

## Pharmacy "Essential Financial Skills"

Brisbane 19-20th August

Last Workshop for 2014

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"With the PBS changes, this workshop has empowered me to analyse my business and put strategies in place to reduce the impact. Geoff is a vibrant presenter."

Fiona Mann, Mannum Chemplus



Pharmacy Accredited A1403FMRC1 This course has been accredited for 28 group 2 CPD credits and 10 group 1 CPD credits for inclusion on a pharmacist's CPD Record. Participants can convert the 10 group 1 CPD credits into 20 group 2 CPD credits by completing an optional assessment within 3 months.

## NZ pandemic stock

THE New Zealand Ministry of Health has published information about the country's national reserve supplies against a pandemic, including composition and costs involved.

The Ministry said the current stock holding was valued at \$28.62m with Tamiflu and Relenza making up a significant proportion of this at 1,112,800 and 229, 880 courses respectively.

It received \$8m annually - for more, [CLICK HERE](#).

## EMA to review ibuprofen

THE European Medicines Agency's (EMA) Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee has started a review to evaluate the cardiovascular risks with systemic ibuprofen medicines.

This followed the Committee's work examining the risks of other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and would look at the cardiovascular risks of high dose ibuprofen (2,400 mg per day) taken regularly for long periods, it said.

Ibuprofen was usually taken at lower doses for short periods and as such there was no suggestion of similar cardiovascular risk as used by most patients, the EMA said.

The review would also look at evidence regarding the interaction of ibuprofen with low-dose aspirin.

A spokesperson for the Therapeutic Goods Administration

said it was in the process of finalising a review of NSAIDs, including ibuprofen, and their association with cardiovascular risk, which it expected to publish in coming months.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

## Sunscreen only a start

SUNSCREEN is not the only measure that people should take to avoid the effects of UV radiation.

Recent research, published in *Nature*, investigated the molecular basis of melanomagenesis and demonstrated in mouse models that sunscreen (UVA superior, UVB sun protection factor (SPF) 50) delayed the onset of UVR-driven melanoma, but only provided partial protection.

"UV light targets the very genes protecting us from its own damaging effects, showing how dangerous this cancer-causing agent is," lead researcher Prof Richard Marais told *BBC News*.

He said the work highlighted the importance of combining sunscreen with other strategies to protect skin, including wearing hats and loose fitting clothing, and seeking shade.

## API partners Fred

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries (API) and the Fred IT Group have announced a new partnership which will enable Priceline Pharmacy prescription customers to order their prescriptions and receive script reminders via eRx Express on their smartphone or tablet.

API ceo and md Stephen Roche said the decision was based on a strategic commitment to ensure that, wherever possible, API digital services integrated with existing eHealth networks.

"Currently eRx Express, via Fred's eRx network, is the only mobile app that allows this."

Fred IT ceo Paul Naismith said consumer apps were a vital innovation in pharmacy professional services, improving health outcomes by making it easier and safer for customers to manage their medicines whilst also increasing communication between pharmacy and pharmacy customers and creating workflow efficiencies for pharmacy.

## Two weeks to submit

AUSTRALIANS who have made a significant contribution to health and medical research have until 01 Jul to submit a nomination for the Research Australia Awards worth \$80k in partnership with GSK.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more detail.

## TGA clarifies AE stats

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has elucidated the difference between its medicines and vaccines adverse event report, stating that it received about 17,500 adverse events reports in 2013 and its half year report which said it received about 20,000 reports (*PD* 30 May).

A spokesperson from the TGA said the medicines statistics excluded reports where causality was unclear or where no temporal relationship was identified between reported event and medicine.

When these 2,604 reports were excluded from the total, the TGA received 17,452 adverse event reports in 2013, they said.




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## RGH - health literacy

**THE** RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin this week examines the issues around health literacy among the elderly.

It highlights that adherence to therapy is an important factor in the safe use of medication in the elderly population with particular reference made to patients requiring intensive long term treatments - **CLICK HERE** for more.

### Guild Update

**WHAT** a pity some officials of the Australian Medical Association (AMA) are continuing to try to obstruct the sensible development of vaccinations by pharmacists across Australia.

