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Leadership program

LEADERS in the community and not-for-profit sector, especially in medicine, in ageing, disability and home care, are invited to apply for a scholarship to participate in one of Australia's most highly regarded leadership development programs in 2014.

The Sydney Leadership program is an annual, highly competitive eight-month program that brings together a group of 30 leaders and emerging leaders.

"This is an invitation for people with both the desire and the potential to make a real difference in their work," said Geoff Aigner, Director of Social Leadership Australia Director.

"Sydney Leadership will help you align with your deepest sense of purpose," he added.

"It will challenge you, inspire you and change you."

For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

Registration audit results

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency has released the outcome of an audit of pharmacists undertaken in July this year, with the pilot study used to develop an overall auditing framework which will roll out to all regulated health professions.

The audit focused on compliance with certain registration standards including criminal record checks, continuing professional development, recency of practice and professional indemnity insurance.

The pilot also included optometry and chiropractic audits.

The pharmacy audit involved a fixed sample size, with participants selected from all pharmacy registrants who had renewed at least once with the national Pharmacy Board of Australia.

The majority (92.2%) of audited

pharmacists were sent a successful renewal outcome letter, while 2.7% didn't respond to the renewal request meaning their registration will be administratively withdrawn.

1.4% of practitioners audited changed to a 'non-practising' status during the audit period, while 1.2% withdrew their application for registration after seeking further information from the audit team.

2% were found not to comply with one or more standards - and of those, one in five failed the CPD requirement, one in five didn't have suitable indemnity insurance, while the rest failed the recency of practice requirement.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the report.

DDS considers robots

THE Discount Drug Stores chain has confirmed that it's looking at implementing automated dispensing technologies, with the move aiming to allow pharmacists to spend even more time one-on-one with customers.

DDS Professional Services Manager, Casey Clark, said a number of the group's pharmacies are investigating the systems.

"At Discount Drug Stores our core focus is on providing customers with quality, tailored service and advice so we are always looking at new ways in which we can achieve this and where we can make our pharmacists more available to their customers," she said.

Clark also said that with supermarkets stocking more OTC medicines, a focus on providing customers with a high level of personal service and care is "giving pharmacy a point of difference".

"Our pharmacists are easily accessible and can provide expert knowledge and advice to customers quickly and easily," she added.

PAC13's global appeal

THE PSA says its Pharmacy Australia Congress has proven its global appeal, with registrations already being received from eight overseas destinations.

Attendees will come to PAC13 from the UK, Qatar, China, Nigeria, New Zealand, Japan, Canada and the US, taking part in the Brisbane Conference from 10-13 October.

PAC13's theme of *ONE profession, ONE focus, ONE voice* is resonating worldwide, the PSA said - for more details see psa.org.au/pac



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Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **David Shaw**, Recruitment Consultant at **Raven's Recruitment**.



Pharmacists now have more options!

There was a time when being a Pharmacist meant dispensing, counselling and assisting with the occasional front of shop sale. No more! I've been seeing more pharmacies stepping outside of the box and offering options for Pharmacists to specialise in new and dynamic areas. Some examples:

- **Aged Care Pharmacist:** Focus on DAA's, maintaining and developing client relationships plus clinical services like medication reviews.
 - **Customer Care Pharmacist:** A non-dispensing retail Pharmacist role with the focus on being in the Front of Shop to engage with customers.
 - **Professional Services Pharmacist:** To focus on 5CPA programs and services for obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, etc.
 - **Clinical Pharmacist:** In Hospitals, working with Allied Health Professionals for medication optimisation for patients.
 - **Accredited Pharmacist:** Offering Medication Management Review services such as HMR, RMMR and QUM
 - **Dispensing Pharmacist:** Focus on dispensing medicines, counselling, monitoring for adverse effects, interactions, etc. The most diverse Pharmacist.
 - **Oncology Pharmacist:** Focus on one of many settings like medical oncology, haematology, palliative care and cytotoxic preparation services.
 - **Compounding Pharmacist:** To focus on creating patient-specific pharmaceuticals as prescribed, generally in a community setting.
- With so many options available, what will you choose?

Pharmacy education report

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has launched the 2013 FIPEd Global Education Report, the first publication of its kind to provide a baseline on the current status and transformation of pharmacy and pharmaceutical science education worldwide.

