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Three pages today

TODAY'S issue of *Pharmacy Daily* has two pages of news plus a full page reminding pharmacies to order their **2016 API Calendars**.

Vit K with warfarin

NEW research has shown that warfarinised patients will have better control of their anticoagulation if vitamin K is co-administered.

International normalised ratio (INR) ranges are not always easy to comply with for these patients and this study published in *Heart*, recommends vitamin K supplementation as a stabiliser.

CLICK HERE for more details.

Breakfast research

UNIVERSITY of Sydney researchers have announced a three year partnership with breakfast manufacturer, Sanitarium Health & Wellbeing, working in an industry training centre.

Sanitarium has joined 11 other companies in becoming a member of the University's Australian Research Council Food Processing Training Centre (ARCFPTC).

The company has said it will contribute to the funding of the Training Centre and will also provide expertise and resources from Sanitarium's Development and Innovation Centre on the NSW Central Coast.

New streams "essential"

THE Pharmacy Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia have agreed to reconvene their Joint Working Group, in order to develop a range of proposals for the Pharmacy Trial Program which was approved as part of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Guild executive director David Quilty said the working group had played a key role in securing the large increase in funding for professional services in the 6CPA, which provides for as much as \$650 million for these programs.

Writing in the Guild's *Forefront* newsletter, Quilty said the outcome of the 6CPA "does not change the fact that pharmacies must secure new revenue streams in order to grow and prosper" - with the amount of funding available sending a clear message that the government supports a broader role for pharmacies.

However "the Minister has made clear this funding will not be handed to pharmacies on a platter...all pharmacy programs will be independently assessed for their cost-effectiveness," with new programs to be trialled first before assessment and ultimate wider deployment.

Quilty said a key breakthrough has been the agreement of the majority of state and territory governments to pharmacists providing flu vaccinations, but he said it will

be imperative going forward that pharmacists have the necessary skills, knowledge and training and that pharmacy businesses are appropriately accredited.

MEANWHILE the Guild has also this week launched a new forecasting tool, which is claimed to "take the guesswork out of 6CPA remuneration".

Provided at no cost to Guild members, the online tool allows pharmacies to project the impact of the 6CPA on their dispensary remuneration over the next five years - as well as contrasting it with the estimated value under the Fifth Agreement.

For more details **CLICK HERE**.

Benzo risk reduction

PHARMACISTS play a key role in educating patients and carers about the safe and appropriate use of benzodiazepines, which are one of the most commonly misused classes of prescription drugs in Australia.

A new educational module released by NPS MedicineWise warns that dependence on these drugs is more likely to occur with prolonged use, "and is becoming of increasing concern".

NPS suggests a "shared care" approach in which prescribers enlist the help of pharmacists to dispense the medication as a staged supply.

Pharmacists can also reinforce the importance of short-term use, inform patients about side effects and refer back to the GP if dependence is identified.

MA urges medicines research

MEDICINES Australia has urged the involvement of the "innovative research-based medicines industry" in the federal government review of university research funding and policy in Australia.

The review aims to find more ways to turn the work of Australian scientists into commercial success.

MA ceo Tim James welcomed the appointment of Ian Watt to lead the review, but said the organisation was disappointed that the review panel will "not include a single member from a research-based industry such as the makers of innovative medicines".

James said MA members spend a billion dollars a year annually on R&D in Australia.

"Science has the potential to be one of the great industries for the Australian economy...however for this to become a reality we need to see the good words of the Government become strong actions," he said.

FDA ticks Entresto

THE US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced it has approved Novartis' Entresto (sacubitril/valsartan) tablets for the treatment of heart failure with studies involving more than 8,000 patients demonstrating it can reduce the rate of cardiovascular death and hospitalisation related to heart failure.

The drug was part of the FDA's priority review program, with a fast track designation.

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Travel Specials

Cebu Pacific heats up July!

THE Philippines' largest airline, Cebu Pacific Air, has launched a seat sale to the Philippines until 09 Jul (or while seats last), allowing travellers from Australia to escape the winter chill.

\$150 seats are available on flights from Sydney to Manila, for travel 15 Aug 2015 to 15 Mar 2016, inclusive of country taxes and fees, but exclusive of travel products such as meals or baggage allowance.

For more information, visit www.cebupacificair.com.

