



IF YOUR CUSTOMERS ARE TAKING A COURSE OF ANTIBIOTICS

a probiotic such as Inner Health Plus may assist in maintaining the balance of good bacteria.

INNER HEALTH PLUS

Always read the label. Use only as directed.

Rural pharmacy challenges

IN RESPONSE to the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) survey, which found oversupply was the top concern of graduates, a **PD** reader wrote to say as a rural pharmacy owner, they struggled to find committed young pharmacists.

The reader said like many other rural pharmacies, there were great jobs and opportunities that failed to be filled.

The NAPSA survey found that 77% of respondents had considered undertaking a rural placement, and 85% would commit to one if they could easily obtain funding and placement opportunity.

NAPSA president Sam Turner said while students were funded by the government to travel to rural locations, as this was capped, some students still missed out on this opportunity.

The perception from students was that funding had started to decrease over the past few years, he said.

Rural Pharmacists Australia (RPA) said it acknowledged workforce issues continued to pose challenges to secure long term recruitment and retention of pharmacists in rural and remote locations.

"Despite having an increased supply of pharmacy graduates not enough people want to live and work in rural and remote localities.

"In terms of employment, it is acknowledged that there is unevenness in the supply of pharmacists across urban, rural and regional areas of Australia."

The RPA said the Health Workforce Australia March 2014 report found supply was meeting demand across Australia but there was "significant" anecdotal evidence of oversupply in regard to metropolitan areas.

The RPA supported the Rural Support Program, which consisted of a number of strategies to strengthen the rural pharmacy workforce, including scholarships and incentive allowances for intern years in rural areas.

"Student placements are critical in producing future rural and remote pharmacists."

TGA: changes to diclofenac label

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has said it is already in the process of implementing changes to the labels of medicines containing diclofenac.

The UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) reclassified oral diclofenac products to prescription only due to the risk of cardiovascular events (**PD** 15 Jan).

A TGA spokeswoman said the organisation's recent review of all diclofenac strengths (**PD** 08 Oct) had concluded that these were associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, stroke and liver damage, and that there was a need to raise awareness of these risks for diclofenac, including OTC versions of the medicine.

The review found product labelling did not carry adequate warnings regarding the risk of adverse events, and as a result, the TGA was already in the process

of implementing changes to the labels of these products to warn consumers of these risks, she said.

A consultation in October of the review of cardiovascular safety of NSAIDs and safety review of diclofenac called for submissions on four options available to increase awareness of risks, including label changes and re-scheduling of OTC NSAIDs.

The TGA was still assessing these options, but was going ahead with the labelling as a priority, she said.

The TGA would review the new advice from MHRA to decide whether further action was required, the spokeswoman said.

CLICK HERE for the consultation.

Health tech panel

THE Department of Health has released a request for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for the formation of a health technology assessment panel.

The Department said it was looking to find suitable individuals or organisations to form a panel which would provide it with assessment and research support services in assessing the safety and cost-effectiveness of new medical technologies and procedures.

This would inform funding decisions about the technologies and procedures under Medicare, the request said.

Services would include the development of protocols for therapeutic services and reviews of current MBS listings.

CLICK HERE for more.

Medicare rebate changes axed

MINISTER for Health Sussan Ley has confirmed that the government will not go ahead with changes to the Medicare rebate on Monday.

The announcement follows lobbying by the Australian Medical Association (AMA) (**PD** 12 Jan), with AMA Victoria president Dr Tony Bartone saying the organisation would continue to work closely with the Minister as she had not withdrawn the 01 Jul changes, including a four year indexation freeze.

Solvanix start-up a Garvan spin off

THE Garvan Institute of Medical Research has announced the launch of spin-off company Solvanix Pty Ltd, to commercialise new technology that will improve the stability of therapeutic monoclonal antibodies.

With a \$2m investment from Australia's Medical Research Commercialisation Fund, Solvanix would be based at Garvan, where scientists had developed the technology which ultimately minimised adverse immune reactions in patients undergoing monoclonal antibody therapy, Garvan said.

CLICK HERE for more.

Pharmacy role in cancer prevention

COMMUNITY pharmacy has the potential to play a significant role in achieving better cancer prevention through the increasing range of safe and effective technologies for early detection, according to a paper written by the University College London School of Pharmacy.

With increased risk awareness and better access to more effective treatments, most cancer deaths before late old age could be eliminated by 2050, the paper said.

Pharmacists could contribute through optimising medicines use in hospital and through activities such as enhancing access to screening and diagnostic service.

CLICK HERE to access the paper.

Bromhexine and ambroxol risk small

THE Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee has completed a review of medicines containing ambroxol or bromhexine and determined that the risk of allergic reactions is small, but has recommended that product information be updated.

The review followed concerns over reported severe allergic reactions associated with the medicines.

CLICK HERE for more detail.



