



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia

## This week's update from the Guild

### Guild President to address National Press Club

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's National President, Kos Sclavos, will address the National Press Club in Canberra tomorrow (23 July 2008).

This event will be televised on ABC and provides the Guild an invaluable opportunity to address crucial issues relating to the current status and future of community pharmacy in Australia.

The presentation will centre on the upcoming commencement of the PBS Reforms, as well as addressing innovation in programs and initiatives to support community pharmacy and improved public health outcomes.

Mr Sclavos will also touch on the ever-critical issue of the threat of supermarket pharmacies.

This is a unique event for the Guild and community pharmacy in Australia, as Mr Sclavos is the first National President to be invited to address the National Press Club.

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In other news, the Council of Griffith University recently invited Mr Sclavos to accept an honorary doctorate degree. The honour is in recognition of the Guild President's distinguished contribution to the pharmacy profession and pharmacy innovation.

Mr Sclavos will receive the award at a Graduation Ceremony to be held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre on 28 July. At this ceremony, Griffith University will be presenting graduates from the Faculty of Science, Environment, Engineering and Technology, the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Education, Griffith Health, Griffith Law School and the Queensland College of Art. Mr Sclavos will present the Occasional Address to the graduating students.

## Major LOTS upgrade out

CORUM Health Services yesterday began the national rollout of its LOTS Complete Version 17 pharmacy software.

The new release was previewed at information sessions held in each state last week, with the upgrade incorporating features to allow users to fully comply with the 01 Aug PBS reforms.

Changes to PBS Online incentive payments, PBS premium-free dispensing incentives and new mark-ups are incorporated.

And there's also a change to the **Kids medicines**

THE Federal Government has commissioned a study to work out why Australian children have a lack of access to age-appropriate medicines.

The health department will spend five months working out if drug registration and listing processes are part of the problem.

"While this is a global issue, some medicines and/or formulations which are suitable for pediatric use are available in other countries such as the US, Europe and New Zealand, but not in Australia," stated a briefing paper for the tender.

"It is therefore evident that there are barriers to industry in the registration, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme listing and marketing of medicines and formulations suitable for pediatric use in Australia."

## Pharmacotherapy of the future

JOINT pharmacist and GP education events will be held in Tasmania next month to discuss ways the two professions can work together for better health outcomes.

Renate Uzubalis, Reckitt & Benckiser's Clinical Liaison Specialist, will provide the information session, covering pharmacology and toxicology with emphasis of clinical safety issues, and the increased clinical role of pharmacists in the opioid pharmacotherapy program.

Presentations will be held on August 12 at Salamanca Inn, Hobart, and August 14 at Sandors on the Park, Launceston; more info 03 6231 2669.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

CUSTOMERS with callused feet could be interested in a new US spa treatment, which uses tiny fish to nibble dead skin off.

The so-called "fish pedicures" are on offer at the Yvonne Hair and Nails Salon in Washington DC, with more than 5000 satisfied customers already taking the plunge.

The toothless 'doctor fish' or garra rufa apparently thrive in the warm water used for a comfortable footbath and thrive on dead, flaking skin.

Patrons were initially intimidated but now most say it just feels "a little ticklish."

OBESITY is being celebrated in Thailand with the annual 'Jumbo Queens' beauty pageant.

Each year the contest aims to find the Jumbo Queen, a "well-padded young woman with the right personality to front a campaign to promote the conservation of elephants in Thailand".

Conditions stipulate that entrants must weigh a minimum of 80kg and have a pleasant personality and good inter-personal skills.

Apparently judges score the women "not only on their performances and an interview, but on how well they exhibit the qualities of an elephant."



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