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Kelly Pharmacy Board chair

ACT pharmacist Bill Kelly has been appointed as Chair of the Pharmacy Board of Australia, taking up the role on the retirement of long-time incumbent Steve Marty (*PD* 03 Jul).

Kelly, who formally takes up the chairmanship on 31 Aug, has been on the national board as its inaugural ACT practitioner member since it was formed in 2009, and his

career as a pharmacist has spanned more than 50 years, including 32 years of military service.

The PSA and the Pharmacy Guild both congratulated him on his appointment, with PSA president Joe Demarte saying his "long-standing and diverse career, serving the profession and the community, has been a shining example of excellence in our profession".

Guild national president George Tambassis said he looked forward to working with Kelly and the board on issues affecting pharmacy practice in Australia.

Both organisations paid tribute to Marty, with Demarte saying he had been an inspiration to the profession, while Tambassis thanked him for his "commitment and contribution".

MEANWHILE three other new appointments to the Pharmacy Board were also named by health minister Sussan Ley yesterday.

All practitioner members, they include Joy Hewitt from Vic, Ben Wilkins of NSW and Mark Kirschbaum from Tasmania.

Departing members of the board include Ian Huett and Gerard Mcinerney as well as Marty.

AWS2015 drug misuse

THE 28th Australian Winter School for this year (AWS2015) will focus on pharmaceutical drug misuse.

AWS is a national drug and alcohol conference presented by Lives Lived Well, one of Queensland's non-government alcohol and other drug abuse management providers.

With a significant evolution of the types and availability of illicit and pharmaceutical drugs in the marketplace, a new, hidden population dependent on prescribed or over-the-counter medicines is emerging with the most addictive being opioids and strong pain killers, said the AWS.

The conference is being held from 22-24 July in Brisbane.

CLICK HERE to register.

WIN with Hydralyte

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Hydralyte** are giving away a Hydralyte pack each day.

FACT: Dehydration is the biggest health risk associated with vomiting and diarrhoea.

FACT: Vomiting and diarrhoea will often reach its peak in late winter/early spring.

Be prepared this gastro season and always keep Hydralyte on hand with Ice blocks in the freezer, pre-mixed drinks in the fridge or the convenient effervescent tablets and powders in the first-aid cupboard. Visit www.hydralyte.com.au for more information. Always read the label. Use only as directed. If symptoms persist consult your healthcare professional.

To win, be the first person from **SA** or **NT** to send the correct answer to the following question to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

True or false: Infants under the age of 6 months, should seek medical attention if the vomiting and diarrhoea persists for longer than 6 hours.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Craig Lupton from Bindoon Pharmacy.



DISPENSARY CORNER

SHAREMARKET fluctuations could be explained by tracking the hormone levels of traders, according to a new study from researchers at University College London and Spain's University of Alicante.

The researchers tracked hormone levels from both male and female traders at the beginning of a simulated computer-based trading session and correlated hormone levels with their behaviour.

In the male traders there was a strong correlation between cortisol and testosterone levels and the level of risk they chose.

In a second experiment they actually injected traders with the hormones, and again found this increased the amount of money they were willing to invest in higher risk stocks.

The report was published last week in the *Scientific Reports* journal, with the researchers saying hormones could potentially be the cause of price bubbles or other "irrationally exuberant" behaviour in financial markets.

NEW Zealand underwear maker Thunderpants has launched an international search to find the oldest set of its undies in existence.

The company, which is this year celebrating its 20th anniversary, says it's so confident in the durability of its product that it believes there may be some of its first release still in circulation.

Made with a secret formula, Thunderpants "don't rely on elastic to keep them up and on," and therefore last longer, the company said.

The owner of the oldest pair found will be given the equivalent number of underpants in years - potentially a wardrobe-enhancing 20 pairs.

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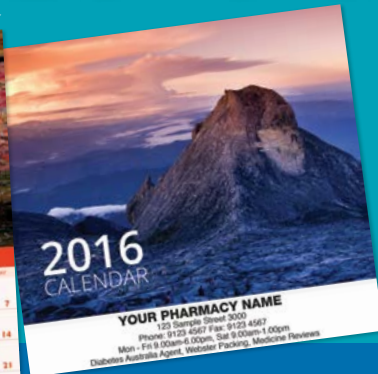
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