

CPD by the Sea

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is today reminding pharmacists to register to attend CPD by the Sea - NSW Convention 2013.

The event takes place 22-24 Feb at Sydney's Novotel Manly Pacific. It costs \$440 incl GST for two days, or \$250 including GST for one day (either Sat or Sun) and the same price applies for all attendees.

A panel discussion on Sun 24 Feb titled 'Cough Mixture for under 6 year olds' is expected to be very popular, with the conference accredited for up to 18 hours CPD and up to 18 Group 1 credits or up to 36 Group 2 credits - see **page three** of today's *Pharmacy Daily*.

New diabetes approval

THE European Commission has granted marketing authorisation in Europe for Sanofi's Lyxumia (lisanotide), which is the first once-daily prandial GLP-1 receptor agonist and is indicated for the treatment of type 2 diabetes.

The approval is for Lyxumia taken in combination with oral glucose-containing medicinal products and/or basal insulin when these, together with diet and exercise, do not provide adequate glycaemic control.

Doctors back Guild on HMRs

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has come out in support of the Guild push to suspend the Home Medicines Review program, with a spokesperson for the GP group saying the scheme should be completely scrapped.

According to the *6minutes* publication for doctors, RACGP national standing committee chair, Dr Evan Ackerman, said that the GPs believe HMRs could be "scratched without any problem."

"There's no evidence of their effectiveness in primary care and it should have been removed a long time ago".

According to the report, Ackerman said the funds would be better placed being "put towards

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UK safety campaign

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has launched a major public health partnership with pharmacy organisations, aiming to encourage consumers to report any suspected adverse reactions to medications.

In Britain a 'Yellow Card' scheme is used to track side effects, with the special cards available through pharmacies across the country.

something worthwhile" such as integrating pharmacists into general practice, or to help GPs evaluate medicine safety issues.

Pharmacy Daily winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Sandra Fitzgerald from Hunter Medicare Local, who was the lucky winner of a Michael Mercier's Brushes Pack in last Fri's *Pharmacy Daily*.

NAPSA hails congress success



THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association last week wrapped up its annual Congress, which was hosted by the Tasmanian Association of Pharmacy Students at the University of Tasmania in Hobart.

More than 300 delegates from 16 universities across Australia attended the six day event, which for the first time ever included a trade and exhibition hall.

The congress included the naming of the Pharmacy Student of the Year, NAPSA "wild card" winner,

Connie Arronis from the Sydney University Pharmacy Association.

Connie will be joining the state finalists at the PSA's Pharmacy Australia Congress in October.

Prior to the event the NAPSA National Council (pictured above) met for two days, with discussions covering an externally facilitated governance review by The Improvement Foundation.

NAPSA also raised more than \$3400 for the Tasmanian Bushfire Appeal, a sum which will be matched by a donation from PDL.

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Guild Update

Pharmacist dedication

THE floods that have hit Qld and northern NSW have been devastating to locals but amid the damage pharmacists have shown their community commitment.

In the Qld town of Gin Gin, Guild member Tim Spargo has gone to extraordinary lengths to maintain access to important medicines for both his regular customers and the many displaced people taking refuge in the town.

At his home in Bundaberg, watching the flood water come closer to his house and cut off from his pharmacy in Gin Gin, Tim received an urgent call from the Gin Gin ambulance service: did anyone have access to the pharmacy so they could retrieve vital medicines? With no other pharmacist in town, Tim was airlifted by helicopter so he could begin dispensing.

Over 700 scripts later and with only one dispensary technician to assist him, Tim was dispensing scripts well into last night.

"There were people coming in who had lost everything and police bringing in scripts on behalf of evacuees and displaced hospital patients; I didn't want to see people going without," he said.

Fielding calls as well as dispensing scripts, Tim received an early call from a Guild pharmacist offering advice around emergency supply regulations and any other support he might need: "That support from the Guild was fantastic; it's great knowing you guys are there."

Pharmacists in flood or other emergency areas are encouraged to contact their Guild Branch for any assistance.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

Generic Doxil approval

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved the first generic version of the cancer drug Doxil (doxorubicin hydrochloride liposome injection).

The drug is currently on the FDA's drug shortage list, with the approval of the generic aiming to help resolve the shortfall.

A year ago the FDA allowed temporary controlled importation of Lipodox as an alternative to Doxil, despite the drug not being approved in the USA.

The generic version is made by Sun Pharma Global, and once supplies of the new product are sufficient to meet projected demand, the unapproved item will no longer be able to be imported.

Lactose-free Ebixa

LUNDBECK Australia this morning advised that the formulation of its Ebixa (memantine hydrochloride) 10mg film-coated tablets will in future be lactose-free.

The Alzheimer's Disease treatment will be available in the new formulation from this month, with the current lactose-containing tablets to be discontinued.

According to the company, the lactose-free tablets are pale yellow and oval-shaped, in contrast to the current lactose-containing product which is white/off-white and rectangular in shape.

There's no change to the formulation of Ebixa 20mg film-coated tablets, which are already lactose-free.

DISPENSARY CORNER

THE owner of a seaside cafe in Norfolk, UK, has been forced to defend a special holiday offer called a Kidz Breakfast.

The monster meal available at Jester's Diner in Great Yarmouth includes 12 rashers of bacon, a dozen sausages and lots of eggs - plus lashings of baked beans and of course lots of toast.

It's not clear how the meal got its name, but some have quipped that at nearly 5kg it actually weighs about the same as a small child.

The Kidz Breakfast (pictured below) is free if you eat it in an hour, or £15 if you fail.

Since being added to the menu about 18 months ago only one person has managed to scoff the lot without having to pay - "competitive eater" Robert Pinto, who amazingly finished it off in less than 30 minutes.

The cafe's owner has defended the meal from accusations that it's promoting unhealthy eating.

"I'm just one guy with a few staff trying to get people to have a good time," he said.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime challenge," he added.

And as for eating superstar Pinto, he told reporters that he doesn't even like breakfast.

"I just did it for a laugh," he said.



WIN A NS-8 PRIZE PACK

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving two lucky readers the chance to win a NS-8 prize pack, courtesy of **Plunketts**.

Each prize pack includes NS-8 Foot & Leg Moisturiser 125g and NS-8 Heel Balm 100ml.

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Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners, Silvana Gittani from Reckitt Benckiser and Linda Luczak of Cranebrook General Practice.



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DON'T MISS THE PANEL DISCUSSION – SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY

'Cough mixture for under 6 year olds'. Want information, answers and solutions?

This topical session is receiving great support and is proving very popular. It will include presentations by the TGA, PDL, a Paediatrician, a GP and a Pharmacist.



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This activity has been accredited for up to 18 hours and up to 18.0 Group 1 credits or up to 36.0 Group 2 CPD credits upon successful completion of assessment depending on sessions attended. These credits are suitable for inclusion on an individual pharmacist's CPD plan.

THE ZONE LEADERS CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE ON FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY

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