over those who don't.

The census will also provide a much needed data update on our industry, which is an essential ingredient of effective advocacy.

The range of services provided by community pharmacies is little understood in some quarters, and it is only through comprehensive, current information that we can reinforce the many benefits of our community pharmacy model.

Early in September, pharmacies should have received an emailed invitation to take part in the census.

They should receive an email which has their census username and login included. When these pharmacies login to the census, they will find the form will have been prefilled with the basic details and identification of the pharmacy.

Where a pharmacy is not picked up in our database for whatever reason, pharmacy owners can go to ecensus.guildlink.com.au and request a username and password which will be emailed to them. In this case, the census form won't have any prefilled data and it will create a new, blank record for them.

Phone 1300 764 088 for details.



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

New specialist pharmacists

PHARMACISTS in Singapore can now become specialists, thanks to new regulations passed by the Pharmacy Specialist Accreditation Board (PSAB).

Announced by Singapore Health Minister, Gan Kim Yong, the new rule allows specialist accreditation across five areas including oncology, infectious diseases, cardiology, psychiatry and geriatrics.

"With the growing emphasis on integrated care, we need pharmacists to take on expanded roles in the community, long-term care and home-care settings," said Yong.

The applications will be assessed by the 13-member PSAB, which will take into account the applicant's certification, years of experience and portfolio.

According to the Board, around 20 specialist pharmacists will be approved per annum, with the application and review process taking around eight weeks.

Speaking in the wake of the announcement, Lita Chew, Chairperson of the Board said "The profession has reached certain maturity and we have enough mass as well now that the number of pharmacists who are recognised as advanced practitioner with the specialist qualification".

"The changing landscape, the ageing population, the complex therapy, the new drugs that are coming out are a lot more challenging than before is important to assure that we have a pipeline to continue to produce the

pharmacists that we need to serve the public," she added.

Moo Goo hospital study

A team of Oncology specialists at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital are currently recruiting for a clinical trial of 'MooGoo Udder Cream' versus the international status quo; and current standard of care practice of using Aqueous and Sorbolene creams to manage the most common and distressing side effects of radiotherapy.

The world first study is the result of patient driven endorsement, as well as physician interest to test the observations that show patients using the cream generally have a better skin recovery than their peers that use the standard treatment.

Moo Goo is an Australian product originally based on Udder Cream used on cow's udders.

DISPENSARY CORNER

NATURAL instincts?

A giraffe named Mengmeng has avoided some large obstacles to move into her new home.

Mengmeng spent 15 months in training at her old home at an Eastern Chinese zoo, learning how to duck her head to avoid obstacles in preparation for her move.

The 15-year old giraffe was then loaded into a specially built truck, with her head and neck sticking out the top, to travel several kilometres to her new home.

The trip took a whopping seven hours, but Mengmeng performed brilliantly, ducking each pylon, bridge and sign, and shocking more than a few drivers along the way!



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