

CHF Primary Forum

THE Consumers Health Forum will host a 'Consumer-led Ideas for Better Primary Health Care' forum on 19 Aug 2015.

The event is for CHF members and stakeholders - for more information or to RSVP contact Kerry Hollis on k.hollis@chf.org.au by Fri 31 Aug.

Alliance hits 504

PHARMACY Alliance yesterday confirmed that its membership numbers have hit an all-time high of 504 pharmacies.

CEO Darren Dye said the group had managed to attract a significant number of independent pharmacies across the country over the last few years through its evolution to "incorporate a sophisticated best-in-class retail solution" for each member.

He said the aim is to significantly grow sales and increase basket size with a 'whole of shop' approach.

Growing to 504 gives Pharmacy Alliance significant buying power which all members can take advantage of, Dye said.

Ley to open PSA15

HEALTH minister Sussan Ley has been confirmed as a speaker for the upcoming PSA15 conference which takes place 31 Jul-02 Aug at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth.

Ley will make a special trip to Sydney to open the event and address delegates.

FDA OK for Rexulti

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Rexulti (brexiprazole) tablets for the treatment of adults with schizophrenia, as well as an add-on treatment to antidepressant medication for adults with major depressive disorder.

CMRs key for adherence

AUSTRALIA'S first systematic review of Clinical Medication Review (CMR) research has shown that CMRs are a "valuable strategy to identify medication-related problems, improve medication adherence, reduce hospitalisations and minimise the use of potentially inappropriate medications".

The study, published last week in *Research in Social & Administrative Pharmacy*, also concluded that there is currently a low awareness of CMR among "eligible non-recipients".

The researchers considered nine controlled studies, 34 observational and uncontrolled studies, nine survey studies and 11 qualitative studies undertaken since 2000.

The qualitative research suggested widespread acceptance of CMR in Australia, with benefits

perceived to outweigh barriers to implementation.

There were also seen to be opportunities for improvement via initiatives to facilitate greater collaboration between general practitioners and pharmacists, addressing access gaps for underserved populations as well as by implementing additional new models for CMR.

For the full study details see www.rsap.org.

£15m UK pharma pilot

AS MANY as 300 pharmacists will be employed directly by English general practices, under a pilot scheme funded to the tune of £15 million by England's National Health Service.

The three year project will see the clinical pharmacists supporting GPs by helping to manage long-term conditions and providing advice for people on multiple medications.

"Pharmacists will also be tasked with helping improve communication about patients' medicines between the GP surgery, hospitals and community pharmacies," NHS England said.

Each pilot site will be based on five clinical pharmacists and one senior clinical pharmacist who will mentor and help train the team where needed to take on prescribing responsibilities.

GP practices are being invited to participate in the pilot, with clinical pharmacists anticipated to be in the new roles early in 2016.

Gadovist AusPAR

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has released a new Australian Public Assessment Report (AusPAR) for gadobutrol (Gadovist) - see www.tga.gov.au.

API calendar orders

API is today highlighting its 2016 calendars which are now open for orders personalised with your pharmacy details.

Orders close 31 Aug for free delivery mid Nov - see **page three**.

Nuromol training

RECKITT Benckiser (RB) is offering a sweet deal for pharmacists who choose to complete the "Nuromol with Synchro-Tech" training module on combination analgesics on the RB HealthHub by 31 Aug.

Pharmacists who complete the program can enter a draw to win one of 20 signed copies of celebrity chef Adriano Zumbo's latest cookbook, 'The Zumbo Files', and potentially win a cooking class with the sweets superstar.

Zumbo rose to pharmacy fame earlier this year when he appeared courtesy of RB at APP2015.

Visit www.rbhealthhub.com.au.

Pre-filled syringe fail

FRESENIUS Kabi and sister company Calea were fined more than £550,000 last week in the UK for supplying faulty syringes which contained no active ingredient, in this case, insulin.

A diabetic patient, Neil Judge from Barnsley, died at the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield in November 2010, after treatment with the syringes resulted in multi-organ failure triggered by a serious episode of diabetic ketoacidosis because his body was deprived of insulin for more than 13 hours.

The faulty syringes were considered by the coroner to be a 'major contributory factor' to Judge's death.

Inspections by the UK Medicines Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) had highlighted deficiencies.

New NAPSA president

ELEANNA Ballis from Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga has been elected as the new president of the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association.

She was elected at the NAPSA agm at UTS Sydney last weekend, and will lead a new board of directors which has been formed under a new constitution accepted at the agm by National Council.

NAPSA vice president is Matthew Scott of Latrobe University; secretary is David Paulmert, Griffith University; and the treasurer is Jack Buckley of CSU Orange.

A further four directors are due to be elected after transfer to incorporation in Aug.

At the agm outgoing president Sam Turner also inducted three honorary life members to NAPSA: Cassandra Lee, Xavier Agostino and John Traynor, all of whom are former officeholders.



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HPOS enhancements

THE Department of Human Services has relaunched its Health Professionals Online Services (HPOS) portal, with a new look and new additions including Medicare Bulk Bill Webclaim and DVA Medical Webclaim.

The site also boasts an extensive lists of help subjects, links explaining different aspects of services, payments and programs for pharmacists as well as popular forms for pharmacists.

