

SICK AND TIRED OF THE SAME **COLD AND FLU SEASON ROUTINE?**



PSA partners with ASA on sleep edu

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Australasian Sleep Association (ASA) to ramp up pharmacist education in sleep science and sleep health.

PSA national president Grant Kardachi said guidelines for the provision of sleep apnoea services within pharmacy would be launched at the PSA 15 conference in July.

The two organisations are also jointly developing education modules for release later this year as well as guidelines for continuous positive air pressure (CPAP) delivery in pharmacies.

ASA president Nick Antic said the ASA was keen to help deliver best practice sleep care through pharmacies in Australia.

CLICK HERE to read more about the partnership.

TGA approves 39 NCEs

THE TGA approved the registration of 39 new chemical entities (NCEs) in 2014 and has posted its annual summary online.

Seven of the NCEs, including Mekinist, Fycompa, Sovaldi and Jetrea, were considered to be innovative because of their new or unique mode of action compared with existing therapies, the TGA said.

One third of the NCEs were granted orphan designation, the summary stated.

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NSP support needed

THE Pharmacy Guild has said there needs to be some form of support to get more pharmacies involved in needle-syringe programs (NSP).

At a public hearing for the inquiry into hepatitis C in Australia held in March, Guild national secretariat policy and regulation national manager Khin win May said NSPs directly averted new HIV and HCV infections.

With less than 50% of community pharmacies involved in NSPs, there was an opportunity to have more take part, May said.

In its submission, the Guild said community pharmacies were "ideally placed" to continue to help distribute sterile injecting equipment, advice and referral to treatment services.

Guild supports Heart Foundation walks

THE Pharmacy Guild has partnered with the Heart Foundation to promote its walking groups and encourage pharmacies to become 'Walk Organisers'.

As part of a 'Move more, sit less' campaign launched by the Foundation this week to advocate physical activity, national program manager Michelle Wilson said community pharmacies were in an ideal position to promote the messages of the campaign.

The Guild said pharmacists could raise awareness of health issues during walks and start groups targeting issues or populations.

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Greater availability and use of injecting equipment reduced the incidence of HCV and HIV among injection drug users and "NSP in Australia needs coordinated investment", it said.

As part of its NSP policy, the Guild said funding support should be available for pharmacy NSP throughout the country, to ensure pharmacies were encouraged to participate, and that a liaison officer be funded and positioned at each of its branches to provide training in each state and territory.

Opioid dependence treatment (ODT) could reduce the risk of HCV by 50% to 80%, but while 88% of ODT dosing sites were community pharmacies, only about 40% of pharmacies were involved, May said.

"So there is a need to increase the participation rate of community pharmacies dispensing ODT."

The Guild submission called for a standardised ODT program which would "improve coordination between the Commonwealth government and state and territory governments, and improve the consistency of the ODT program and service delivery".

It said a national campaign similar to the 2010 Public Health Promotion Pilot Program, with a public awareness component and inter-professional learning, would increase the number of pharmacies participating in ODT and NSP. CLICK HERE to read more.

Anthogenol campaign

ETHICAL NUTRIENTS

PHYTOLOGIC is running an extensive advertising campaign to support Anthogenol.

See page three for details.

PSA: support for pharmacists in GP

PHARMACEUTICAL Society of Australia national president Grant Kardachi has said unofficial reports of an AMA survey indicate a "high level of support" for the model currently being piloted by the organisations, involving a pharmacist working in a GP setting (PD 23 Jul).

Speaking at the 2015 Offshore Refresher Conference, Kardachi said the PSA's own survey had found 573 of 700 respondents felt advising patients on medication use was the role for a non-dispensing "general practice pharmacist".

An AMA spokesperson said its survey had not been released.

Seminar early bird rates extended

EARLY bird rates for the first in a series of seminars have been extended for Pharmacy Daily readers to 15 May.

The seminar will cover topics such as employment issues, legal issues and social media and will be held at the Adina Hotel in Kent Street, Sydney on 19 Jun.

For more information, visit www.cpdconferencing.com.au.

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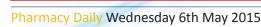
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Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Judith Dyason from Discount Drug Stores. The correct answer was 150 IU per gram.



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Health, Beauty and New Products

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Clinique A Different Nail Enamel for Sensitive Skins is a nail polish with a formulation designed to minimise skin sensitivity, says the company. Dermatologist and ophthalmologist-tested and appropriate for sensitive skin,

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Herbal Essences Honey, I'm Strong Shampoo is designed to strengthen hair with one wash, the company says. The shampoo manages each strand of hair by repairing the protective outer layers, at the same time leaving hair soft and silky with a delicate honey scent. Honey, I'm Strong Shampoo combines rich infusions of florals together with natural honey and apricot extracts as well as musk, vanilla and sandalwood, leaving hair smelling sweet and fresh.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

FORGET insomnia medications. Who needs insomnia

medication when there's a video of waterfall running underneath a wooden footbridge in Ireland?

Apparently, just such a video has gone viral, with millions of people with insomnia using it to help them sleep, the Telegraph reports.

The eight hour video by artist Johnnie Lawson was designed as a calming or soothing sound and now has more than 6.6m views. with comments from people including that it helped with anxiety.



The Telegraph even reports it is being used as part of a clinical trial in several London hospitals.

CLICK HERE to view the video but be warned - you may want to save it until you're in bed.

ANTIHORSETAMINES.

Do you have a truckload of antihistamines you could dispense for poor old Chanquette, the horse which is allergic to grass?

The animal consequently has to wear a body suit to prevent a painful reaction, described by the Telegraph as an "ill-fitting knitted mint green jumper".

Apparently, owner Sarah Hutchinson must wet his hay and feed him meals with no oats, barley or rye in them, as he's also allergic to those, the publication reports.

Hutchinson said the horse "tries to be as normal as possible", despite the pyjamas and the allergies to almost everything.



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