

Aged care project

MONASH University's Faculty of Pharmacy together with three Vic hospitals has launched a project aiming to "develop a new model of care to improve the continuity of treatment for elderly patients as they transfer from hospital to an aged care facility."

Principal investigator Rohan Elliott said statistics show at least 25% of patients transferred have medication doses missed or delayed because of differences in systems of care and medication funding and supply arrangements.

A key component of the project will be a software module which generates discharge information and an interim medication administration chart, with the aim of "reducing pressure on aged care home staff, GPs and community pharmacists in the period following resident arrival."

Comp winner

CONGRATULATIONS to Lynette Powell of Haystac who was the winner of last Fri's competition.

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VAC therapy home push

US firm Kinetic Concepts has been holding meetings with Health Dept officials about the possibility of reimbursement for its home-based wound care systems.

The company's V.A.C. (Vacuum Assisted Closure) Therapy has been shown to accelerate healing of problem wounds.

The company's ceo Catherine Burzik was in Australia last week and said that there's currently limited government funding for the therapy here, despite being available for over ten years and "well suited for use in the acute setting as well as in the home care and community setting."

In the USA most health insurers as well as the govt's Medicare and Medicaid organisations fund the therapy, which involves the use of

API board move

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries has appointed board member (and former federal health minister) Michael Wooldridge as Lead Independent Director, meaning he "can assume the role of Chair when the Chair is unable to act in that capacity due to unavailability or lack of independence."

a foam dressing and a device which delivers negative pressure to the wound site.

The pressure "shrink wraps" the wound while suctioning off fluids and bacteria, reducing oedema and promoting new cell growth.

Burzik said she'd met with Health Minister Nicola Roxon to describe the benefits of the system which can reduce hospital stays as well as cut healing time.

One possible funding model would see doctors prescribe the use of the system, either in hospital or in the community, with community nurses managing dressings and providing ongoing feedback on the healing process.

NSW PGTC open

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is calling for enrolments for next year's Pharmacy Graduate Training Course.

The PGTC is open to interns working with a preceptor in a pharmacy and costs \$1500.

The NSW Pharmacy Board requires that applicants for initial registration in NSW complete all compulsory elements of the PGTC.

More info and enrolment forms online at www.psa.org.au.

Win a 6 pack of Slimmm UHT!

THIS week *Pharmacy Daily* has teamed up with Slimmm and API once again to bring you another fabulous competition!

Each day for the next week we will be giving away a six-pack of the new Slimmm Ready to Drink UHT!

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How many flavours are there in the new ready to drink UHT's?

The first person to respond with the correct answer each day will win this great prize.



HINT! For clues and information visit www.slimmm.com.au

DISPENSARY CORNER

"ELF and safety training?"

British Santas are being taught how to balance eager children on their knees, in a bid to reduce workplace injuries.

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health is running the courses which include instruction on posture as well as how to lift heavy presents without causing injury.

However reports don't mention whether the training includes shimmying up and down chimneys.

OBSESION has helped save the life of a dog in Wisconsin, USA, after the animal was frozen to a pathway when he was left out overnight last week.

The morbidly obese aging border collie named Jiffy was found stuck to the ground after the temperature plunged.

Humane Society workers managed to free the 60kg dog by pouring warm water over its back, saying it had only survived because it was "insulated by layers of fat."

Jiffy's owner has been arrested on charges of animal neglect.

POLICE in the USA have managed to crack a case by making their suspect spill his guts - literally.

Officers pursued a 25-year-old Detroit man on suspicion of drug possession, but after capturing him were unable to find any evidence.

However during questioning the alleged criminal vomited, with his stomach contents revealing that he had swallowed a quantity of crack cocaine.

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