



Abbvie Hep C training

ABBVIE has announced a new community pharmacy training program for hepatitis C treatments, with the module planned for roll-out from May this year.

Debbie Rigby, Professor Lisa Nissen and Terry White Chemists business development manager Chris Campbell were presenters at the "New Treatments for Hepatitis C - are you ready?" session at last weekend's APP conference, and developed the CPD accredited education package with the support of Abbvie.

The Australian College of Pharmacy website will feature the new training program which will cover all aspects of the condition, from causes and demographics through to a review of all available treatments.

It aims to support community pharmacists to dispense the new PBS-listed breakthrough oral medications to the 230,000 people living with hepatitis C.

UK pharmacy under fire

DELEGATES at APP on the Gold Coast last weekend were told the sobering tale of the current major attack on community pharmacy under way in the UK.

Giving the Allan Russell Oration at APP, pharmacist Ian Strachan, who's chairman of the National Pharmacy Association (NPA), described the "Cavendish-Ridge" plan for pharmacy, which was unveiled just before Christmas and involves massive funding cuts.

An open letter to the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee advised that funding for community pharmacy would be cut by £170 million in 2016/17 - a reduction of more than 6%.

A consultation gave just three months to respond, with the proposed changes to be implemented in Oct this year.

Measures would include more 'hub and spoke' dispensing and an extension of prescription duration

from 28 days to 90 days supply.

Strachan outlined a massive campaign under way to battle the moves, with pharmacists across the UK mobilised to inform patients and get them to sign petitions.

Alternatives have also been proposed including eRepeat Dispensing, a range of professional services including a minor ailments scheme, pharmacy immunisation and ultimately long-term support for patients with chronic conditions.

Strachan said while it's still in its early stage the campaign is starting to have an effect and he's urging pharmacists to "stay ruthlessly positive" and focus on the value added by community pharmacy.

InformMe launch

THE Stroke Foundation yesterday formally launched InformMe, a "one stop shop" for clinical guidelines, quality data and stroke care information.

The free online portal brings together resources, support and education with the aim of providing a place for doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and researchers to share information and source the latest news in stroke. See www.informme.org.au.

Aug Pharmeducation

DR GERALDINE Moses and Debbie Rigby will host a Pharmeducation Clinical Update Weekend in Sydney on 27-28 August.

Featuring clinical and drug interaction updates, topics will include Hepatitis C, antibiotics, hormone therapy, interactions with prodrugs and new herbal medicines to watch out for, with up to 22 CPD credits available for attendance and completion of an assessment.

Info at pharmeducation.com.au.

Quadrivalent flu vax

2016 is the first time that four-strain (quadrivalent) vaccines have been integrated into the government-sponsored part of the national immunisation program.

GlaxoSmithKline will be supplying the quadrivalent vaccine on the program for eligible children and adults three years and over, while Sanofi Pasteur will supply the vaccine for eligible babies/toddlers from six months to under three.

The four-strain vaccines include an additional B strain of influenza.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently said flu vaccinations during the northern winter had "reduced the risk of having to go to the doctor because of flu by nearly 60%".

GuildLink MPS pact

GUILDLINK and MPS formally launched their partnership at APP (PD 15 Mar), with the collaboration aiming to ensure both companies' software provides pharmacy with synergies to allow more time caring for patients.

The relationship will see GuildCare integrated into MPS' Healthstream and Quantum software to "help transform pharmacy workflow," they said.

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APP2016 in pictures!

PHARMACY Daily joined the APP throngs on the trade show floor, and snapped these pics during the Gold Coast event last weekend.

Lots more on our Facebook page too at facebook.com/pharmacydaily.

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LEFT: The Anneal team pose with their 'alPaca' mascot highlighting their new robotic packing system of the same name, from left: Jonathan Mayes, Roy Wilson, Ann Antonioli, Jim Margaritis and Steve Zafiriou.

BELOW: Melanie Dretvic and Talita Kendall at the fruit-filled Blackmores stand.



LEFT: APP2016 showgirl representatives welcome delegates to the conference and invite them to take an #APP2016 selfie - in keeping with the Viva Las Vegas themed party on Sat night.

BELOW: The packed APP show floor on Saturday.

BELOW: Raven's Recruitment team David Shaw, Nivi Kent and Heidi Dariz inviting delegates to a tropical paradise.



BELOW: Looks like even Major Tom made it to APP.



LEFT: APP delegates checking out the latest offerings from GuildCare.

BELOW: Catherine Wilbers, Katie Doolan, Melanie Toutounji and Peta Robin from Care Pharmaceuticals.



BELOW: Some of the GSK team.



