

Phcy hepatitis training

HEPATITIS Victoria is conducting a survey to ask health and community professionals, including pharmacists, about their current level of understanding around viral hepatitis and identify knowledge gaps.

Responses from the survey will help Hepatitis Victoria tailor their education and training programs to best meet health professionals' needs.

To achieve the objective, Hepatitis Victoria is inviting pharmacists to take a survey which they have designed and should take about 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

CLICK HERE to access the survey.

61% female in phcy

WITH a total of 29,150 pharmacists registered in Australia, 60.74% (17,706) are female according to the latest pharmacy registrant data released by the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

Those aged 25-29 years dominate the scene with 6,282 registered at September, while pharmacists aged 30-34 years stood at 5,627.

There are now more than 1,000 (1,009) non-practising registrants and 1,750 others have provisional registration, the report said.

NSW has 31% of registrants, Vic 25%, Qld 20%, WA 11%, SA 7%, Tas 2%, ACT 2% and NT 1%, while 2% of registrants have no principal place of practice.

First FBM pharma company

AUSTRALIA'S first 'for benefit' pharmaceutical company was launched yesterday promoting the first two 'for benefit medicines' (FBM) in the form of two aromatase inhibitors.

FBM is a new pharmaceutical business model that returns 100% of profits back into local breast cancer patient support and medical research organisations, in this case Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) and Breast Cancer Institute of Australia (BCIA).

The two products are generics of anastrozole and letrozole with the suffix FBM.

Royal Melbourne and Royal Women's Hospitals director of the Breast Service Professor Bruce Mann said the concept of a for-benefit pharmaceutical company is way overdue, and an initiative from which patients stand to significantly benefit.

"FBM represents the perfect hybrid of a formally structured commercial entity that distributes products that improve quality of life, while directing profits to beat diseases," said Mann.

"By choosing an FBM product, the medical community will be investing in local patient support programs today, and facilitating medical research to improve treatments tomorrow."

Annual sales of aromatase inhibitors in Australia exceed



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\$20 million while the generic segment comprises approximately 50% market share, creating an opportunity for this model to bring significant returns to the people most directly impacted, Professor Mann said.

Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) ceo, Christine Nolan said she welcomed the philanthropic initiative, and its shared goals of providing breast cancer patient support, information, treatment and care.

"An estimated 15,600 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in Australia this year, while the projected number of deaths from the disease will exceed 3,000," Nolan said.

Ecilizumab ERG

AN EXPERT Reference Group (ERG) has been established by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme to manage the use of the most expensive medicine in the world at a cost of \$500,000 per patient per year, ecilizumab.

The group will advise on continuation or reinitiation and is comprised of experts from the PBAC, the ANZ Paediatric Nephrology Association and Haematology Society of ANZ.

POTY finalists named

THE Pharmacy Guild has announced the five finalists for the Guild Pharmacy of the Year 2016.

In alphabetical order they are Friendlies High Wycombe Perth WA, McCarthy's Pharmacy Orange NSW, Mt Hawthorn Community Pharmacy Perth WA, Pharmacy 777 Nollamara Perth WA, and Samford Chemmart Pharmacy Brisbane Qld.

Recognising excellence across business management, community engagement and professional innovation, the overall winners will be announced on the Gold Coast in Mar next year at APP2016.

Harper review flaws

PHARMACY Guild executive director David Quilty says the recommendations of the Harper Review into competition, which suggested opening up pharmacy to supermarkets, are "deeply flawed and bereft of evidence".

He said the review did not produce any serious empirical evidence that such a change would produce any net benefit to patients.

In contrast the Guild's submission to the Harper Review Panel showed a social and economic loss of over \$700m a year would result from the deregulation of pharmacy, with the Guild vowing to continue to defend the current model.

Win with sukin

Each day this week Pharmacy Daily and Sukin are giving readers the chance to win a Lime & Coconut Body Wash and Body Lotion.

A sulphate free body cleanser, enriched with refreshing coconut & lime to stimulate the senses in the morning or help revive a tired body. Contains skin softening jojoba, avocado and rose hip oils to soften, hydrate and purify your skin followed by the lotion with an infusion of aloe vera, nettle, horsetail and burdock restore the skin's moisture balance by deeply nourishing dry skin.

