

NSW MR training

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (NSW branch) will run its first Medication Review workshops in Feb and Mar.

The workshops provides 20 CPD points and satisfies the stage 1 requirements for accreditation with AACF.

The first session will be held 09-10 Feb 08 at St Leonards, with the second workshop split over two Sundays - 24 Feb and 02 Mar.

The workshop costs \$550 for PSA members, \$660 for SHPA members and \$825 for non-members; more info 02 9431 1120.

Rural mentors

THE Pharmacy Guild is calling for pharmacists interested in becoming mentors for the Rural and Remote Pharmacy Scholarship scheme.

The Mentor Program aims to reinforce students' ties to rural and regional Australia, and provide support during each year of their pharmacy studies, outside of the university environment.

Support includes at least one quarterly contact and mentors are paid an honorarium of \$220 per year for their participation.

See guild.org.au/rural.

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RB responds on Nurofen

RECKITT Benckiser has issued a statement on Nurofen Plus (PD this week), reaffirming its ongoing support for the National Strategy for the Quality Use of Medicines.

The company has pointed out that the strategy says healthcare organisations, practitioners and media "all have a role to play in

the provision of accurate information about medicines".

RB reaffirmed the established safety profile of Nurofen Plus when taken in accordance with label directions, emphasising that in most states consumers can only purchase 72-tablet packs directly from a pharmacist.

Medical marketing mgr Carolyn Winkler said the firm takes the health of consumers very seriously "and would like to reiterate that care should always be taken when using OTC medicines".

NSW interns

NEW legislation to be introduced in NSW from next month will require all pharmacy graduates undertaking supervised practice to register with the NSW Pharmacy Board as intern pharmacists.

The Board has advised that it's currently preparing the necessary information and application forms, and graduates enrolled in the NSW Pharmacy Graduate Training Course can expect to receive an information package before the end of March.

The Board said there is no need to make contact before receiving the updated information.

Women's congress

THE 2008 Pharmacy Women's Congress will be held 29-31 Aug 08 at the Crown Promenade Hotel in Melbourne.

The organising committee this week announced that Dr Sally Cockburn (aka Dr Feelgood) has been confirmed as the MC and a speaker for the event.

"Her presentation on women's sexual health will have everyone interested and entertained I am sure!" said committee chair Toni Riley, adding that the 2008 program would be finalised soon.

The congress is supported by Ranbaxy, the Guild Group, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited and Symbion Health.

New Vic references

THE Pharmacy Board of Victoria has changed the list of mandatory reference books required by the Board, with new additional options for drug interactions.

At least two drug interactions references must be on hand, at least one of which must be an electronic version - see www.pharmacybd.vic.gov.au.

itsmybody.com.au

A NEW internet-based educational resource developed by Johnson & Johnson claims to help parents address 'taboo topics' with their daughters such as periods, hormones and body image without embarrassment.

Family health expert Dr Michael Carr-Gregg has helped create the site, with a recent STAYFREE survey showing that 92% of Australian women would rather discuss childbirth, sex or religion in preference to menstruation.

Carr-Gregg said the site would also be helpful for dads, with the changing family landscape and the rise in single parent families in Australia.

See www.itsmybody.com.au.

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DISPENSARY CORNER

A NEW product for breastfeeding mothers developed by a Sydney mum is attracting attention around the world for its novel approach to modesty.

The adult-sized bib is aimed at mums who are uncomfortable exposing their breasts in public, with adjustable straps and a rigid neck which allows the baby to watch mum - while passers-by just see a cloth.

The product is creatively named "Peek-a-Boob".

HEALTH problems will probably ensue at a German workplace, where the boss has sacked all the non-smokers.

Thomas Jensen, who runs a telesales firm in Buesum, said: "Smokers have always been our best employees."

"Non-smokers interfere with corporate peace," he claimed.

A FRAUDSTER in Austria is alleged to have lived in hospitals for the last three years after fooling scores of doctors with fake illnesses.

59-year-old Franz Steiger has reportedly stayed in more than 90 different hospitals since 2004 but was finally caught after claiming he was suffering from dizzy spells after falling off a motorbike.

Suspicious health professionals couldn't find any other injuries and uncovered the scam after checking with other hospitals.

Steiger has pleaded guilty to charges of 'deception by simulating injury,' with prosecutors saying "He obtained free hospital accommodation and food by fraud."

Get your copy of *Community Pharmacy* today!

Community Pharmacy: Strategic Change Management has hit the book shelves!

The book, which covers the essential trends and issues in successful pharmacy management for today and the future has been written by S.I. (Charlie) Benrimoj, Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Sydney; Alison Roberts, a research fellow in the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney; Dexter Dunphy, Distinguished Professor and Ian Palmer, Associate Dean (Research) and Professor of Management at the Faculty of Business, University of Technology, Sydney.

The book will help community pharmacists and pharmacy owners adapt to an increasingly competitive retail environment by providing industry-specific tools for change.

Key features include authentic pharmacy case studies, development by world leading authorities utilising the latest research and balanced coverage with theoretical insights and practical focus.

The book is highly suitable for pharmacy students, providing the knowledge and skills for best practice in community pharmacy - [click here to view a list of bookstores stocking the publication](#).

