

API calendars

SEE page three of today's *PD* for details of how to order your 2016 API pharmacy calendars.

UK pharma regulator questions degrees

CURRENT Master of Pharmacy degrees offered by universities in the UK do not include enough first-hand experience of patient-centred care and inter-professional learning to equip graduates properly, according to a consultation paper launched this week by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC), which regulates the profession across Great Britain.

According to the preliminary findings of a review, the current MPharm degree needs to be integrated with a pre-registration training year so that early career pharmacists are able to deliver patient-centred care, fit into a multi-disciplinary team working in different care settings, and have "exemplary communication and people skills".

A survey launched by the GPhC is seeking feedback on the conclusions, with the regulator saying "if anyone believes that 'integrated' education is not in the best interests of future patients and students themselves, we need to know why".

To view the *Tomorrow's pharmacy team* and details of the accompanying survey see www.pharmacyregulation.org.

AZ appointment

ASTRAZENECA has appointed Pam Cheng as executive vice president of operations and IT, succeeding David Smith who is retiring after almost a decade with the company.

Cheng joins AZ from Merck/MSD.

NSW e-recording 'in sight'

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has welcomed the NSW Government's commitment to progress implementation of an Electronic Recording and Reporting of Controlled Drugs (ERRCD) system in the state.

Meetings between PSA NSW branch president Dr Stephen Carter and NSW Minister for Health Jillian Skinner have confirmed that gathering and input of data, which comprises the first phase of the project, would be completed by around August this year.

Skinner said that Phase II would see the system thoroughly tested prior to Phase III, the final rollout to pharmacists and doctors.

Carter said the implementation of

the system was now within sight.

"This is a massive project and the logistics around development and implementation in a state the size of NSW have been formidable but the Government has maintained its commitment to this very important project," Carter said.

"It is a credit to the Government that the ERRCD has progressed so quickly...this system is designed as a holistic response to a significant health issue and the ERRCD will help improve the health outcomes of consumers across the State".

The system initially targets S8 medications or "drugs of addiction," but PSA would like to see this extended to include other drugs where inappropriate use may be a problem.

"This could include over-the-counter medications containing codeine over which concerns have been raised recently," Carter said.

The system will help protect consumers and reduce harm from inappropriate use of some medications, he added.

NZ Guild critical of funding shortfall

FUNDING of services provision in community pharmacies across NZ is unsustainably low, the Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand has said.

In a statement issued earlier this week, Guild chief executive, Lee Hohaia said, "The pressure is taking its toll on community pharmacy as costs continue to rise and they are asked to provide more for less, without any real solution in sight as to how the current funding shortfall will be addressed."

In addition, community pharmacy is dispensing medicine which costs pharmacies more than they are paid, Hohaia added, with the funding shortfalls needing to be "addressed urgently".

"Currently five out of ten medicines are dispensed at a net loss and this continues to grow".

She said ultimately patients will be impacted, with pharmacies possibly holding a smaller range of medicines in stock as well as being forced to reduce opening hours and staff numbers.

FDA to cut trans fat

THE US Food and Drug Administration has finalised a "thorough review of the scientific evidence" which shows that partially hydrogenated oils - the primary source of artificial trans fat in processed foods - are not "generally recognised as safe" for human consumption.

Accordingly the FDA has ordered that PHOs be removed from all products, with food makers given a three year deadline for the change.

A spokesman said the action "is expected to reduce coronary heart disease and prevent thousands of fatal heart attacks every year.

In the meantime companies already have to label all foods with trans fat content information under a rule introduced in 2006, with the FDA estimating that between 2003 and 2012 consumer trans fat consumption decreased about 78%.

"While trans fat intake has significantly decreased, the current intake remains a public health concern," the FDA said.

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Departing on 25 January 2016 the trip includes a seven day cruise through Norway's fjords and into the Arctic Circle.

It also takes in Finnish Lapland with an overnight stay in a specially heated glass-topped igloo, plus a visit to Rovaniemi (the home of Santa Claus) and a husky safari.

It's priced from \$6,340 per person twin share - 1800 221 712.

Feel like a change?

GOLDEN Door Spa - Australia's only purpose-built health and wellness retreat - is offering 25% off a three night "Motivate for Change" program for guests who bring a friend this winter.

That means savings (on stays checking in up to Sun 23 Aug 2015) of up to \$510 per person for a three night escape in a 3-bed multi-room suite in the beautiful NSW Hunter Valley.

To book call 1800 212 011.

