

General Assembly push gathers steam

SUPPORT for a "clarion" call for consolidated pharmacy conferences is gathering steam.

Community pharmacist Patrick Reid has called on the industry to discuss consolidating pharmacy conferences into a Pharmacy General Assembly held in September, saying currently only a few conferences turned a profit.

"I propose we de-clutter the calendar and provide breathing space for all – elevating the quality of conference content, delivering a Return On Investment for attendees and sponsors while maintaining a unity of purpose that transcends politics."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia ceo Dr Lance Emerson said he was "up for a discussion" with other organisations.

Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy ceo Grant Martin said it was an interesting idea worth having a conversation about, as small to medium conferences were struggling to make up numbers given financial pressures the sector faced.

Guild NSW branch president Paul Sinclair said he supported the idea, with many smaller conferences competing with each other for corporate support.

Expenses could be dramatically reduced if five or six conferences shared staging costs by presenting at the same time at a common venue under the larger umbrella of an event such as a General Assembly, he said.

To read the full letter, [CLICK HERE](#).

Osteo may affect more

THE Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has said osteoporosis prevalence could be higher than reported.

In 2011-12, the estimated prevalence of self-reported diagnosed osteoporosis was 15% of women and 3% of men aged over 50 years, according to the Australian Health Survey, the AIHW report found.

Based on a recent bone density study, the prevalence was estimated to be 23% of women and 6% of men over 50, for both diagnosed and undiagnosed cases, the report found.

Because osteoporosis was a 'silent' condition, with no obvious symptoms, it often went undiagnosed until a fracture occurred and so it was difficult

to determine the actual number of those affected, spokesperson Louise York said.

Osteoporosis ceo Gail Morgan said pharmacists played an important role as frontline healthcare professionals and could talk to patients in the pharmacy about risk factors, ask patients who had broken bones recently about bone density tests and check with patients over 50, particularly women, if they were getting enough exercise, dairy servings and more.

Government should take note of the cost to healthcare of the condition, she said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the report.

Record allergies - NICE

THE UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published a guide recommending prescriptions carry information on drugs that known drug allergy patients should avoid.

Drugs often associated with allergies include antibiotics, general anaesthesia, and painkillers such as aspirins and ibuprofen.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the guideline.

Credentialing mgr role for APC

THE Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) is recruiting a credentialing manager for a 12 month contract.

[CLICK HERE](#) for details.

\$2,000 INCENTIVE

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30% of original scripts during September 2014

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Sinclair's FIP election

PHARMACY Guild NSW branch president Paul Sinclair has been elected president of the Community Pharmacy Section of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

Guild acting national president Tim Logan said Sinclair dealt on a day to day basis with community pharmacy owners across a range of issues and had a "strong appreciation" at grassroots level of the issues facing the sector.

SPD prices confirmed

THE October price disclosure prices have been confirmed, and now include price to pharmacy for pack size, or price including wholesaler mark-up where applicable, figures.

The prices, which take effect as of 01 Oct, were released by the Department of Health (**PD** breaking news yesterday) and confirm drops of more than 50% for some drugs (**PD** 20 Jun).

These include atorvastatin, which would drop from \$13.72 to \$7.42 for the 20mg tablet, with a price to pharmacy of \$7.98.

Alzheimer's Disease treatment donepezil (tablet containing donepezil hydrochloride 10mg), will see a percentage difference of 58.13%, dropping to \$26.59, with a price to pharmacy of \$28.59.

Irbesartan (tablet 150mg) will drop to \$4.75 and see a price to pharmacy of \$5.11 while cholesterol medication rosuvastatin (tablet 40mg) will drop to \$39.33 and a price to pharmacy of \$42.29.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

MA reply to RACGP

MEDICINES Australia (MA) has responded to Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) challenges around its 18th Code of Conduct, maintaining that very strong standards of transparency are being upheld.

In an additional submission, MA said the RACGP comments related to misunderstandings of the document.

