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Earlybird reg closing

EARLYBIRD registration for PSA15 closes tomorrow, 12 Jun 2015, with members only price at \$600 for the three days.

The conference is being held at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth 31 Jul to 02 Aug - psa.org.au.

Deprescribing views

THE majority of older Australian inpatients using statins are willing to have one or more of their current medications deprescribed, according to a recent study published in the *International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy*.

The researchers investigated 180 patients aged 65 years or older admitted as inpatients to a teaching hospital in Sydney, finding that 95% said they would be willing to stop one or more of their medications if their doctor thought it was possible.

The findings can inform clinical practice in deprescribing to optimise medication in older patients, the authors said.

CLICK HERE for the abstract.

Guild annual fee discount

THE Pharmacy Guild is giving its members a 25% discount on their annual dues for 2015/16, as a thank you for their support during the negotiation of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

The so-called 'Unity Rebate' will see both the proprietor and the premises components of the Guild annual subscription reduced by a quarter, with Guild National President George Tambassis hailing the work of members on the ground during the 6CPA negotiations.

BMS best employer

BRISTOL-MYERS Squibb (BMS) has been awarded Aon Hewitt Best Employer accreditation status for the third year running, the only pharmaceutical company in Australia and New Zealand to achieve the recognition, BMS said.

The award recognised recruitment and induction, employee engagement and motivation, as well as the organisation's culture as its top three strengths.

"After the huge grass-roots effort visiting, calling and writing to local politicians, the Guild has decided to acknowledge the critical role played by our Members which has been absolutely instrumental in the 6CPA outcome," Tambassis said.

He said the Guild continues to be strong as an organisation, and in a position to offer "genuine value and practical support," not only through the Guild itself but also through associated companies such as Guild Group, Gold Cross and GuildLink.

Despite the signing of the 6CPA "there is more work to be done, and the Guild will be just as busy and committed over the next 12 months working in the interests of our Members," Tambassis added.

He said that by continuing to support the Guild, pharmacy owners are "helping to ensure they have the very best representation and services for their businesses, staff and patients".

Diabetes & technology

THE Wesley Research Institute will hold a free Health Talk on managing diabetes using modern communication technologies.

Dr Tamara Street, a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at WSARI, will share how her team are using mobile telephone text-messaging technology to empower workers in Queensland to achieve positive lifestyle behaviour changes.

The event is scheduled for 10.30 am to 12.00 noon 26 Mar at the Wesley Research Institute, The Wesley Hospital.

Phone (07)3721 1500 for details.

Conference discounts

DISCOUNT vouchers are available for the upcoming CPD Conferences to be held in Borneo in Sep and Park City/Canyons Utah in Jan, with the special rates available for registration by 12 Jun.

Both information-rich "education vacation" events provide the ideal setting to update your knowledge.

Page three of today's *Pharmacy Daily* has details on the Jan event and for more info contact Ben or Lorraine on 02 9233 6466.

Win with Nutri-Synergy

This week *Pharmacy Daily* and **Plunketts** are giving away a pack of Nutri-Synergy skincare each day, including NS Dry Skin Moisturiser and NS Soap Free Wash.

New packaging for Nutri-Synergy skincare is now being introduced into pharmacy – brighter and more modern.

NS combines natural therapeutic actives to effectively treat dry, sensitive and problem skin and works in synergy with the skin, to restore and maintain its healthy condition. NS is natural dermatology. For more info go to www.NutriSynergy.com.au

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

What was NS Dry Skin Moisturiser formerly named?

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Julie Sage from Chemmart Pharmacy.



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Thursday 11 Jun 2015

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Global Drug Survey

THE 2015 Global Drug Survey conducted Nov to Dec 2014 involved over 100,000 people.

Alcohol featured as the most commonly consumed drug as always, with Ireland taking out the highest consumption score for both males and females, and Greece Portugal and Switzerland rating lowest in consumption.

Australia and New Zealand scored in the mid to high range, very similar to UK and Netherlands.

Tobacco was a different story with the US being the highest user and Australia coming in a modest one third of the high score.

Cannabis, cocaine, MDMA, ecstasy, other psychoactives, nitrous oxide and prescription drugs were also surveyed.

CLICK HERE to access the survey.

Travel Specials

APT sails the Rhine

BOOK and pay in full for any 2016 all inclusive luxury APT Royal Collection European River Cruise before 30 Jun 2015 and you could save up to \$2,000 per couple, while also scoring free return flights.

