

PAC14 abstracts call

PHARMACIST researchers and practitioners are being given the opportunity to showcase their work through poster and oral presentations at the Pharmacy Australia Congress (PAC14) in October.

The call for abstracts ends on 31 Jul and successful presenters will be notified by 14 Aug.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

Thermoskin in to win

PHARMACY staff and their customers have the chance to win \$5,000 cash when purchasing any Thermoskin product until 20 Oct.

Five other people would win an iPad if they shared their tip on how to stay active and healthy in winter, the company said.

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Pharmacists in GP clinics

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and the Australian Medical Association (AMA) are working together to develop a model of pharmacists working in general practice clinics (**PD** breaking news yesterday).

An AMA spokesperson said it was proposed that the pharmacist would be working in the GP clinic but not be involved in dispensing.

Instead, activities the pharmacist might undertake included medication management reviews, updating GPs on new medications and supporting GP prescribing.

PSA ceo Dr Lance Emerson said it was important to develop appropriate funding parameters for such a model to ensure it was viable and sustainable.

The AMA said work was still in the early stages and the organisations were looking to develop a funding model for Government to consider, "possibly in the context of the 2015-16 Budget cycle."

PSA national president Grant Kardachi said there were already examples of pharmacists working successfully in GP clinics, including PSA Young Pharmacist of the Year Chris Freeman in Brisbane.

Duties performed included education for staff and patients about medication issues and working with GPs to deliver the best drug therapy for patients.

With regards to the Queensland Pharmacist Immunisation Pilot, Kardachi said the fact that the organisations could work closely on this project while "agreeing to disagree" on pharmacist-delivered

vaccinations reflected the maturity of the relationship.

"We won't always agree on the delivery of services but we are united in our commitment to improving health outcomes for the community."

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) president Professor Michael Dooley said the SHPA was strongly supportive of any strategy where there was multi-disciplinary collaboration with regards to patient care.

Australia on HIV

AUSTRALIA'S Chief Medical Officer Professor Chris Baggeley told the 20th International AIDS Conference that while the country had made good progress in addressing HIV over the last 30 years, the rate of new diagnoses was increasing and had been for about 14 years.

"There were 1,236 cases of HIV infection newly diagnosed in Australia in 2013, similar to the number in 2012, and the highest rates we have seen since the early 1990s – almost 20 years ago."

While 70% of new diagnoses were attributed to sexual contact between men, there was increasing numbers of HIV transmission through heterosexual contact, he said, with almost half the new diagnoses attributed to heterosexual transmission in migrant communities from high HIV-prevalence countries and their partners – for more, [CLICK HERE](#).

CHF reinforces posn

THE Consumer Health Forum's (CHF) submission to the Competition Policy Review has been amended around "technical" issues of ownership and control of pharmacies by wholesalers and the impact this could be having on consumer pricing.

The consumer advocate organisation had written "the ownership of large pharmacy brands by Australia's major pharmaceutical distributors could be contributing to the high price of Australian medicines compared with overseas markets."

The CHF maintains that the technicalities of actual ownership versus control don't alter the central concern about the way the current market structure may be contributing to higher pharmaceutical prices in Australia.

Ceo Adam Stankevicius also referred to research from the University of Melbourne and the Grattan Institute which supported the argument.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

Alerts up inhaler use

NEW research from the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research has reportedly shown that patients who use inhalers with reminders were more likely to take medication.

Due to be published in *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* today, the study looked at 43 GPs who enrolled 143 patients aged 14 to 65 with frequent asthma symptoms, divided into four groups, the Institute said.

Patients in the group which received inhaler reminders if they missed a dose and online usage feedback took on average 73% of their prescribed daily doses over six months, compared with 46% among patients who did not get these reminders, it said.

There was no significant difference in asthma symptom control, which senior author Professor Helen Reddel said was possibly due to Australian patients generally being prescribed high doses of inhaled corticosteroid.