CLICK HERE to access the site.

Guild Update

POTY winners share secrets of success

REGISTRATIONS are now open for PBN2015 at Melbourne's Etihad Stadium.

Pharmacy of the Year 2015 winners will share their experiences and insights for a 90-minute discussion in what has always been one of the most highly rated PBN sessions.

The discussion is an opportunity to learn from the 2015 awardees and explore their business success and hard work to achieve outstanding results. Winners will also host their own individual one-hour sessions.

Over three big days (17-19 September 2015) participants will be treated to discussions, sessions and workshops focussing on meeting the challenges of your business.

PBN2015 is a great opportunity to meet, learn and network with some great business minds. Through its specific business-only content, PBN2015 has become the most important pharmacy business management conference event on the calendar.

To register for PBN2015 visit pharmacybusinessnetwork.com.

Advantage into the cloud

FRED IT has been engaged to undertake its first national rollout of the Fred NXT cloud-based platform, with the Advantage Pharmacy Group to implement the system in its company-owned stores by the end of the year.

The group includes the Advantage and Chemist Discount Centre retail brands, with the new platform to allow improved communication and information flow between all parts of the organisation.

There are more than 20 fully owned Victorian stores in the group, along with franchised operations in NSW, Qld, Tas and SA.

Fred NXT offers a single integrated platform to connect all areas of a retail pharmacy business including dispensary, point of sale, professional services, purchasing, enterprise resource planning and stock management functions.

Advantage principal John Kardis said the introduction of the new platform was part of the company's plans for growth and innovation.

He said Fred NXT will allow the direct integration of all information from stores into a central database, removing the duplication of tasks and information while also reducing

business risk.

It will also enable fully integrated drug updates and pricing, with centralised product information allowing management to be more responsive and make better decisions.

Fred IT Group ceo Paul Naismith, who has trialled the NXT platform at his two Melbourne pharmacies, said the rollout of Fred NXT across the Advantage Pharmacy Group was scheduled to commence in the fourth quarter of 2015.

Fred IT is 50% owned by Telstra.

Robotic pharmacy

PATIENTS in rural Scotland will be able to access medications via a robotic pharmacy kiosk, under a trial currently under way in the village of Inverallochy.

The kiosk, which is part of a research project from the University of Aberdeen, allows users to speak via a webcam to a remote pharmacist at a "hub" pharmacy, who can then dispense prescription or OTC medicines.

Prescriptions can also be deposited for later fulfilment.

"This exciting innovation in patient care will extend existing community pharmacy and ePharmacy services," said David Green, a spokesman for European IT group Atos which helped develop the project.

The kiosk also enables patients to access Scotland's Minor Ailment Service which in some cases allows pharmacists to dispense scripts that would otherwise require a GP visit.

21 Century Cures tick

THE US House of Representatives has voted in favour of the 21st Century Cures Act, which aims to speed up the approval of new drugs and devices via a raft of changes and increased FDA funding.

The US Senate is likely to consider the legislation in 2016.

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DISPENSARY CORNER



FIZZY drinks may become significantly more expensive in Britain shortly, after UK doctors urged the impost of a 20% tax on sugary beverages.

The British Medical Association said the initiative would help fight the burgeoning obesity epidemic, with poor diets estimated to contribute to as many as 70,000 premature deaths annually - not to mention chronic ailments such as type 2 diabetes and poor teeth, according to the *BBC*.

Money raised should be used to subsidise the cost of fresh fruit and vegetables, the BMA said in a new *Food for Thought* report.

A 300mL can of soda contains up to nine teaspoons of sugar, with a similar drinks tax introduced in Mexico having been shown to reduce consumption, the report concluded.

AND also in Britain, social media giant Twitter has been forced to remove some "irresponsible" online advertisements after complaints from an epilepsy charity group.

Two short videos uploaded by Twitter featured a rapid succession of flashing colours, with Epilepsy Action saying the ads could trigger an attack in people living with photosensitive epilepsy - suffered by an estimated 1 in 3,500 people.

Twitter immediately removed the advertisements once it was made aware of the issue.

Epilepsy Action said 87 people were diagnosed with the condition every day and "that first seizure can often come out of nowhere," the *BBC* reported.

In 1997 more than 600 Japanese children were hospitalised with convulsions after watching a cartoon episode of Pokemon in which a monster repeatedly flashed his eyes.

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Street address: 4/41 Rawson St, Epping NSW 2121 Australia

P: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760) F: 1300 799 221 (+61 2 8007 6769)

Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

Publisher: Bruce Piper info@pharmacydaily.com.au

Reporter: Mal Smith

Advertising and Marketing: Magda Herdick advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

Business Manager: Jenny Piper accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

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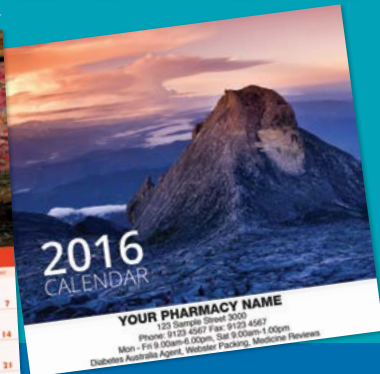
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