



Flublok gets FDA nod

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Flublok influenza vaccine for use in people 18-49 years old.

Flublok is a novel protein vaccine for the prevention of seasonal influenza disease and is the first to be made in a 100% egg-free system without growing influenza viruses.

Flublok is highly purified, has three times the amount of active ingredient in traditional influenza vaccines, and contains no preservatives (thimerosal), antibiotics or adjuvants.

SOUTHERN QLD ISLAND PHARMACY FOR SALE

- My best ever Lifestyle pharmacy listing
- The sole pharmacy on a sub-tropical Island
- Close to a large mainland urban centre
- Annual Sales circa \$1.8m
- Higher than average GP%
- Fully staffed
- 2012 Net Profit circa \$340,000
- Full Price is **\$1,825,000** including stock
- Owner's residence is available for purchase

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Australia's adverse events

IN 2011 the Therapeutic Goods Administration received approximately 14,400 adverse event reports regarding medicines in Australia.

The newly released figures are part of the annual report prepared by the TGA for incorporation into the Department of Health and Ageing publication *Australian Statistics on Medicines*.

According to the figures, of the 14,400 adverse event reports, 52% came from pharmaceutical companies, 12% from hospitals, 7% from GPs, 18% from State and Territory Health Departments and 3% from consumers.

Interestingly 8% of adverse event reportage came from other sources including community pharmacists and specialists.

In addition, the TGA estimated that on average it received 1,200 reports per month in 2011.

Meanwhile, according to the TGA, the spike in the number of adverse events reported by companies in

2011 is attributed to a number of factors, including a greater number of drugs on the ARTG; and the possibility that GPs are reporting adverse events via sponsors, which would also account for the slight drop in the reporting rates for GPs.

Distraction app

HEALTHLINE has developed a free iPhone app, Big Shots Get Shots, to help parents distract their children while getting vaccine shots, in order to stem the tide of trypanophobia (fear of needles) and get kids comfortable with needles before they hit adulthood and the fear becomes a barrier to healthcare, see iTunes to download.

Integrative medicine

PHARMACISTS interested in complementary medicine can sign up to a Short Course in Integrative Medicine for Pharmacists immediately following this year's APP Conference.

The program, through Griffith University, has been designed to provide pharmacy practitioners with additional knowledge and skills to deliver evidence-based complementary medicine information to their patients and customers, and is worth accredited for 27.0 Group 2 CPD Credits (upon completion of assessment).

The course will run 24-25 March on the Gold Coast and is priced at \$850, for details see www.integratedshortcourses.com.

Carbon neutral packs

AUSTRALIAN pharmacy labelling, printing, packaging and consumables company, Stirling Fildes, is offering the world's first carbon neutral paper to its customers.

The paper used to make the bags is certified to the National Carbon Offset Standard; the Australian Government certification that sets the requirements for achieving carbon neutrality.

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.

19-26 Jan: Medici Capital Pharmacy Study Tour; Val d'Isere, France; see www.medici.com.au/event/pharmacy-study-tour-2013.

30 Jan: First Aid Level 2 Workshop; Cossar Hall Tutorial Room Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, VIC; tina.liu@psa.org.au.

22-24 Feb: NSW Guild Convention 'CPD by the Sea' at Novotel Manly Pacific; for details see www.cpdbythesea.com.au.

1-3 Mar: PSA NSW 2013 Annual Therapeutic Update March Weekend; Crowne Plaza, Terrigal NSW; email nsw.branch@psa.org.au.

16 Mar: Think Arthritis and Osteoporosis - A Clinical Update Day; Kolling Institute, Royal North Shore Hospital, St Leonards; 9am-4pm; call 02 9857 3300, or view www.arthritisnsw.org.au.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Oncology Pharmacist** - Canberra, ACT (Job# 2009608)
Full-time role for an experienced Oncology Pharmacist, Private Hospital.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - South Coast, SA (Job# 2009424)
Sea change opportunity for an experienced PIC. Support from skilled team.
- **Pharmacist Manager** - Adelaide, SA (Job# 2009609)
Sole charge PM, to manage a community pharmacy, team of 10.

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THE RULES HAVE CHANGED...

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HWA comes to APP

MARK Cormack, CEO of Health Workforce Australia has been enlisted to address attendees at this year's APP.

"HWA is the Commonwealth statutory authority whose role it is to plan, fund, research and deliver programs for the enhancement and development of Australia's health workforce," a Guild statement said.

"As such they will have a key say in any expanded scope of practice for pharmacists," the Guild added.