[CLICK HERE](#) to go to the journal.

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Sigma eye health

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals Ltd's Amcal and Guardian pharmacies are launching an eye health awareness campaign in partnership with the Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA).

The campaign would involve Amcal and Guardian pharmacists giving patients a structured plan to help prevent diabetes-related vision loss, including the importance of healthy eating, the role of blood pressure and the need to have regular eye checks, Sigma said.

The campaign will run in July.

CERA principal investigator Dr Peter van Wijngaarden said the organisation was committed to developing an efficient, cost-effective and sustainable nationwide diabetic eye screening system to detect the early changes of eye disease and start treatment before vision loss occurred.

Macquarie and J&J

MACQUARIE University and Johnson & Johnson Medical have signed a collaborative agreement to address emerging issues in Australian healthcare.

A Macquarie University spokeswoman said students from a pharmacy background who took on further study with the university could benefit from this.

"The value is really in what we will be able to do together including the research outcomes and the value to the community from this joint healthcare-related work."

The collaboration meant the two organisations would work together on joint education and research programs while providing practical experience for Macquarie students and training for clinicians, the organisations said.

It involves four initial work streams including new R&D and innovation projects.

Macquarie was not aware of any conflict of interest issues, the spokeswoman said.

The move comes as Engagement Australia said at its annual conference this week that universities needed to commit to working closer with business and community to drive research.

PPDC meets for first time

THE Advanced Pharmacy Practice Framework Steering Committee's (APFSC) new incarnation has a name, the Pharmacy Practitioner Development Committee (PPDC).

The possibility of continuing the organisation in a similar forum and arrangement was discussed with members but a name was not divulged (**PD** 09 Apr).

The first meeting was held earlier this month, a communiqué said.

This transition was due to the 10 pharmacy organisation full time members, which the National

Australian Pharmacy Students' Association had been invited to join.

Dr Shane Jackson would remain the chair, the communiqué said.

The PPDC would work on a review of the national competency standards framework for pharmacists, including consultation with the profession, the development of a profession-wide position on pharmacist prescribing and assisting the implementation of an advanced pharmacy practice recognition model, it said.

Apotex patent case

THE Federal Court of Australia has ordered that the specification of Les Laboratoires Servier's patent titled 'New salt of perindopril and pharmaceutical compositions containing it' did not comply with the Patents Act because it failed to disclose the best method known of performing the invention.

In the case between the applicant Apotex Pty Ltd and the respondents Les Laboratoires Servier and Servier Laboratories (Aust) Pty Ltd, the Honourable Justice Rares also ruled that Apotex's claim for relief in its amended application be dismissed but that the question as to whether any amendment to the patent ought to be granted, among others, would be reserved for consideration.

CLICK HERE for more.

Aged care quality

AUSTENDER has released a Request for Tender from the Department of Social Services to work with government to put a national quality indicator program in place that comprised a set of evidence based quality indicators in aged care and other comparable settings.

Services included piloting an initial set of clinical care quality indicators for residential aged care, the Department said.

CLICK HERE for more.

Orphan drugs added

DENOSUMAB (XGEVA) and Natalizumab (TYSABRI) have been added by the Therapeutic Goods Administration as orphan drugs.

CLICK HERE for more.

New AusPARs

NEW Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines (AusPARs) have been added for Lurasidone hydrochloride (Latuda), Thyroxine sodium (Eltroxin, Aspen Thyroxine, Thyroxine Aspen) and Trametinib (as dimethyl sulfoxide) (Mekinist).

CLICK HERE to read the new AusPARs.

MHRA opioid updates

THE UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has updated its opioid learning module to cover recent concerns around application and disposal of transdermal patches such as Fentanyl which have been known to stick to other people's skin upon contact.

CLICK HERE to go to the module.

HF urges flu shot

PEOPLE at high risk of heart disease are being urged by the Heart Foundation (HF) to get the flu shot based on research suggesting it could halve their risk of heart attack.

