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NCE '14 registrations

REGISTRATIONS for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's National Convention and Exhibition at the Australian Technology Park from 20 to 22 Jun are now open.

The key note speaker is *Gruen Transfer's* Todd Sampson - see **page three** for more.

TGA assessment panel

EXTRA information has been released regarding the tender for the establishment of a therapeutic goods assessment and advisory services panel for the provision of medical and scientific assessment.

It clarified that appointments were not made because a person represented an association or professional body but that nominated individuals were assessed to meet the specified level of skill and experience needed.

For more, **CLICK HERE**.

Breo Ellipta once daily

BREO Ellipta (fluticasone furoate/vilanterol trifenate), approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), is the first combination of an inhaled corticosteroid and a long acting beta agonist vilanterol that is administered once daily.

The availability of a once-daily corticosteroid with a once-daily long acting beta-agonist in the same inhaler was an exciting development for patients and doctors, respiratory specialist Professor Grant Waterer said.

GSK paid \$2.4m to HCPs

GLAXOSMITHKLINE (GSK) has released its figures for fees paid to Australian healthcare professionals (HCPs) including pharmacists, which totalled \$2,430,545 for the 2013 calendar year.

This covered all parts of the company's business in the country including pharmaceuticals, with \$793,468 for consultancy fees for HCPs providing services including speaking and writing arrangements and \$1,088,541 to individuals to attend congresses and meetings, as well as sponsorships to healthcare organisations where the company received a benefit in return.

\$548,536 went to grants and donations for HCOs, including where GSK was not involved and received no direct benefit.

Payments for speaking and writing engagements, attendance at medical conferences, and sales compensation for targets would be phased out by 2016 as part of a global movement, GSK said (**PD** 09 May).

GSK Australia pharmaceuticals general manager Geoff McDonald said the company remained strong supporters of transparency and would continue to release data annually.

A GSK spokeswoman said the company had advocated for about three years for publication of payments to be included in the Medicines Code.

In comparison with 2012, payments had shown a small decrease, but a drop in figures should be noticeable by 2015, the

spokeswoman said.

Medicines Australia ceo Dr Brendan Shaw said in response to community feedback, MA had led a collaboration with HCOs and patient groups to propose a framework that would deliver further transparency around payments and other financial relationships between pharmaceutical companies and HCPs, and MA was proposing to introduce greater transparency in the 18th edition of its Code of Conduct next year.

"While there is still more to be done, these new transparency measures are an important step for industry, healthcare professionals and importantly Australian patients."

Hydroxyzine review

THE European Medicines Agency (EMA) is reviewing medicines containing hydroxyzine, approved for uses including anxiety disorders and as premedication for surgery.

The Hungarian medicines agency requested the review over concerns about the side effects of these medicines on the heart, with data from pharmacovigilance and studies found a potential increased risk of alterations of the heart's electrical activity and arrhythmias.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration said hydroxyzine was on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods as an export only medicine, but it was aware of the review and would keep a watching brief on its outcomes.

6.8% meet vege recs

THE Australian Bureau of Statistics found only 6.8% of Australians met the recommended usual intake of vegetables in its 2011-12 National Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey.

The survey had more than 12,000 participants, aged two years and over, and found that 75% reported eating vegetable products and dishes, but based on self-reporting of usual consumption, only 6.8% met the recommendations.

Sixty percent of people reported eating fruit products and dishes the day before the survey interview, with 54% meeting the recommendations for usual fruit serves.

The survey also found 29% of Australians said they had taken a dietary supplement the day before the survey and almost half, or 49%, of women aged 71 years or over had taken a supplement.

Fifty percent of supplement-takers had only taken one type, 26% had taken two different supplements and 24% had taken three or more.

Multi-vitamins were the most commonly taken at about 16% of the population and calcium and vitamin D were taken by between 3% and 4% overall.

For more, **CLICK HERE**.

PBS schedule errata

THE PBS has advised that the May 2014 Schedule contains a misprint in items 10083Q and 10084R.

The PBS has advised that the correct wording will appear in the June PBS Schedule.

To see the correction, **CLICK HERE**.

