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SHPA strategic plan

THE SHPA Federal Council has endorsed a new Strategic Plan 2013-2018 for the organisation, with an overall vision of "excellence in medicines management for better health outcomes through leading edge pharmacy practice and research".

It aims to Support the continuing professional development of members, Have strong membership across hospitals and all quality use of medicines settings, Partner with key stakeholders, and Advocate for the safe and effective use of medicines in all care settings.

Aspen's export award

ASPEN has been honoured in the Health & Biotechnology category of the 51st Australian Export Awards.

The award was one of 12 categories in the annual recognition ceremony hosted by trade minister Andrew Robb this week at the National Gallery of Victoria.

The winners were selected from 76 finalists in a broad range of business categories, who together generated export earnings of \$9b in 2012-13 with a total of 22,000 staff.

The awards are presented by Austrade and the Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Guild primary health focus

PRIMARY health is the focus of a new range of services to be developed by the Guild National Council which met last week in Canberra.

David Quilty, ceo of The Pharmacy Guild of Australia said that these services are focussed in four key areas: medication management; wellness, screening and prevention; minor ailments; and chronic disease management.

Nine selection criteria were used to assess strategies: alignment with the Government's national health priorities; the likely level of consumer demand; the evidence they will enhance patient health outcomes; their relevance to existing pharmacy practice in Australia and internationally; their potential to be rolled out nationally; and likely levels of stakeholder support.

"As a next step, the Guild will now develop detailed business proposals for each of these primary health care areas," said Quilty, adding that the work will be done "in consultation with members through the Guild's Branch network, as well as other key stakeholders including potential funders, other health professionals

and groups representing Australians suffering from a range of chronic conditions.

"It is feasible that a number of these services could be trialled or piloted in a variety of pharmacy settings, including in rural areas."

The Guild will be looking to the federal government for funding through the next Community Pharmacy Agreement together with other programs within and outside the health portfolio, as well as from state & territory governments, workers compensation schemes, private health insurers, medicines companies and appropriate contributions from patients.

Quilty also confirmed that the Guild is currently reviewing its existing suite of business support services "to ensure they are assisting members to meet the challenges facing their pharmacies."

SGLT inhibitors article

AUSTRALIAN Prescriber has published a number of articles 'online first' to provide health professionals with information on a new class of diabetes drugs: sodium-glucose co-transporter (SGLT) inhibitors - [CLICK HERE](#).

Symbicort for PBS

FROM Dec 1 2013 Symbicort Rapihler (budesonide/eformoterol fumarate dihydrate) will be available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for asthma patients 12 years and older both maintenance and reliever therapy, and for moderate-to-severe COPD patients symptomatic treatment, in a pressurised metered dose inhaler (pMDI/ puffer).

Symbicort is an AstraZeneca brand with multiple presentations.

Vaccines benefit/risk

THE European Medicines Agency is launching a project for monitoring the benefits and risks associated with vaccines throughout their life-cycle.

The monitoring process creates a template for organisations to follow to gather standardised data for evaluation and ultimately communication to the wider medical community and consumers.

Bayer bids for Algeta

BAYER has offered US\$2.4 billion for Norwegian pharmaceutical manufacturer Algeta, which is its partner for the development of a new prostate cancer treatment.



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Pharmacy DAILY

Cosmetic injections

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has released a brochure containing information on advertising cosmetic injections and complying with therapeutic goods legislation.

Because of restrictions on advertising of therapeutic goods, the brochure details "general phrases" which can be used to promote the services while still complying with the law.

These include 'cosmetic injections', 'anti-wrinkle injections/treatments' and 'injections/treatments for lips'.

CLICK HERE for more info.

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*.

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TAHITI Travel Connection has some last minute Tahiti getaway packages on sale for a short time.

A five night Le Meridien Tahiti getaway starts at just \$2,395 per person, including international flights, taxes, five nights twin share accommodation and a full day Papeete City and Tahiti Island tour.

Bonuses in the offer include a free night in Tahiti, a free room upgrade, a free resort credit and free daily buffet breakfast.

There's also a 7 night Bora Bora InterContinental getaway from \$4,680 per person with free extras including two free nights, private transfers in Tahiti and daily buffet breakfast.

For more information see your travel agent or call Tahiti Travel Connection on 1300 858 305.

Clozapine claiming online

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia says it's concerned about the impact of a change which will see all public hospitals as well as eligible correctional facilities required to move to online claiming for clozapine.

The move is effective 01 Jan 2014 and will require that the medicine is recorded in the hospital's prescription recording system.

"SHPA understands that this has the potential to dismantle the shared care arrangements for patients with schizophrenia that require treatment with clozapine," according to the SHPA.

Until now public hospitals in Victoria, NSW, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia have instigated a system where clozapine is initiated and evaluated through the hospital's mental health unit.

Once the patient is stabilised their ongoing monitoring and treatment is transferred to the patient's community based health team.

"These shared care arrangements have to date been reliant upon goodwill between the hospital and community based practitioners.

"In addition, the treating hospital has been able to manually claim the cost of the medicine at a jurisdictional level through the HSD Program, even though some or most of the doses are supplied through the patient's community pharmacy," the update said.

SHPA has written to health ministers across the country as well as other groups to express its concerns about how the move will affect the care of patients who are treated with clozapine.

Boots recall in UK

UK pharmacy giant Boots Pharmaceuticals has recalled a range of liquid cough & cold products due to concerns around a potential manufacturing fault with the tamper seal on some medicines resulting in small pieces of plastic being found in the medicine.

DISPENSARY CORNER



ASTHMA attacks may become less of an issue in China soon, after revelations of a major campaign being waged by authorities against barbecues.

More than 500 open-air grills have been publicly destroyed "to cut PM2.5" which is the designation of tiny particles in the air which can enter deeply into the lungs.

Photos shown on state media showed workers cutting up the barbecues with welding equipment and angle grinders.

While welcoming the sentiments, environmental activists have suggested that the government would perhaps be better to focus on other larger sources of air pollution such as factories and motor vehicles.

IT'S nearly as good as a defibrillator.

A 63-year-old police chief in the USA has announced plans to raise much-needed funds to boost his department's budget, by offering to be shot by a taser.

Danny Baker from Knightstown, Indiana says he needs \$9,000 to buy a new squad car, and will host an event at the local high school where spectators can see what it looks like when 50,000 volts passes through a human body.

"It's a shame we have to go to the extent of having fundraisers and getting electrified and so forth, but with small-town budgets you have to do something to get by," he said.

As well as the stun gun demonstration the attendees will also get to see some police dogs in action - but not actually attacking a person.

During the taser attack he will be held up by two of his officers, with paramedics on hand with an ambulance just in case something goes wrong.

The demo will be a valuable lesson, with parents able to tell their kids "See, if you mess up and don't do what the police tell you to do, that's going to be you".

WIN A DESIGNER BRANDS SHOWTIME COLLECTION



DB DESIGNER BRANDS

This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a Designer Brands Showtime Collection kit, valued at \$39.99.

This year Designer Brands has Christmas all wrapped up with inspiring gift ideas starting from only \$7.99.

The 2013 beauty must-have is Designer Brands Showtime Collection, it is an essential make-up palette - contains over 150 products!

Inside you will find an extensive range of 70 Eye Shadows, 12 Crème Eye Liners, 54 Lip Glosses, 3 Blushes, 6 Lip & Cheek Crèmes, 3 Illuminators and Applicators.

To win this exciting prize pack, simply be the first person to correctly answer the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

How much is DB's Kohl Pencil?

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners, **Barbara Wager** from **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia**.