

PAC14 to give hope

CORPORATE anthropologist Michael Henderson will be offering a way to practise that will enable you to avoid becoming a slave to circumstances in his presentation at PAC14 at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from 10 to 12 Oct, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has said.

For the past 16 years Henderson has applied his combination of anthropological skills and practical business experience, enabling him to support clients in a variety of ways to unlock the power of cultures within their organisations, the PSA said.

PBS website update

THE Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme has been updated from 01 Sep with a summary of changes.

CLICK HERE to view the changes.

EBOS' new consumer biz

AFTER posting A\$82.5m profit for the year (**PD 27 Aug**), the EBOS Group has announced it is launching a Trans-Tasman consumer business, Endeavour Consumer Health.

The new company combined Symbion consumer products and EBOS Healthcare's consumer division under one business unit, EBOS Group said.

EBOS Group Retail Services gm Andrew Vidler said combining the businesses would better service pharmacy needs and reflected the

potential for growth.

"Essentially, two great teams have become one – working together on solutions which will improve the quality of life of consumers and help our retail customers prosper."

An EBOS spokesperson said no jobs would be lost as a result of the merge and there was great opportunity for staff to grow in their roles.

The business was, in fact, likely to expand, the spokesperson said.

New FIP president

SPANISH pharmacist Carmen Peña has been elected as president of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

Dr Peña, a community pharmacist from Madrid, is the first woman to be elected president of FIP.

Methotrexate death

METHOTREXATE prescription errors have been linked to the death of a New Zealand man.

Coroner Christopher Devonport found Kenneth Douglas had been prescribed an incorrect dose of the drug and that the dispenser did not pick up on the mistake, with eight opportunities in total for the pharmacy to find the error, *stuff.co.nz* reported.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia recently urged pharmacists to exercise extra vigilance following fatal incidents with the drug.

CLICK HERE for more.

New kid's cancer trial

CHILDREN'S Cancer Institute and Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick have announced a major, new international clinical trial designed to help combat neuroblastoma, the most common solid tumour to affect infants and young children today.

The trial announcement coincided with International Childhood Cancer Awareness month and offered a new treatment for children diagnosed with relapsed neuroblastoma in the form of difluoromethylornithine (DFMO), previously used for treating African Sleeping Sickness, the Children's Cancer Institute said.

RGH E-Bulletin

THE newest RGH Pharmacy E-Bulletin has identified key changes from the 2006 edition of the Asthma Management Handbook, now called the Australian Asthma Handbook.

CLICK HERE to access the Bulletin.

ACCC scans cosmetics

FROM August to November, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is conducting a product safety surveillance operation targeting the supply of non-compliant cosmetics at retail and online outlets across Australia.

The commission warned retailers that they could be revisited at any time in the surveillance period to ensure that only compliant products were being sold.

To protect yourself as a retailer, the ACCC recommended using only reputable suppliers who had established a reputation for supplying compliant products and who provided documentary evidence of compliance.

The ACCC said retailers should conduct their own compliance program in-store.

CLICK HERE to access the standard.

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Australian Government
Department of Health



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Funded by the Australian Department of Health as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

DDS supports asthma

NATIONAL pharmacy brand Discount Drug Stores (DDS) is commencing its asthma management consultation service throughout September in all of its 120 pharmacies nationwide.

Asthma Australia showed 90% of asthma sufferers did not use their inhalers correctly and only 21% had written an asthma action plan.

DDS professional services manager Casey Clark said that the program aimed to reduce the rate of incorrect usage of medications and improve compliance.

Guild Update

Support for Guild member pharmacies

THE Guild continues to promote its support assisting Guild member pharmacies to transform their pharmacy business through its 14 targeted pharmacy transformation initiatives. Last month's promotion of ScriptMAP encouraged Guild pharmacies to access a ScriptMAP report as an important start to a pharmacy's transformation journey.