The latest phoney arguments from the AMA were raised in Western Australia where a weekend media report noted that the Guild is liaising with Curtin University to develop a vaccination component into the pharmacy degree course.

Predictably, the AMA has raised issues of training and privacy – both of which are fully dealt with in the vaccination trial currently being conducted very successfully in Queensland.

In the Queensland trial, which has already safely vaccinated 8,500 people since April, pharmacies cannot participate unless they have a private area to conduct the procedure.

Pharmacists are administering vaccinations safely in comparable countries all over the world, including in every state of the United States.

Pharmacists involved in any vaccination program must be fully trained. Nationally accredited courses to train qualified pharmacists have already been developed.

This is just a common sense step to improve access to vaccinations, beginning with flu vaccination for adults not otherwise covered by the National Immunisation Program.

Given the pressure on doctors' waiting rooms, we think it would be better if the AMA supported this step for the benefit of patients.



**The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia**

## Heart care framework

**THE** National Heart Foundation of Australia has published a framework to improve systems of care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians who have had a heart attack.

Published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, the framework called for reform of the health system and outlined measures to help remove differences in diagnosis, case and outcomes compared with non-Indigenous patients, the Foundation said.

To read the publication, **CLICK HERE**.

## Foundation tops \$1m

**PRICELINE** Pharmacy's community initiative, the Priceline Sisterhood, has become the Priceline Sisterhood Foundation with Ita Buttrose as patron and has exceeded the \$1m mark in total funds raised since 2011.

Six Australian charities that support women in areas of heart health, mental health, family wellbeing and cancer are the recipients of the funds including the Post and Antenatal Depression Association (PANDA), Alzheimer's Australia and the Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation.

## Health software

**AGED** cared software company Management Advantage and medication management solutions company Webstercare have announced that aged care facility software package Manad Plus is now integrated with medication management communications software MedSig.

Manad Plus could now communicate new admissions or changes in resident details directly to MedSig, Webstercare said.

"This means there is no double-handling and the data is seamlessly sent so the pharmacist can accept the new record."

MedSig could also communicate information back such as medications not administered, it said.

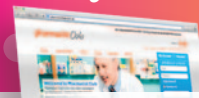
**MEANWHILE** Health Communication Network (HCN) has announced a partnership with Map of Medicines to provide healthcare practitioners with access to international evidence based healthcare pathways.

Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local had rolled out Map of Medicines in 2013 with further sites set to apply it soon and "strong interest" from Australia, Map of Medicines md of commercial operations Darren Nichols said.

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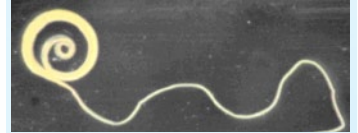
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## DISPENSARY CORNER

**PORCINE** parasite protects people.



The humble pig whipworm has surprised researchers at the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Veterinary Science by putting itself forward as a lead in the search for new treatments for inflammatory bowel disease, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, diabetes and autism.

Lead researcher, Dr Aaron Jex, Faculty of Veterinary Science, said it was known that humans infected with the harmless 'pig whipworm' (**pictured**) could have significantly reduced symptoms linked to autoimmune diseases.

"And now we have the genetic sequence of the worm, it opens the door to future human drug designs and treatment."

**STILL** using that old text book?

For the pharmacy students out there, if you've borrowed a text book, check the due date - a text book borrowed by a young Liverpool University research assistant 61 years ago was finally returned to the library by the now 91 year old culprit.

The *Telegraph* reported that the £4,500 overdue fine was waived for returning the publication, titled 'Structure and Function in Primitive Society'.

**POLLY** want a prescription.

If you hear a slightly squawking request for medicine, a report from Connecticut has taught us that it could in all possibility be a parrot, as a woman who became worried when she heard someone calling "Daddy" repeatedly near a school and began looking for the child instead found a large green parrot in a tree, *Associated Press* reported.

An animal control officer caught the parrot and it was reunited with its owner, without ceasing to say "Daddy", "hello" and "what!", the publication reported.

## WIN A SUKIN PACK

Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a set of **Sukin's** top four best sellers.

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To win, be first to send in the correct answer to: [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au).

Sukin Rose Hip Oil contains four key components, one being essential fatty acids. What are they other three?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner; **Alexia Vlahos** from **Medicines Australia**

