

PAC13 abstract call

THE PSA is soliciting submissions for poster and oral presentation abstracts for the PAC13 conference.

Pharmacy research or 'practice pearl' submissions are particularly sought, sharing real-life experience without having necessarily undertaken structured research activities - see psa.org.au/pac.

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Congratulations to **Linda Gregor** from **Mulhall & Close Narrandera Pharmacy** who is yesterday's lucky winner.

FIP joins collaboration call

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation is one of five global health professional bodies jointly calling for a new international emphasis on collaborative practice.

The World Health Professions Alliance also includes lead bodies for nurses, physical therapists, dentists and the World Medical Association, launched a major new statement on interprofessional collaboration during the World Health Organization's 66th World Health Assembly.

The statement saw health service users around the world can experience "duplication, gaps and discontinuity in the health system," which can be prevented by the professions working together, leading to "improved access to services, more user involvement in

decision making, more responsive services, better use of resources, reduced incidence of disability and increased job satisfaction of health professionals".

The WHPA has called on governments to fund structures which support health professionals working together, with FIP president Michel Buchmann saying "evidence shows that effective interprofessional collaborative practice leads to a comprehensive, coordinated and safe health system that better meets the needs of people and their communities".

The statement urges active engagement between health professional associations, as well as the incorporation into regulatory systems of collaborative practice models and standards.

Pharmacists chronic disease indicators

PHARMACISTS are being encouraged to support patients in making healthy lifestyle changes to reduce the impact of chronic diseases, with NPS Medicinewise launching a new educational program on preventive health activities.

While doctors are the main focus of the program which encourages appropriate use of tests during preventive activities in general practice, "pharmacists also play an important role," according to NPS clinical adviser Dr Andrew Boyden.

"Pharmacists are often the first port of call for many people who are not sure they need to see a GP. "This can provide an opportunity

for pharmacists to discuss the importance of chronic disease prevention and refer to a GP for risk assessment and further testing if appropriate," he added.

The new NPS Medicinewise program, which primarily focuses on healthy people aged 40-49, encourages GPs to prioritise the use of evidence-based risk assessments and tests and avoid inappropriate testing "that may cause more harm than good," Boyden said.

Tests covered in the program include PSA, Vitamin D, thyroid, diabetes risk assessment and the absolute CVT risk assessment.

For more information see nps.org.au/preventive-health.

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Picato onto RPBS

A NEW Australian developed solar keratosis treatment called Picato has been listed on the Repatriation PBS, after 15 years of local research and development.

Picato gel's active ingredient is ingenol mebutate, from the sap of the Qld-grown *Eurphobia peplus*.



TerryWhite chemists

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- **PIC** - Canberra, ACT (Job# 2009851)
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- **Pharmacist Manager**- Fraser Coast, QLD (Job# 2009813)
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- **Pharmacist Manager** - Adelaide SA (Job# 2009841)
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Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

31 May-02 Jun: PSA CPEXpo, Hordern Pavilion Sydney - see www.psa.org.au/cpexpo.

7-9 June: AACP ConPharm'13, Hilton Hotel Adelaide - www.conpharm13.com.au.

8 June: Multidisciplinary Diabetes seminar, University Club of WA - more information at medpharm.uwa.edu.au/cpd.

11 June: CHC Effective Advertising Seminar, Rydges Hotel North Sydney NSW - details at www.chc.org.au.

21-23 June: NSW Pharmacy-National Convention & Exhibition. For details see: www.nswpharmacy-nce.com.au

5-8 July: Australian College of Pharmacy's Conference and Exhibition, Brisbane - see www.acp.edu.au.

10-14 Aug: Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business 2013, Mt Buller Vic - more info at www.medic.com.au.

04-07 Sep: Navigating the Future - Pharmacy 2013: The Pharmacy Management Conference; Sheraton Mirage, Port Douglas; More details at: pharmacyconference.com.au.

19-22 Sep: Medicines Management 2013, the 39th SHPA National Conference, Cairns Convention Centre - www.mm2013shpa.com.

11-13 Oct: Pharmacy Australia Congress in Brisbane - details www.psa.org.au/pac.

14-16 Oct: Global Drug Safety Conference and Exposition, Brisbane - for more details email qldadmin@psa.org.au.

14 Nov: 2013 ASMI AGM, Conference & Awards - see www.asmi.com.au

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NAHRLS

Alprazolam to become S8

AN interim decision of the delegate of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing will see alprazolam rescheduled as S8 substance, with a proposed date for the change of 01 Jan 2014.

According to an update on the TGA website, the move follows consideration of a proposal to reschedule all benzodiazepines from S4 to S8, which was referred to the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling for advice.

The rescheduling of alprazolam has been a long-running saga, having been considered in Jun 2010 after the up-scheduling of flunitrazepam, which was included in Schedule 8 in Nov 1997 based on concerns associated with abuse.

At that time the committee said there was insufficient evidence to support an S8 restriction for alprazolam, but in this most recent review a significant number of public submissions were received, some of which urged the schedule change "due to concerns regarding abuse of this substance".

The ACMS recommended the change for alprazolam, and also that the scheduling of the remaining benzodiazepines remains appropriate.

A recommendation that

benzodiazepines be included in Appendix D, paragraph 5, has also been approved on an interim basis.

According to the interim decision, there has been a rapid increase in the use of alprazolam compared with other benzodiazepines, and evidence of widespread misuse.

Alprazolam "has increased morbidity and mortality in overdose with possible increased toxicity," and moreover does not appear to have any additional therapeutic benefits compared with any other substance in the class, the delegate said.

Also, listing in Schedule 8 for alprazolam does not restrict its short-term use for the approved indication, the statement added.

Guild seeks new NSW Branch Director

THE Pharmacy Guild has today advertised for a Branch Director NSW, with the retirement of Ian Campbell after 14 years in the role.

The "challenging role requires candidates with general management experience gained within a professional or industry member based organisational environment or the Government or not-for-profit sectors, preferably involving health related industry experience," the ad reads.

The position encompasses strategy, financial management, policy development, government relationship management and interface with the National Secretariat, working closely with the NSW Branch Committee.

DISPENSARY CORNER

THE American man who helped the Ohio kidnap victims may need to watch his weight in the future, after he was granted free hamburgers for life as a reward.

Charles Ramsay attracted worldwide attention after telling his story of the dramatic rescue to local reporters, saying he "put down his Big Mac" and rushed to help after hearing screams from his neighbour's house.

A Cleveland food blogger has now confirmed that at least 15 local restaurants have offered to give him a free burger any time he wants it.

AN intriguing survey published in the US has found that more than half of Americans would rather lose \$1,000 than gain twenty pounds of weight.

That was the opinion of 63% of women and 48% of men, in response to the annual online survey conducted by the International Food Informational Council Foundation.

"Twenty pounds outweighs a thousand dollars because it could cost more than a thousand dollars to lose the weight if you consider the price of weight loss programs," said a spokesperson.

"And those extra pounds could take a toll on your health and ultimately increase your medical costs," she added.

The survey also found that 56% of respondents said they were trying to lose weight.

FDA approves A1c test

THE US FDA has issued marketing approval of the Tina-quant HbA1cDx assay for the diagnosis of diabetes by health care professionals, making it the first HbA1c test permitted for this use.

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Jannali Chemmart