Demarte new PSA nat pres

THE National Board of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) yesterday elected Victorian pharmacist Joe Demarte (pictured centre) as its new national president.

Michelle Lynch (left) from Victoria and Jeff Hughes from Western Australia were also elected as PSA's new national vice-presidents.

Demarte is an immediate past national vice president of PSA, chairman of the PSA Finance Audit and Risk Management Committee, chairman of the PSA 6CPA Working Group and a member of the PSA Victorian Branch Committee, as well as a past president of the Victorian Branch of PSA.

Demarte said he was greatly honoured to have been elected to the role.

"The profession is entering a transitional phase and I am excited to be able to lead it at this very important time," he said.

"There are some very big challenges facing the profession,



but also some great opportunities. "I am committed to helping PSA's members grasp these opportunities and help build their

professional careers while improving the health of all Australians.

"It will not always be an easy road as we move forward but the strength of our profession, and the commitment of those within it, will lay the foundations for the future."

Demarte also paid tribute to the outgoing president Grant Kardachi who has served his four year term, saying he had helped shape the PSA for the future and guided the profession to meet the evolving needs of today's healthcare system.

EMA paediatric push

THE European Medicines Agency has launched an initiative which encourages medicines developers to consider the needs of children in the early phases of creating drugs.

Under the plan, which has now launched with a one year pilot phase, the EMA is offering free-of-charge early paediatric interaction meetings, to stimulate early dialogue on the development of medicines and how the needs of children could be addressed - well before the submission of a formal "paediatric investigation plan" (PIP). In the EU pharmaceutical companies are obliged to develop all new medicines also for use in children, with the development detailed in a PIP that needs to be agreed with the EMA's Paediatric Committee.

The initiative aims to optimise development plans for medicines and ultimately speed up access to the drugs for children.

DISPENSARY CORNER



4-HIM and 4-HER.

These are two number plates noticed on matching Maseratis in a driveway in Perth recently, but hardly meet the creativity of some South African drivers.

For a few thousand rand, you can choose from a wide range of number plate options and be as creative as you like, but not offensive, reports *IOL News*.

One wanna-be applied for POLICE-WP, but it didn't get past the keeper, nor did some body part mentions or "evil" connotations such as DEMON-WP, DEATH-WP and DEVIL-WP.

Some of the best reportedly seen include I 8 A 4 RE-WP (I ate a Ferrari) on a Porsche, TOP GUM-WP owned by a dentist, and WASABI-WP on a green Volvo.

Others getting a special mention were I AM OLD-WP on a vintage car, DROP OUT-WP on a Lamborghini and SPLASH-WP on a boat trailer.

Globally, the fad generates some clever ideas such as the hearse number plate sporting UR-NXT, 1M2-SEXY on an Audi, OSI-IT, 2FKN-FST and the winner is, 1-MPG on an American Hummer.

Allergan acquisition

ALLERGAN has confirmed the \$2.1 billion acquisition of Kythera Pharmaceuticals, with the deal including Kybella (deoxycholic acid) which gained FDA approval this year for the treatment of adults with "moderate-to-severe submental fat".

New AusPARs

THE TGA has published new Australian Public Assessment Reports for prescription medicines (AusPARs) covering Belsomra (suvorexant) and Iclusig (ponatinib).

Win with MILKY FOOT

This week **Pharmacy Daily** and **Biorevive** are giving away one Milky Foot Active (RRP\$32.95) each day.

New Milky Foot Active from the Milky Foot range is a new innovative DIY foot treatment than contains tannic acid (tea derivative) to combat foot odour. Standing all day, restrictive shoes, nylon stockings, exercising in sport shoes can all contribute to funky smelling feet. Milky Foot Active has an intense peeling process that starts at about 3-5 days - so by the end of the week, your feet are beautifully soft, fresh and odour-free! Available in one size: up to 11 for men, 13 for women.



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

What size is Milky Foot Active available in?

Need a hint? [CLICK HERE.](#)

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Naomi Gould from Australian NaturalCare!

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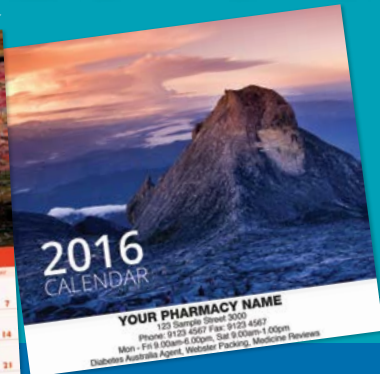
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