At present, the Guild is assisting the HWA with the Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway which aims to deliver a national approach to prescribing by health professionals other than doctors.

This process may see expanded prescribing rights for pharmacists.

Mark Cormack will lead the Establishing a Modern Health Workforce to meet a Modern Health System session at APP, on 23 March between 1.30pm and 2.30pm.

See www.secureregistrations.com/APP2013/.

UTS Virtual Clinic Placement

IN an Australian first, UTS Pharmacy has developed a cutting-edge Virtual Clinical Placement using clinical simulation mannequins or "robotic patients" for its Master of Pharmacy program.

The Virtual Clinical Placement allows students to interact with "patients" in real life acute and primary care scenarios as well as to practice critical patient communication skills ahead of clinical placements in hospitals, specialist clinics, and industry.

Developed by Associate Professor Beata Bajorek, the program is run over a two week period with the sessions focusing on "consolidating the discreet skills learnt throughout the semester, mimicking the competencies required in a clinical environment".

During the course, students also experience simulated ward rounds and medication chart reviews in UTS' new \$5 million simulated

hospital facility.

In addition students also attend workshops conducted by experts such as Jane Luddington, a specialist hospital pharmacist at St Vincent's Hospital who leads a drug administration session, and a practical workshop on blood sugar and anticoagulation point-of-care testing devices led by a specialist team from Roche Diagnostics.

"The virtual placement gives our students an opportunity to develop complex technical and communication skills across transitions of care.

"They're gaining experience in a safe and supported environment that allows the freedom to make mistakes and then learn from them so that they practice safely when they reach a clinical setting," said Bajorek.

"Working with the simulation mannequins gives them an unprecedented degree of realism.

"Our students are placed in hospitals like Royal North Shore, Westmead Children's, Prince of Wales and Wollongong so it's a huge advantage to have this experience before dealing with patients and colleagues in these fast-paced clinical environments," Bajorek added.



2-day MMR workshop

THE Pharmacy Guild NSW Branch is hosting a two-day Stage One for MMR Accreditation workshop between 2 - 3 February at the Pharmacy Guild offices in St Leonards.

This workshop will provide pharmacists with an understanding of the MMR process, knowledge and skills to undertake an HMR and RMMR and skills to complete Stage Two of accreditation.

The program is priced at \$480 for members and \$630 for non members.

See www.guild.org.au.

DISPENSARY CORNER

ONE woman's step is another's treasure.

British woman, Bronwen Hickmott, needed to take a few deep breaths to calm her heart rate after discovering that a stone used for a step in her garden, is in fact a 1,000-year old Buddhist moonstone.

The six-inch thick, three quarters of a ton granite moonstone had been in Hickmott's family for years, when she decided to have it examined.

At first she approached the TV show *Antiques Roadshow* and Sotheby's only to be rebuffed, and it was only when she offhandedly mentioned the stone to a valuer at Bonhams that the stone's origins were discovered.

The stone is only one of seven of its type in the world, carved by craftsmen of the Buddhist Sinhalese civilisation, and is worth around \$45,500.

PROTECT and serve.

German police dogs are set to get their own quartets of shoes to protect their paws.

The paw shoes are made from velcro and keep glass and debris out of police dog paws.

"This is not fashion frippery," said Head dog handler Thomas Schulte.

"Dogs' paws are sensitive and easily damaged and they can cut themselves on broken glass and a bad cut can put a police dog out of action for six months while they recover," he added.

Despite the best intentions however, it seems not all police dogs enjoy having their paws enclosed, with Schulte saying that during the first stages of the paw-wear trials the dogs would pull the shoes off with their teeth.

"They need about two weeks to adapt," he said.



WIN A REEF PRIZE PACK



This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a Reef prize pack, valued at over \$50 each.

Each prize pack contains Reef Dry Sun Tan Oil SPF30+, Reef Dry Touch Sunscreen Lotion SPF30+, Reef After Sun & Tan Extender and Reef iPhone cover.

Iconic Australian brand Reef will have you beach ready with this fabulous pack of Reef products including Reef Dry Sun Tan Oil SPF30+, Reef Dry Touch Sunscreen Lotion SPF30+, Reef After Sun and Tan Extender and a Reef iPhone cover. With Reef's full suncare range scented with their signature coconut fragrance, every day will seem like a summer day!

To win this great prize pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What SPF is the Reef Dry Touch Sunscreen?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Pippa Travers-Mason from Yarrabah AMS.