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APP earlybird reg

EARLYBIRD registrations for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and Trade Exhibition (APP) are set to close in three weeks, on 31 Jan 2014.

Registering early will save up to \$100 on the registration fee, the PGA said.

The conference, held at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre in Broadbeach, offers a four-day educational program and a trade exhibition with more than 330 stands.

For more info CLICK HERE.

NZ funds Tarceva

PHARMAC has extended funding for erlotinib (Tarceva) from 01 Jan.

Erlotinib and another similar drug gefitinib (Iressa) are tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs) that have changed the way aggressive lung cancer is treated, and improved the prospects of people diagnosed with lung cancer.

"For patients identified through testing, the TKIs have three major advantages over the chemotherapy treatments they are replacing," said PHARMAC Deputy Medical Director Dilky Rasiah.

CLICK HERE for details.

ACCC slams slim scams

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is warning consumers to beware of weight loss scams when looking to fulfil a New Year's resolution.

"Scammers are experts at preying upon people's vulnerabilities and try to take advantage of people's good intentions to improve their health in the New Year.

"Unfortunately if you fall for this scam, the only place you will feel lighter is your wallet," ACCC Deputy Chair Dr Michael Schaper said.

Last year, the ACCC received 173 contacts about weight loss scams – a 50 per cent increase on the previous year.

Total reported losses in 2013 were over \$20,000, a 70 per cent increase on 2012.

Over 70 per cent of people who have come into contact with this scam have lost money and the average individual loss is \$165.

They typically involve an unusual or restrictive diet, revolutionary exercise, a 'fat-busting' device or breakthrough pills, patches or creams.

"At the beginning of every year," Schaper continued, "the ACCC receives an increase in contacts from the public about weight loss scams

Raven's

Most commonly, victims start with a free trial of a weight loss product then incur extra charges and are signed up to hidden subscriptions.

"Victims report being unable to contact the billing companies involved and are therefore unable to cancel the subscriptions or stop the charges occurring."

He said that one of the associated problems is that even when a chargeback has been issued by the bank, new charges have appeared at a later date.

The scams highlight the value of shopping for weight management products at a trusted community pharmacist.

CLICK HERE to read the warning.

FDA approves Mekinist

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved GSK's Mekinist (trametinib) for use in combination with Tafinlar (dabrafenib) for the treatment of patients with unresectable melanoma or metastatic melanoma with BRAF V600E or V600K mutations.

CLICK HERE for details.

DHEA improves pill

A DUTCH doctoral thesis provides support for a new and improved version of the contraceptive pill that may help to reduce the effect of reduced testosterone.

DHEA (dehydroepiandrosterone) is a hormone produced by the body's adrenal glands and is an endogenous pre-hormone of testosterone.

The research, from the University Medical Center Utrecht (UMC Utrecht), shows that adding it to the pill restores testosterone levels, and may reduce pill side-effects.

Cardiology seminar

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) is hosting a two-day interactive cardiology seminar for pharmacists.

There will be four workshops and lectures from cardiologists and cardiology pharmacists.

The conference will be held 1-2 March 2014 at the Sofitel Gold Coast, Broadbeach, Queensland and is accredited for up to 19 CPD credits suitable for inclusion in an individual pharmacist's CPD plan.

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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.

4 Feb 2014: Cardiovascular

call: (07) 3831 9246

www.psa.org.au

Disease & Type 2 Diabetes

Risk Assessment; Brisbane;

8 Feb 2014: Pharmacy on the

21-23 Feb 2014: CPD by the

SEA - NSW Convention;

Move; Sydney; more info at:

Novotel Sydney Manly Pacific

- www.cpdbythesea.com.au

21-23 Feb 2014: Foundation

Clinical Pharmacy Practice

Seminar; InterContinental

Adelaide - see more at:

28 Feb - 1 Mar: Blackmores

Australian Technology Park,

Sydney, more info at: http://

wired.ivvy.com/event/BIS13/

Institute Symposium;

1-2 Mar 2014: Cardiology Seminar; Sofitel Gold Coast

7-9 March 2014: PSA Annual

Crown Plaza Terrigal; see

www.psa.org.au/conferences

Broadbeach - visit:

www.shpa.org.au

Therapeutic Update;

www.shpa.org.au

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Obesity action urged

the Study of Obesity (IASO) has governments to act on obesity.

ahead of the United Nations Non Communicable Diseases summit this year, and the World Health Organization has said obesity has reached "epidemic proportions" globally, with at least 2.8 million of being overweight or obese.

"Tobacco, alcohol, poor diets and sedentary behaviour lie behind much of the disease burden," said the briefing, urging governments to take a systems wide approach to combatting obesity and to work with civil society.

to protect consumers, particularly children, from inducements to eat

The plan had a strong emphasis on government leadership and

Lobstein said the sooner governments started to act, the cheaper and more effective their actions would be.

THE Australian Pharmacy Council has released information about the process and fees required for international accreditation of pharmacy degree programs.

For more **CLICK HERE**.

THE International Association for published a 10 point plan urging

The plan has been released people dying each year as a result

The plan also urges further steps unhealthy products.

IASO policy director Dr Tim

"In isolation governments are reluctant to undertake market interventions as they don't want

freedoms. "However there is a good case for clear traffic light labelling on products, for banning junk food marketing to children, and for adjusting the existing subsidies and taxes to increase the consumption of healthier foods," he added decrying general diet ignorance.

to be seen to restrict people's

To read the briefing CLICK HERE.

J&J petitions FDA

JOHNSON & Johnson has petitioned the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) asking that biosimilars be required to bear similar, not identical, names to those of their reference products.

The FDA is drafting regulations for the approval of biosimilars and J&J chief biotechnology officer Jay Siegel said assigning similar, but not identical, names would reflect the legal and scientific reality that biosimilars were similar but not the same as their reference products, Reuters reported.

To read more **CLICK HERE**.



DISPENSARY CORNER

RESEARCH is dragon behind.

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) has apologised for its lack of dragon

Seven year old Sophie Lester of Queensland sent the organisation a letter asking for a dragon for Christmas, to feed raw fish and bandage, should it get hurt.

The CSIRO released a statement this week apologising to the nation for its lack of a dragon research program, the Canberra Times reported.

"Over the past 87 odd years we have not been able to create a dragon or dragon eggs...our work has never ventured into dragons of the mythical, fire-breathing variety. And for this Australia, we are sorry."

The organisation said there could be practical uses for

"Would dragon fuel be a lowemissions option?"

International credit

Shake It Up with IsoWhey@ - WIN



This week **Pharmacy** Daily has teamed up with **IsoWhey** for a daily giveaway. Every day one lucky reader will have the chance to win a selected flavour from the IsoWhey range.

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Who is IsoWhey suited for?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Ghazal Ghodosi from Choice Pharmacy Townsville.



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