Evidence demonstrated that those at risk who caught the flu were less likely to suffer a heart attack if they had been vaccinated, HF said.

ASMI: CM evidence

THE Australian Self Medication Industry (ASMI) says there is a growing evidence base to support the use of complementary medicines.

ASMI was responding to an article in the *Australian*, 'Hard to Swallow this Bitter Pill', which argued that pharmacists should not sell complementary medicines.

ASMI regulatory and scientific affairs director Steve Scarff said they played an important role in maintaining good health and preventing and treating illness.

"Millions of Australians have embraced complementary medicines as a way of treating short term ailments, preventing and managing chronic conditions and staying healthy."

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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

New Designer Brands Lavish Lip Gloss

Lip colour is the most used colour cosmetic among Australian women, Designer Brands says, and as a result they are updating their lip category. It all starts with **Designer Brands Lavish Lip Gloss**. This new and improved formula is highly pigmented for intense colour. The gloss is ultra-shiny yet doesn't leave lips feeling sticky or tacky. The paraben-free formula of Designer Brands Lavish Lip Gloss also contains vitamin E and beeswax for soft, supple lips.

Stockist: 1300 765 332

RRP: \$7.99

Website: www.dbcosmetics.com.au



New Poise Hourglass Pads, shaped for comfort

This month Kimberly-Clark's Poise brand is upgrading its pads range, introducing **Poise Hourglass Pads** with a unique new design to give women the ideal balance of comfort and protection. The new hourglass design has been developed to better fit a woman's body for increased comfort and performance with the same outstanding absorbent protection expected of the Poise brand. The new pads have the same unique four layer design as the previous range that quickly draws moisture away from the skin and into the lock-away core as well as a soft dry touch cover for extra comfort. A new commercial program will launch including TV, print and online advertising as well as a sampling program to drive awareness of the product changes.

Stockist: 1800 028 334

RRP: From \$5.90 for Super 14 pads

Website: www.kimberly-clark.com.au



Boost skin regeneration while you sleep with Qsilica Beauty Sleep

Qsilica Beauty Sleep introduces an innovative Dietary Supplement and Night Cream to help nourish and feed your skin, whilst also supporting your quality of sleep. Qsilica has launched a dual action product that enhances both sleep and skin health to help you wake up feeling more refreshed and with nourished skin. The products contain elements which provide antioxidant support for skin cell protection and regeneration as well as moisture retention.

Stockists: 1800 064 953

RRP: \$24.95 (30 tabs) \$44.95 (60 tabs) \$29.95 (52ml cream)

Website: www.qsilica.com



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Stockist: 02 9417 7522

RRP: \$19.95 75ml Day Cream, \$29.95 50ml Night Cream

Website: www.rosehipplus.com.au

DISPENSARY CORNER

THAT'S one way to do it.

If you've been thinking about how best to advertise your pharmacy or services (aside, obviously, from in *Pharmacy Daily*), you could take this Japanese bar's idea as inspiration - to tackle the problems of excessive drinking, the Yaocho Bar Group has started using sleeping, drunk people around Tokyo as human billboards warning about excessive alcohol intake, the *Telegraph* reported.

A video of the action says low alcohol tolerance and a need to let their hair down after a week of hard work means Japan sees "thousands of people drinking until they drop"; where drop means falling asleep.

The Group uses duct tape and portable headlines to make human posters - **CLICK HERE** to view the video of the work.

I WANT to be special - d'oh!

If a heavily tattooed man walks into your dispensary and asks for his 'd'oh-se', you may be speaking with Lee Weir, a New Zealand man whose dedication to Homer Simpson was proven by his determination to give up beer for a year to pay for the largest collection of Homer tattoos ever etched onto the skin of a human - and yes, he made it into the Guinness World Records.

According to *stuff.co.nz*, Weir, 27, had to show a dermatologist his inked epidermis, who verified the 'achievement'.

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