To win, be the first from **SA** or **NT** to send the correct answer to

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Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Deborah Caldera from Jardine's Chemmart Pharmacy.



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Pharmacy DAILY

Thursday 26 Nov 2015

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Star Clippers 2016/17 brochure - 35% off

STAR Clippers has launched its new 2016/17 brochure with a special of up to 35% off the line's intimate cruises and with a new destination: Asia in 2016.

The new program will offer seven-night itineraries where you can explore the depths of the crystal clear water in Phuket to the hustle and bustle of busy Singapore, visiting tropical islands throughout Malaysia and Thailand.

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FIP refugee guidance

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation has released new guidance for pharmacists and pharmacy staff on providing care for refugees.

Created by an FIP emergency task force set up last month, the advisory document "Providing pharmaceutical care for migrant populations" details resources to help pharmacists, particularly those affected by the current migrant crisis within Europe.

The task force has considered how pharmacists can help migrants clearly communicate symptoms, with the advisory document linking to tools available to facilitate this communication as well as an example formulary for migrants.

See www.fip.org/emergencies.

NICE not to have AF

A NEW decision support tool has been endorsed by the UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) to help healthcare professionals and people with atrial fibrillation (AF) make informed decisions about the most appropriate treatments.

More than 10% of people over 65 have AF, with around half of those known to be at risk of stroke taking anticoagulants.

However, two-thirds of people admitted to hospital with a stroke caused by AF are not taking the recommended anticoagulants, said NICE.

CLICK HERE to access the tool.

FDA approvals

RECENT approvals from the US regulator, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) include the first seasonal influenza vaccine containing an adjuvant, Portrazza (necitumumab) to treat advanced squamous non-small cell lung cancer and a vaccine for use after a known or suspected anthrax exposure.

For full details go to www.fda.gov.

No vax excuses left

EFFECTIVE 01 Jan 2016, parents who want to receive Child Care Benefit, Child Care Rebate or Family Tax Benefit Part A supplement for a child of any age must make sure their child's immunisations are up to date, the Department of Human Services has announced.

These changes will also affect customers who receive Grandparent Child Care Benefit, Special Child Care Benefit or Jobs, Education and Training Child Care Fee Assistance.

The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register, which currently records immunisation details for children under seven years of age, will be extended to capture immunisation details for children and young people under 20 years of age.

In addition the department has clarified that objections on the basis of personal, philosophical or religious beliefs, sometimes referred to as vaccination objections, will no longer be accepted as a valid exemption.

Male breast cancer

AUSTRALIAN men diagnosed with breast cancer are at a disadvantage compared to women, delegates were told at the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia's Annual Scientific Meeting in Hobart.

Sydney's Macquarie University Hospital cancer expert John Boyages told the conference the system is geared towards women and "contests male patients'" sense of masculinity, primarily because the numbers are small with only three men diagnosed each week.

"We need more awareness of how breast cancer can affect men and more sensitivity in treatment.

"Treatments for women are not necessarily as effective in men."



DISPENSARY CORNER

RACING heart limits.

The speed of your heartbeat could help predict whether you will die early, say Chinese researchers who have correlated heart rate with the risk of dying from any illness.

Intriguingly, for every extra ten beats per minute of your resting heartrate the chance of dying within the next two decades rises by 9%.

That means people who have a heart rate of 80 beats per minute are 45% more likely to die of any cause in the next 20 years than those with the lowest measured heart rate of 45 beats per minute.

Dr Dongfeng Zhang from Qingdao University in Shandong, China said the association of resting heart rate with risk of all-cause mortality was "independent of traditional cardiovascular risk factors".

MUTANT mozzies could be the key to malaria, with US scientists from the University of California saying they have created a genetically modified mosquito which is a poor host for the malaria parasite.

They were able to edit the DNA in the *Anopheles stephensi* mosquito found in India, with the change meaning the modified form had antibodies which combat the parasite.

According to a report in the *PNAS* journal the genetic change was inherited by almost 100% of the mosquito's offspring across three generations, meaning if these insects bite people they would not pass on the disease.

The researchers said they believe the technique could work in other mosquito species to form a "useful additional weapon" in the fight against the scourge - alongside bed nets, repellents and insecticides.

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Part of the Travel Daily group of publications.

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