Australian pharmacists had significant input to the report, with participants including Jennifer Marriott and Kirstie Galbraith from Monash University as well as Andrew Brown from the University of Canberra.

The report was released during the 73rd International FIP World Congress in Dublin, Ireland last week, with FIP saying "in recent times the roles and responsibility of pharmacists have been evolving from a single focus on the actual medicine to patient-oriented pharmaceutical services provision."

FIP said that advancement of the profession is strongly dependent on robust and contemporary education programs for both initial and lifetime education.

The report lays out the current pharmacy education and workforce situation across 109 countries and territories around the world, covering about 175,000 students at 2500 educational institutions.

According to the report, the data indicates that education varies considerably between countries, and generally correlates with

population size and country level economic development indicators.

"There needs to be an ongoing effort to ensure that initial education and training meets the pharmaceutical health needs of nations," according to FIP.

There are 14 case studies in the report, giving an overview of the transformation that is occurring in pharmacy and pharmaceutical science education globally.

"Notably there is a shift to patient centred, team based practice and to clinically focused, integrated curricula with increasing opportunities for patient and practice centred learning," according to Dr Henri Manasse Jr, chair of the FIPEd Steering Committee.

The report also warns that there is still a shortage of pharmacist academics and clinical preceptors worldwide.

CLICK HERE to view the report.

Abraxane US OK

THE US Food and Drug Administration has expanded the approved uses of Abraxane (paclitaxel protein-bound particles for injectable suspension, albumin-bound) to treat patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer.

Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the USA, with an estimated 45,220 patients diagnosed this year.

Abraxane, marketed by Celgene in the US, is also approved to treat breast cancer and non-small cell lung cancer.

EMA warns on beta-agonists

THE European Medicines Agency's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) has recommended that short-acting beta-agonists should no longer be used in oral or suppository forms in obstetric indications.

The medications have been used for suppressing premature labour or excessive labour contractions, but the committee says that known risks of cardiovascular side effects with high doses outweigh the benefits.

However injectable forms of the medicines should remain authorised for short term obstetric use under specific conditions, the Committee concluded.

At its most recent meeting the PRAC also initiated a new review procedure for bromocriptine-containing medicines when used orally for preventing or suppressing lactation in women following childbirth.

"The PRAC will assess whether the benefits of these medicines outweigh the risk of rare but potentially serious (including fatal) cardiovascular, enurological and psychiatric side effects," a communiqué from the meeting said.

MEANWHILE the Committee also recommended the suspension of the marketing authorisation of Numeta G13%E, an intravenous nutrition preparation given to premature babies.

The PRAC said it was making the move because of a risk of hypermagnesaemia, with the product requiring reformulation.

RAPS wraps FDA

THE Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society (RAPS) has published a new book that thoroughly covers the regulation of pharmaceutical marketing and promotions by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The book, *FDA Requirements for Prescription Drug Promotion*, by John Driscoll, addresses topics such as fair balance, material facts, off-label promotion and Internet and social media communications and costs \$US54.95 plus shipping.

The book's first chapter, *Prescription Drug Labeling*, is publicly available online.

CLICK HERE to access chapter one.

THE WAIT IS OVER!

The new AMH Children's Dosing Companion, the ONLY national evidence-based guide to paediatric medicines

dosing, is now available for purchase.

You can find out more by going to www.amh.net.au



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e-Cigarette cessation study

THE Australian Self-Medication is advocating that electronic cigarettes should be regulated as registered therapeutic goods, in the light of the publication of a new study about the effectiveness of the devices as a smoking cessation aid.

It's the first time that e-cigarettes have been studied in relation to smoking cessation, with the research from the National Industry of Health Innovation at the University of Auckland published online in *The Lancet* yesterday.

The study intriguingly found that the devices, which produce a vapour containing nicotine, were at least as effective as nicotine patches in helping people to give up smoking.

7.3% of smokers using e-cigarettes had quit after six months, compared to 5.8% using patches.

And although it was only a small sample size, Professor Chris Bullen from the University of Auckland said "while our patches don't show any clear-cut differences between e-cigarettes and patches in terms of 'quit success' after six months, it certainly seems that e-cigarettes were more effective in helping smokers who didn't quit to cut down".