The Pharmacy Guild and the Quality Care Pharmacy Program's (QCPP) Excellence magazine has also been transformed to be the key source of information about pharmacy transformation. It now has a revised focus with broader information about QCPP, CPD and training and business support. It includes articles that provide practical advice on how to implement strategies consistent with the Guild's 14 targeted pharmacy transformation areas. In addition a new 'Pharmacy Financial Health' fact sheet has been developed by the Guild. The tool will help you calculate key values for pharmacies and then benchmark them against the rest of the pharmacy industry to determine if results are above or below average.

The new fact sheet is available at: www.guild.org.au/issues-resources/fact-sheets

Heart drug trial 'encouraging'

THE Heart Foundation has said results of a trial involving a new heart failure drug are "encouraging", but more needed to be understood about the side effects of the drug and the cost to the health system.

The new drug manufactured by Novartis has been reported in the media as having the potential to "significantly improve" the treatment of heart failure.

A double blind trial involving 8,442 patients with heart failure administered the as yet unnamed drug 'LCZ696', and enalapril.

Published in the *New England*

Journal of Medicine, the study found the inhibition provided by LCZ696 was more effective in reducing the risk of death from cardiovascular causes or hospitalisation for heart failure than that with enalapril.

"LCZ696 was also superior to enalapril in reducing the risk of death from any cause and reducing symptoms and physical limitations of heart failure."

Heart Foundation national director of cardiovascular health Dr Robert Grenfell said the results showed promise for managing patients out of hospital and reducing admissions.

"It's the first new heart failure drug in the past decade, so it's great to see research into a chronic condition that affects around 30,000 new patients every year."

He said existing 'gold standard' medications were fairly inexpensive as they had been in market for some time, whereas new medicines were quite expensive, and so the cost to the patient and health system needed to be looked into.

Further research was something that was always required to get a true picture of potential effects on a broader population, he said.

CLICK HERE to access the study.

\$67m research grants

HEALTH Minister Peter Dutton announced grants to the value of \$67m intended to help find new treatments for diseases, improve research translation and seek to reduce Indigenous youth suicide.

Funding of \$54.6m will flow to 74 National Health and Medical Research Research Fellowships with a further \$8m for 17 Practitioner Fellowships as well as four grants totalling \$4.5m as part of the one-off Mental Health Targeted Call for Research into Indigenous youth suicide - **CLICK HERE** for more.

WIN AN iWHITE PACK

This week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving five readers the chance to win an **iWhite** pack.

iWhite Instant is a professional teeth whitening kit for instant results. This product contains a new, revolutionary whitening gel, which has been clinically proven safe and instantly effective.

This innovative, one-step system will actively remove stains and strengthen teeth while providing an instant whitening effect. Just wear the prefilled tray for 20 mins a day for instant results up to eight shades whiter. It is 100% safe and hydrogen peroxide free.

See **HERE** for more details.

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



How many prefilled trays are in one box?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner **Merril Wenlock** from **API**



DISPENSARY CORNER

POTENT Jelly Tots.

Dispensed any Jelly Tots lately? Police in Newcastle UK have allegedly taken away samples of the popular jelly sweets from the Nestle factory when it was found they were contaminated with some unidentified pink tablets.

The pink tablets were noticed on the production line, reported the *Evening Chronicle*.

According to *Orange News* the tablet was a commonly prescribed medication for adults and children but details have not been released.

WHOOOPS a daisy.

We've talked in Dispensary Corner before about typos, and obviously, **PD** has its slip ups too, but the Department of Health's latest boo boo is one of the funnier misspellings.

In its planned tender for supply of Hepatitis A vaccine for the National Immunisation Program, the Department accidentally wrote 'Supply of Hepatitis'.

We're unsure of the supplier of Hepatitis in Australia but we do think it's a shame the 'a' wasn't switched around with the 'p' to greater, more immature comedic effect.

COMPUTER says 'liar'.

If you run your own pharmacy, you won't need to take the steps of India's new government to tackle bureaucrat work attendance by developing a special computer program to work out whether staff are actually at their computers, *Orange News* reported.

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