



Animated careers

THE Pharmacy Guild has launched an online 'careers interactive' which highlights the role of pharmacists and pharmacy assistants in the community.

The online animated feature aims to give school students a snapshot of life in a community pharmacy, and invites online viewers to "get to know four fun people who have chosen Pharmacy as a career" - pharmacists Anthony Tassone of Melbourne and Kellie Seymore of Mungindi in regional NSW, as well as pharmacy assistants Dianne James of Warragul in Victoria (the reigning Pharmacy Assistant of the Year) and Giuseppe Mangeruca of Canberra.

It's online at educational website www.forteachersforstudents.com.au.

Decriminalisation call

THE Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has renewed calls for dispensing errors to be decriminalised, following the sentencing of a UK pharmacist last week to a three month suspended prison term for mistakenly dispensing beta-blockers instead of steroids to a 72-year-old patient.

The sentence came despite the patient's death three days later being found to have been due to underlying long-term illness rather than the dispensing mistake.

New chemotherapy payment

THE Health Department has announced new "more efficient funding arrangements" for intravenous chemotherapy items, including a \$40 'pharmacy reconstitution fee' which replaces the current dispensing fee.

The Intravenous Chemotherapy Supply Program (ICSP) changes become effective from 01 Jul and will reduce wastage by funding only the amount of the active ingredient used when a product is reconstituted rather than the number of vials dispensed, as presently occurs.

The PBS subsidy will match the actual quantity of active ingredient prescribed for the patient.

Certain PBS items will be

removed from the General Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits and the S100 Special Authority Program (trastuzumab) section, and instead be listed separately under the new ICSP, which will also include some items currently approved for funding for public hospitals participating in the Chemotherapy Pharmaceutical Access Program.

OTC antihistamine

A NEW OTC antihistamine syrup is now available for the treatment of hives in children as young as six months of age.

Aerius syrup may also be used to treat allergies from the age of 12 months, and gives long lasting non-drowsy allergy relief.

The product has a pleasant bubblegum flavour and comes with a dosing syringe for easy administration.

More info at www.aerius.net.au; for stockists call 1800 777 950.

FDA opioid action

THE US Food and Drug Administration has amended its previous warning about unapproved prescription narcotics (**PD** 02 Apr), saying it will allow the continued marketing and distribution of one particular type of opioid on an interim basis.

The permitted product is a "high concentrate [20mg/ml] morphine sulfate oral solution", with the change following concerns raised by patients and palliative health care professionals that the action to force withdrawal of unapproved products would cause a shortage.

On 30 Mar the FDA sent warning letters to several manufacturers requiring them to cease production and distribution of a range of unapproved prescription opioid products, with items still affected including immediate release tablets containing morphine sulfate, hydromorphone and oxycodone.

Today's issue of PD

PHARMACY Daily today has 3 pages including a flyer promoting the new online registration facility for the upcoming Pharmacy Expo.

Our regular Health, Beauty and New Products feature will return next week.



DISPENSARY CORNER

A RUSSIAN karate expert had a fairly extreme reaction to lice when he allegedly killed a woman and her son with his bare hands over an infection of the insects.

The 26-year-old man was apparently drunk when he burst into a neighbouring room in his hostel and used karate moves to kill the pair, a police spokesman in the remote city of Kazan said.

"He literally beat them to death with his hands and feet," he said.

"The family were poor and drank a lot. He blamed them for infecting his wife and the entire corridor with lice," the officer added.

The black-belted suspect faces life in prison if convicted.

CHILDHOOD food memories play a major role in determining likes and dislikes in later life, according to a recent UK study.

Almost 43% of people questioned admitted they had never again tried the foods that gave them their earliest bad flavour memories - such as brussels sprouts, peas, olives, broccoli or liver.

"We spend our formative years being fed with things that are sweet and are quite bland," said Cardiff University School of Biosciences researcher Professor Tim Jacob.

"Once we have established what foods we need to survive, why change it? We often don't want to take that risk," he said.

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NEW
10 day
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The Premier Pharmacy Practice Event

Darling Harbour

Friday 12th – Sunday 14th June

REGISTER ONLINE NOW

Pharmacy Expo is the must attend event for pharmacists in 2009. Building on a record-breaking year in 2008, Expo will once again deliver a FREE trade exhibition combined with a first-rate education program. There really is something for everyone!

With over 120 exhibitors displaying the very latest in pharmacy products and services, it's the ideal opportunity to network with the industry and take advantage of show specials. Visit the New Product Showcase display...NEW for 2009.

The education program will be presented by some of Australia's leading clinical experts and business leaders. With 80 education sessions across 5 different streams this is the continuing education event that you can't afford to miss!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Community & Hospital Pharmacists
- Accredited Pharmacists
- Pharmacy Owners & Managers
- Pharmacy Students & Graduates
- Pharmacy Assistants & Dispensary Technicians
- Pharmacists in the pharmaceutical industry

SPECIAL MEMBER-ONLY OFFER FOR WEEKEND EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS

ONLY \$150 INCL GST

BOOK NOW!!!

REGISTRATION

The competitive rates offered for the education sessions allow everyone to expand their clinical and industry knowledge. Visit the website to review the packages available.

Registration at Pharmacy Expo includes:

- FREE entry to the trade exhibition
- Satchel and Expo Catalogue
- Access to over 120 trade displays and complementary pharmacy publications
- Onsite cafe with a range of food and beverages - don't miss the weekend BBQ
- Complementary coffee, tea and water during session breaks

NEW Green Initiatives
for Pharmacy Expo. Visit
www.pharmacyexpo.com.au



EDUCATION PROGRAM

The education program has something for everyone. Focuses for 2009 include Cardiovascular and Mental Health, Complementary Medicines, Smart Pharmacy Business and Counter Prescribing. So whether you are a pharmacist, student or pharmacy assistant this program is relevant for you!

Theatre 1	Smart Pharmacy Business (incl Financial Crisis, New Product Showcase, & Pharmacy Design)
Theatre 2	Counter Prescribing
Theatre 3	Essential Updates & New Drugs
Theatre 4	Clinical Focus Red (incl Cardiovascular Health)
Theatre 5	Clinical Focus Blue (incl Mental Health and Complementary Medicines)

Pharmacy Expo will present in-depth 90 minute workshops on the Friday and intensive 30 minute sessions on the weekend. Weekend sessions are repeated to ensure you don't miss out on your favourite topics. Visit the website to view the education program in full.

Please note that you will need to nominate your preferred Friday topics when registering online. You do not need to nominate topics for the weekend.

LOOKING TO MAXIMISE YOUR CPD POINTS? CPD points will be issued for both attendance and completion of the online post-show assessment. Handouts will be available on our website after the event.

EARN UP TO 20 CPD POINTS

REGISTER TO ATTEND NOW

Visit our website now to register your involvement in Pharmacy Expo 2009. Simply click on the "Register Now" section and enter the necessary information. You will receive an automated e-ticket by return email to confirm your involvement. Visitors that are unable to book online or pay by credit card can contact Tradevent on 02 9211 4844 to arrange an alternative registration method.

Places for the Friday workshop program are limited so ensure you get in early to confirm your place.

VISIT US ONLINE

www.pharmacyexpo.com.au

- Register your attendance
- View the exhibitor & product listings and floor plan
- Review the education program
- Subscribe to event updates
- Show specials, new products and promotions

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & MEDIA PARTNERS



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