Raven's
recruitment

Your Pharmacy Recruitment Experts

FreeCall: 1800 429 829
Email: info@ravensrecruitment.com.au
Web: www.ravensrecruitment.com.au

Jobs of the Week

- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Northern Tablelands, NSW (Job# 2010844)
Looking for a first class professional passionate Pharmacist.
- **Pharmacist** - Gympie/Hervey Bay Region, QLD (Job# 2011064)
Sole Pharmacist to work between two community pharmacies.
- **Pharmacist in Charge** - Whyalla & Eyre Region, SA (Job# 2010877)
Take a holistic approach with full PPI's in a popular coastal location.

our dynamic support can move your business or career forward!

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.

19-20 Jan: Tools for the Medicinal Chemist Symposium 2015; Parkville; see: www.monash.edu/pharm/about/events/tmc2015

1 Feb: Provide First Aid; Bankstown; see: www.psa.org.au/conferences

6-8 Feb: Foundation Seminar in Clinical Pharmacy Practice; Melbourne; for more details visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

14-16 Feb: Pharmacy Re-Entry Course: Refresher Training for Australian Community Pharmacy; St Leonards; more details available at: www.psa.org.au/conferences

21 Feb: Pharmacy in Focus: Bridging the Gap Workshop; Wagga Wagga; more details at: www.psa.org.au

21 Feb: Better Pharmacy Futures Forum; Wagga Wagga; more details at: www.psa.org.au/conferences

21-22 Feb: Pharmacy in Focus: Cardiovascular Weekend; Wagga Wagga; for more details please visit: www.psa.org.au/conferences

6-8 Mar: Annual Therapeutic Update; Terrigal; for more details visit: www.psa.org.au/conferences

7-8 Mar: Oncology - Foundation Seminar; Melbourne; for more details visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

12-15 Mar: Pharmacy Guild of Australia Annual National Conference APP 2015, Gold Coast - see www.appconference.com

21-22 Mar: Mental Health First Aid; Parramatta; for more details visit: www.psa.org.au/conferences

Statins in the elderly

GUIDELINES published by the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association in 2013 for treatment of blood cholesterol have challenged the role of statins in the older patient, according to research published online in *Drugs & Aging*.

Elderly with no risk factors other than age might not have a positive benefit-risk ratio from the therapy, the authors said.

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

Kooyong Classic health check & more

SPONSORED by Priceline Pharmacy, the Kooyong Classic tennis Health and Beauty lounge has conducted free health checks, makeovers and massages.

Checks, conducted by nurse practitioners in private booths, included blood pressure, cholesterol and BMI.

Where necessary people were referred to their GP for further investigation.

More than 2,000 people passed through the lounge in the first two days, Australian Pharmaceutical Industries said.

Opiate abuse flattens

DIVERSION and abuse of prescription opioid medications increased in the US between 2002 and 2010 but plateaued or decreased between 2011 and 2013, according to an article in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The rate of opioid-related deaths rose and fell in a similar pattern, the study authors said, but reported nonmedical use did not change significantly among college students.

Six prescription opioid analgesics were tracked including oxycodone.

CLICK HERE for more.

Antibiotic resistance US\$100t costing

THE UK Health Department has released a progress report on its antimicrobial resistance (AMR) strategy which has estimated the potential cost of resistance reaching up to US\$100t by 2050 as a result of lost GDP from the death of 10m people per annum.

AMR issues could be addressed via a coherent and co-ordinated approach both nationally and internationally, the paper said.

CLICK HERE for the report.

WIN A MOOGOO MUM AND BABY PAIL HAMPER



We're on the search for *Pharmacy Daily* readers' chubby cheeked babies!

We've got five MooGoo mum and baby pail hampers to give away to our five favourite chubby cheeks.

Each prize pack is valued at \$84.60 and contains: Natural SPF 40 Sunscreen, Mini Moo Natural Bubble Wash, Anti-Ageing Face Cream, Lip Balm SPF and a calf soft toy.

If you think you know the chubbiest baby out, email your photo by COB today to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Advertise with us

- Cost Effective
- Targeted
- Easy

Pharmacy
DAILY

For details call us today 1300 799 220

DISPENSARY CORNER

OLD dog, new tricks.

If you've considered further pharmacy study but are worried about being too old to learn, forget that old saying and be inspired by the story of Kenyan student Kimani Maruge, believed to be the oldest person to have enrolled in primary school.

You'd join the likes of technology giant Google, which recently featured a doodle on its home page marking the 11th anniversary since Maruge went to school for the first time at the ripe old age of 84, *BBC News* reported.

He died in 2009 but Google said the doodle was a reminder it's never too late to learn something new, the publication reported.

MEDICATION Horus stories.

Ever had a customer ask whether the sand in Egypt would affect her asthma?

If so, you've been visited by the same Australian traveller who made one of the 20 weirdest phone calls to consular staff collated by *news.com.au*.

Others included Australian travellers who wanted the embassy to get prescription medicine from Australia sent to them on holiday and a citizen who wanted the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to feed her dogs while she was away.

CLICK HERE to read the full list.

SORRY, QLD pharmacists.

If you're a Queensland pharmacist on Optus or Virgin, you may have headed in to work an hour early on Wednesday, due to a glitch which set mobile phones to daylight saving time.

Thousands of Queenslanders using their phones as alarm clocks were woken an hour early, *ABC News* reported - we can only imagine your pain, team.