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to **PD's** weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is

Tony Carollo,
Director -
Carollo Horton
& Associates



How to Lodge An Insurance Claim: 5 Tips

INSURANCE provides you with security and peace of mind. Over 97 per cent of insurance claims received are paid. Here are five tips if you need to lodge a claim:

1. Review your policy. Understand the scope of your policy coverage, exclusions and the deductibles.
2. Maintain an inventory of your valuables. Take digital photos and video and store these online on websites like Flickr and Picasa. That way, you can access them in the event your computer is damaged.
3. Contact your Local Police Station. If your claim relates to burglary, theft or malicious damage contact your local Police Station immediately and obtain a copy of the Police Report or at a minimum the Police Report Number.
4. Contact your advisor or insurance company immediately. Before you make this call, write down the date the damage occurred and your policy number. These are two items they will ask to initiate your claim. Note the name and number of everyone that you speak to during the claims process.
5. Ask for a review. If you are unhappy with your insurance company decision on your claim, you can ask that your case be reviewed. All insurance companies are required to have their own internal dispute resolution system, and are also required to be a member of an external dispute resolution scheme.

Update diabetes guidelines

THE summary of the stakeholder forum for the post market review of products used in the management of diabetes, for stage three, or type 2 diabetes medicines, showed a key discussion point raised was the confusing nature of current treatment guidelines for type 2 diabetes.

Held on 12 Sep, the forum heard that the guidelines reflected PBS reimbursement criteria and not current clinical evidence, the document said.

The summary said some stakeholders had called for the treatment guidelines to be updated to include new evidence and be consolidated into a single set of guidelines, which would require collaboration between peak bodies

and the National Health and Medical Research Council; however updated treatment algorithms were being developed.

"The treatment algorithm should be evidence-based, patient centred, easy to implement in clinical practice, and should make clear the PBS requirements and criteria for subsidy."

INR test strips recall

ALERE has issued a recall notice, in consultation with the TGA, for Alere INRatio2 PT/INR heparin insensitive test strips, following reports in the US of the test strips leading to incorrect results in some groups of seriously ill patients.

CLICK HERE for details.

Steroid abuse input

DEAKIN University researchers are looking for experienced pharmacists to participate in a study investigating their experiences with steroid and other performance and image enhancing drug users.

To enquire further, contact Dr Matthew Dunn at m.dunn@deakin.edu.au or 03 5227 8372.

FDA accepts Zontivity

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Zontivity (vorapaxar) tablets to reduce the risk of heart attack, stroke, cardiovascular death and the need for procedures to restore the blood flow to the heart in patients with a previous heart attack or blockages in the arteries to the legs.

DISPENSARY CORNER



CHUBZILLA needs slimming tabs.

Not everyone wants their prehistoric lizard monsters oversized, sideways that is, according to *IOL News*.

Japanese fans of the soon to be released film of Godzilla, yet another Hollywood remake of the 1954 classic about a monster product of the US atmospheric hydrogen bomb tests at Bikini Atoll, have expressed their horror, not at the fierceness of their anti-hero, but at its oversized dimensions which don't match the Japanese image, no matter how acceptable it may be in the land of the origin of fast food.

The reaction has surprised Hollywood creators as the newly framed monster is dubbed "calorie monster", "Godzilla Delux" (a reference to an overweight transvestite on Japanese television) and "marshmallow Godzilla", while **Pharmacy Daily** would like to humbly submit "Chubzilla".

TWO million dieting Aussies.

Speaking of dieting, data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 2011-12 National Nutrition and Physical Activity survey showed that 2.3m Australians aged 15 years or older said they were on a diet, or 13%, including 15% of females and 11% of males.

About 3.7m, or 17% over the age of two reported avoiding a food type due to allergy or intolerance, with 4.5% saying this was cow's milk, 2.5% saying gluten, 2% saying shellfish and 1.4% saying peanuts.

Australians aged two years or older ate an estimated 3.1kg of food and beverages a day, with 97% reporting that they ate food from the cereals and cereal products group the day before the survey interview and 66% saying this was bread and bread rolls.

Just under half, or 46%, said they consumed coffee, with 25% saying alcoholic beverages and 87% saying water.

For more, **CLICK HERE**.

WIN WITH BIOSPORT



This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a **BioSport** Moulded Reflex Sole and a hat, valued at \$33.

The Moulded Reflex Soles have the magnetic technology of BioSports Gel Reflex Sole mixed with BioSport's ongoing initiative to provide the body with better support. It's like getting a reflexology treatment all day long! Moulded Reflex Soles have specially designed foot beds to ensure support, comfort, and shock absorption.

For more information, visit www.biosports.com.au

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

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National Convention & Exhibition '14



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