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Guild Update

Health Advice Plus

A NEW Pharmacy Guild program called Health Advice Plus will change the way pharmacies deliver professional services, and add to the value of community pharmacy for Australian patients.

Health Advice Plus is a support service for member pharmacies who want to get started, or need additional support to integrate and deliver successful health programs and services. This program has been developed in partnership with an established professional services provider with a strong track record of delivering solutions to community pharmacies.

The program will provide a platform for service delivery throughout the Sixth Community Pharmacy Agreement and into the future.

The Health Advice Plus program provides a suite of resources and operational processes, tailored to each pharmacy. The Guild's aim is to ensure that professional services delivered by Guild member pharmacies are both commercially and operationally viable and provide quality health outcomes for patients."

There are three tiers of support available: Bronze, Silver and Gold, so pharmacies can choose a level of assistance that suits individual needs and budgets. The standard pack includes direct one-on-one implementation support along with a range of program resources, including a QCCP-aligned planning guide, staff education, presentations to use when speaking with other healthcare professionals and local area marketing material.

More info at: 1300 309 190 or info@healthadviceplus.com.au.

DAA uptake below par

WHILE evidence suggests that consumers are open to using a dosage administration aid (DAA) service, to date the uptake by pharmacies offering this service has been poor, according to former Guild national president and current APP chairman, Kos Sclavos.

Speaking at this year's Australian Pharmacy Professional (APP) conference on the Gold Coast, Sclavos made the point based on recent Amneal-commissioned independent research into DAA use in Australia titled "Consumer Perception of DAA's".

The findings come at a time when pharmacies are in a position to draw on the 6CPA Professional Services budget but are failing in their uptake of what is arguably a "crucially important" potential new revenue stream for the challenged industry, Sclavos said.

Amneal used the conference to launch its "One Solution" system which the company says provides the answer to efficient DAA production, regardless of the quantity required by a pharmacy.

The DAA production system, demonstrated at the Amneal APP stand incorporates four elements:

- Medico Pak is a cold seal blister pack for hand packing blister packs
- Pak Light is a computerised means for filling and checking packs
- Madi is a software interface for patient medication and dosing information; and
- alPaca is the blister pack dispensary robot for fast, accurate packing at a rate of approximately 40 per hour.

FDA approves Anthim

THE US Food and Drug Administration has granted approval for Anthim (oblitoximab) injection for the treatment of inhalational anthrax, in combination with appropriate antibacterial drugs.

Inhalational anthrax is a rare disease that can occur after exposure to infected animals or contaminated animal products, or as a release of an intentional release of anthrax spores.



DISPENSARY CORNER

AN ENTERPRISING Aussie on a diet has made headlines around the world after he took a hotplate to his local McDonald's restaurant to cook up his own steak.

Sydney-based comedian Jackson O'Doherty is apparently on a high protein, low fat diet but didn't want to miss out on the fun when his mate wanted to go for a Big Mac meal.

In a video shared on his Facebook page O'Doherty can be seen firing up the burner and then frying his steak in a pan as he seasons it with some pepper, before plating up and digging in with some plastic cutlery (**below**).

The video, which has now been viewed more than 1.3 million times, is captioned "When your friends want McDonald's but you're on a diet #boysthatdiet".



THIS weekend some brave Kiwi men will compete in a spouse-carrying competition, with the aim of winning their wife's weight in beer.

The politically incorrect event at a festival in Marlborough includes a number of secret obstacles, with promoter Zoe Rockett saying there's a fine line between being little enough to carry and large enough to get a good reward.

"You don't want to be too light - the heftier the better," she recommended.

Rockett, who's also entering the competition with husband Matthew, confessed (smiling) she is currently eating chocolate "in the hope that Matthew will win a greater prize".

Win with Qsilica

Pharmacy Daily is giving away Qsilica's new phytonutrient skin support, Beauty ELIXIR. Be in to win one box of this vegan powder every day this week!

Glowing skin isn't just about what you put on it—internal nutrition is also a must for optimal skin function and vitality. Qsilica Beauty ELIXIR contains powerful antioxidants, resveratrol and green tea, and is formulated with vitamins, minerals and plant phytonutrients to protect against free radical damage that can lead to premature ageing. An intensive, therapeutic antioxidant, it also boasts cinnamon and cacao extract to nourish and support the skin daily. Simply add to smoothies, take in water or sprinkle over cereal. Available from Planet Health and selected wholesalers. 1800 001 055.

To win be the first person from QLD to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

What action do the key phytonutrients in Qsilica BEAUTY ELIXIR provide? a) relaxant; b) digestive; c) antioxidant

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Toni Soffer from Woolloomooloo Pharmacy.