A number of submissions to the ACCC referenced 'lavish meals' or 'entertainment' neither of which were allowed with meals at capped prices and no entertainment possible at all under the "existing rigorous provisions in the code", the result of extensive consultation with the Transparency Working Group, MA said.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

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Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Nth Coast, QLD (Job# 2010792)
Beautiful iconic location - 5.5 days/wk - Sole Pharmacist /small team.
- **Rotational Pharmacist** - Whyalla & Eyre Region, SA (Job# 2010787)
A five (5) month Contract for Monday, Tuesday & Saturday is available.
- **Retail Manager** - Blue Mountains Region, NSW (Job# 2010785)
Oversee a large harmonious pharmacy team in fast paced environment.

Have you arranged a Locum for your next break? call us to sort it!

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.

- 9 Sep: 'Translating Science Into Practice' Lecture; Monash University; more details at: www.monash.edu.au
- 11-14 Sep: SHPA National Medicines Management Conference; Darwin; for more see: www.cpd.shpa.org.au
- 12-14 Sep: Pharmacy Business Network Conference; Melbourne; more at: www.pharmacybusinessnetwork.com/
- 14 Sep: PSA Medicines Update; Gippsland; for more details see: www.psa.org.au
- 16 Sep: Keeping It Going QCPP Maintenance; Sydney; for more details see: www.guild.org.au
- 18 Sep: Sydney Patient Education Day; Sydney; for more details see: www.lungfoundation.com.au
- 27-28 Sep: PSA Mental Health First Aid; Sydney; for more details see: www.psa.org.au
- 9 Oct: Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy Forum at PAC 2014 National Convention; Canberra; more at: www.psa.org.au/pac/aacp-forum
- 10-12 Oct: Pharmacy Australia Congress 2014; Canberra; more at: www.psa.org.au/pac
- 15 Oct: Better Living with Lung Cancer Forum; Brisbane; for more details see: www.lungfoundation.com.au
- 21 Oct: Keeping It Going QCPP Maintenance; Sydney; for more details see: www.guild.org.au

Scopes of practice

THE Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS) has said six principal parties should work together to optimise scopes of practice to achieve a transformed health care system.

In an assessment, the CAHS said the scopes of practice of some health care professionals, including pharmacists, had expanded but in some cases, this had occurred without understanding of how this would fit into existing service delivery models or impact on existing scopes of practice.

"Beyond extending scopes of practice for some health care professions, optimisation of existing scopes of practice must be determined in alignment with the models of care in which they function."

Debate has been called for in Australia recently around expanding the role of pharmacists (PD 04 Sep).

The report recommended that six parties, including Federal and provincial governments, regulatory colleges and accrediting bodies, work together to optimise scopes

of practice to enable collaborative responsibility for shared care.

"This strategy will ensure that the right provider gives the best care, and the health care team or institution is accountable for assigning appropriate and optimal scopes of practice within a regulated structure."

CLICK HERE to read the report.

Authority review

THE regulatory burden imposed by the Authority Required PBS listings model has been identified by review submissions.

Roche said the burden of completion of complex forms either took away consultation time or was delegated to someone with less familiarity with patient history.

AstraZeneca similarly identified the "regulatory and administrative burden for prescribers and dispensers of medicines".

Arthritis Australia and the Australian Rheumatology Association also highlighted the administrative burden.

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.



Will iWhite whiten the front and back of your teeth?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner
Eliza Ma from **Priceline Pharmacy**



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Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist consult your healthcare professional.

DISPENSARY CORNER

SECURITY cameras on makeup.

Ensure your pharmacy has a good range of security cameras, especially in the makeup aisle.

A 31 year old woman from Arkansas was picked up by police for stuffing her handbag with stolen makeup worth US\$144 according to *Yahoo! News*.

So how did she appear in her mug shot?

She appeared with heavy multicoloured eye shadow, of course - unmistakable.

WHAT is this, Footloose?!

Yikes - if you ever felt like boogying down while dispensing, we're pretty sure you wouldn't be penalised, unless it's for being too Hip to tha Jive.

Feel sorry for the Grenadier Guard who is currently under investigation by the UK Ministry of Defence, then, for pirouetting and comical strutting while guarding Buckingham Palace, the *Telegraph* reported.

The guard, replete in bearskin hat, delighted tourists, and broke with the tradition of the unreacting Palace guards, by performing various funny walks on his patrol - you can see a video **HERE**.

England may just be that town from Footloose, given the cartwheeling verger from the royal wedding was also reprimanded for his expression of joy by senior Westminster Abbey staff - if you're unsure who we mean, **CLICK HERE**.

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