A \$1,000 discount applies to cruises 7-14 days and \$2,000 per couple on selected cruises of 15 days or longer, when paid in full before 30 Jun.

See your travel agent or call APT on 1300 196 420.

Bulgari Resort Bali

SPECIAL promotional prices apply for all two night stays at the Bulgari Resort Bali between now and 20 Dec 2015.

The offer is available for Ocean View, Premier Ocean View and Ocean Cliff category rooms.

Daily breakfast for two adults is included.

To secure your place in the sun, contact your preferred travel agent.

PBS legislation in progress

THE Pharmacy Guild says it's closely watching the progress of the government's National Health Amendment (Pharmaceutical Benefits) Bill 2015, warning that the legislation faces an "extremely tight timetable in a busy parliamentary program".

Guild executive director David Quilty said it's vital that the bill passes into law prior to the winter recess of parliament, in order to allow the implementation of the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement which he said is "critically important to the future of community pharmacies, their staff and the millions of Australians who rely on them for their medicines and wider health care".

Writing in the Guild's *Forefront* newsletter, Quilty said consumers were set to benefit significantly from the 6CPA because it underpins the viability and ongoing delivery

of medicines and services by the 5,450 community pharmacies across the country.

"Overall the 6CPA is a balanced agreement with strong benefits for consumers over the coming five years," Quilty said.

Shire Actelion bid fail

UK LISTED Shire Pharmaceuticals made an offer to acquire the Swiss pharma company Actelion for a 21% premium on its current share price on the weekend according to a report in *UK Equities*.

Shire lost 2.8% to £53.05 on the offer news, with fears of a bidding war, but Actelion rejected the offer.

Analysts predict Shire will most likely walk away with Merrill Lynch quoted as saying a much higher price may not make financial sense and be tougher to sell to Shire shareholders.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

FIGURES released yesterday by the Australian Bureau of Statistics make for some fascinating reading.

The Australian Health Survey: Nutrition State & Territory results for 2011-12 summarises the eating habits of Australians across the country - and in a sobering finding concluded that just over half of the population consumed the recommended daily allowance of fruit.

That was actually quite a good result - when it came to vegetables things were significantly worse, with just 6% of people across the country meeting the recommended usual daily intake.

Tasmanians came top of the table, with the highest intake (9%), while the worst states and territories for vegetable eating were Queensland, the Northern Territory and the ACT at 5%.

AUSTRIAN scientists have created a new type of artificial foot which apparently allows amputees to "feel" lifelike sensations.

Sensors fitted to the sole of the prosthesis are linked to nerve stimulators at the base of the stump, with the first patient to trial the system, Wolfgang Rangger who lost his right leg in 2007, saying "it feels like I have a foot again".

The procedure involved surgically "rewiring" nerve endings in his stump to bring them closer to the surface of the skin - and then six sensors were fitted to the sole of the artificial foot to measure the pressure on the heel and toe.

A microcontroller relays the sensor inputs to vibrating gadgets inside the shaft of the prosthesis.

"The sensors tell the brain there is a foot and the wearer has the impression that it rolls off the ground when he walks," said researcher Professor Hubert Egger from the University of Linz.

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Education Vacation 2016!

*Canyons/Park City USA,
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CPD Conferences invites you to join us in Canyons/Park City, Utah, the largest ski resort in the USA, for the 4th Australian Dental/Pharmacy Ski Conference. The event will be held at the Grand Summit Hotel.

This conference is an opportunity for Dentists, Hygienists, Prosthetists, Pharmacists and associated professionals to satisfy part of the mandatory requirement for Continuing Professional Development.

An information packed program is planned, together with relaxation and recreation away from the pressures of daily practice, in the company of your family.

The Grand Summit Hotel, a AAA Four Diamond resort sits majestically in the heart of the Resort Village. This property is a combination of beautiful design, exceptional ski-in / ski-out location, attentive service and liveable luxury. Lodgings include hotel rooms, 1, 2 and 3 bedroom suites.



Conference rates are available at the Grand Summit Hotel between 3rd January and 12th January 2016, giving you the option to extend your stay.

***Stay from AUD306.00 per night
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- . Canyons Spa and Health club
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Contact Ben or Lorraine on 02 9233 6466.