Professor Bullen said it was also interesting that study participants seemed to be much more enthusiastic about e-cigarettes than patches, and said given their increasing popularity "larger longer-term trials are urgently needed to establish whether these devices might be able to fulfil their potential as effective and popular smoking cessation aids".

ASMI expressed caution about the study, saying that currently there's insufficient data to determine whether e-cigarettes can be considered safe, effective and reliable smoking cessation aids.

"This data would be required to classify e-cigarettes as therapeutic goods and allow them to be sold alongside proven nicotine replacement therapies," ASMI said.



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New orphan drug

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has added Mepact (mifamurtide) to its list of designated orphan drugs.

Mepact powder for infusion is sponsored by Nycomed Pty Ltd is indicated for the treatment of bone cancer.

MATES on Statins

THE Veterans MATES' service has released a new module dealing with statins, including a brochure for veterans and a therapeutic brief for health professionals.

Statins: keeping the benefits, reducing the risks focuses on the therapeutic management of veteran patients on statin therapy, outlining steps to consider in avoiding adverse effects associated with the medications - **CLICK HERE**.



DISPENSARY CORNER

HEALTH officials in Washington DC have proposed a new regulation which would impose a 24 hour waiting period for piercings and tattoos.

A spokesperson for the Washington DC Health Department said "We're making sure when that decision is made that you're in the right frame of mind, and you don't wake up in the morning saying 'what happened?'".

The new regulation aims to ensure that people don't make spontaneous decisions which have permanent consequences while they're under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Another target is to reduce the number of cases of Hepatitis B and other potential risks.

CRUISE holidays are notorious for leading to weight gain, as travellers relax, enjoy all-you-can-eat buffets and lie around all day.

However some cruise lines have introduced unusual exercise equipment to encourage cruisers to battle the bulge.

Norwegian Cruise Lines has a number of innovations including 'Boxercise' rings where people can work out just like Rocky.

On the same theme, another option is Nexersys 'fight training modules' where passengers engage in "high-intensity interval training" against a virtual avatar opponent.

More relaxed options on board some Crystal and Cunard ships include 'Walkvests' - weighted cotton outfits which add resistance while you walk around the desk.

Celebrity Cruises offers the 'Gravity Reformer' - a "free-rolling glideboard" used during special classes which apparently helps with body sculpting.

And believe it or not, MSC Cruise Lines has introduced another unique combination called "Aqua Cycling," which as the name implies involves riding a special cycle in the ship's pool.

Parties commit to generics

THE Generic Medicines Industry Association says that all major Australian political parties voiced their commitment to generic medicines and the PBS in the lead-up to last weekend's election.

The GMiA has released excerpts from letters received from the ALP, the Coalition and the Greens.

The Labor Party wrote "Generic Medicines will continue to play an important role in the Rudd Labor Government's vision for a healthy and prosperous Australia."

According to the Greens, "In government, the Australian Greens would consider several proposals to provide direct incentives to consumers to switch to generics.

"We would also consider more structural reforms to the PBS in order to more quickly realise the potential for savings when generic alternatives become available," The Greens letter continued.

And a letter to the GMiA from the Coalition said the Liberals and Nationals "recognise the important role of generic medicines in supporting the sustainability of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme".

GMiA ceo Kate Lynch said the Association looks forward to working with the new parliament to ensure that Australians continue to be well served by the PBS and the surety of supply of important medicines through the PBS.

"It makes good economic sense and health-wise Australians should be able to have access to more affordable, equally safe, high quality generic medicines," Ms Lynch said on Friday.

WANT TO LOOK 5 YEARS YOUNGER?



This week **Pharmacy Daily** has teamed up with **Plunketts** and every day is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a prize pack including Collagen Lift 50g plus a trial size (8ml) of Glyco Peel, valued at \$49.95.

John Plunkett Collagen Lift Moisturiser contains clinically proven levels of the potent anti-ageing active, Matrixyl 3000. Matrixyl 3000 stimulates collagen production in the skin and has been proven to reduce wrinkles by 45% in just two months and visibly reduce your age by more than 5 years! Collagen Lift has been formulated for normal to dry skin

and can be used both day and night. Pharmacy quality cosmeceuticals at a realistic price - Australian made and owned.

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

What is the ingredient in Collagen Lift that stimulates collagen production?