



CPD Calendar

WELCOME to Pharmacy Daily's Continuing Professional Development Calendar, featuring upcoming events, conferences and opportunities for pharmacists to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

1 Jul - 31 Jul: The **Pharmspace 09 Virtual Careers Fair & Expo** is now online 24/7 - www.pharmspace.com.au.

2-4 Jul: The face-to-face component of the DMAS training program will be held in Vic, NSW & Qld - 02 9431 1100.

5 Jul: A **Preceptor Training Course** will be held at the Marquee Hotel in Canberra - act.branch@psa.org.au.

31 Jul-1 Aug: SHPA will hold a Sydney seminar in **Critical Care - Advanced** - 03 9486 0177.

6-7 Aug: SHPA will hold an **Advanced Clinical Pharmacy** seminar in Melbourne - more information 03 9486 0177

14-16 Aug: The 2009 **Pharmacy Women's Congress** will be held on the Gold Coast - www.pharmacywomenscongress.com.au.

30 Aug-03 Sep: The annual **Pharmacy Snow Business Conference** is taking place at Mt Buller in Victoria - see www.medi.com.au/study-tours.

15-18 Oct: The PSA's Pharmacy Australia Congress 2009 will be held in Sydney - www.pac2009.com.au.

16-23 Jan 2010: Pharmacy Study Tour in Aspen, Colorado - www.medi.com.au/study-tours.

Generics recalled in UK

HEALTH authorities in the UK have initiated a number of "precautionary mediciner recalls" from both wholesalers and pharmacies after finding that a factory in India didn't meet European standards of Good Manufacturing Practice.

Medications affected were made at MJ Biopharm in India, under licence from a number of companies including Sandoz, Strandhaven, Milpharm, LPC Medical and Karib Kemi Pharm.

The UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency said the recalls only relate to specific medicines and licence holders, with the same medicines marketed by other companies not affected by the alerts.

"At present there is no specific evidence to suggest that the medicines are not safe for patient use," the MHRA said.

However the recall is due to "serious Good Manufacturing

Practice deficiencies" found at the Indian factory.

It's not clear at this stage whether products made at the facility are also available in Australia.

The UK products and licence holders affected include:

Sandoz - Baclofen 10mg, Fluoxetine 20mg, Metformin 500mg and 850mg
Strandhaven - Amlodipine 5mg and 10mg

LPC Medical products in Karib Kemi Pharm livery - Co-Amilozide 5/50, Metformin 500mg and 850mg, and Naproxen 250mg and 500mg
Karib Kemi Pharm - specific batches of Doxazosin 2mg and 4mg and Fluoxetine 20mg
Milpharm Limited products in Karib Kemi Pharm livery - Fluoxetine 20mg

eRx to add owing, new script options

ELECTRONIC prescribing facilitator eRx Script Exchange has announced plans to enhance its system with "owing script" and "new script request" functions to be implemented this month.

Software vendors are set to implement the new functionality, which will provide messaging capabilities between GPs and pharmacies of new or owing scripts, eliminating the need to send the requests by fax or phone.

July 2009 is the previously announced timeline for the full deployment of the eRx system which first began trials last Dec.

The Pharmacy Guild has pre-purchased the first 10.6m transactions on the system.

More info www.erp.com.au.

MA defends research using animals

PHARMACEUTICAL research using animals is a "key to medicine safety," according to an official statement issued this morning by peak manufacturers' body Medicines Australia.

MA was responding to a New Limited article today which claimed that "one animal in NSW is killed ever hour during testing for new medicines and cosmetic products."

The grisly article detailed the deaths of 8813 animals "including birds, guinea pigs and endangered marsupials," claiming that another 16,000 were "kept conscious and subjected to 'a moderate or large degree of pain/distress that is not effectively alleviated'" - with the figures based on a report by the NSW government's Animal Research Review Panel.

MA ceo Ian Chalmers said the group's members were committed to reducing animal-based research where other methods of laboratory testing are equally effective

"Animal-based research is not undertaken lightly," he said.

"The reality is that it is an essential part of the process that ensures new medicines are adequately safe to test in people.

"No regulatory authority would allow patients to take a medicine that had not been appropriately tested on animals to ensure safety and efficacy. If animals were not used in research, there would be far fewer medicines available to patients, nor could their safety be assured," Chalmers said.

He also pointed out that animal research in Australia cannot proceed without government approval and only after scrutiny by appropriate ethics committees.

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Pharmaceutical
Society of Australia

Advanced Clinical Education Seminar

The ACE seminar is a good review of Aged Care related topics for all pharmacists, in particular accredited and hospital pharmacists, and pharmacists' working closely with GP's to improve patient outcomes.

The seminar will feature speakers who are experts in their field with the latest updates in nine aged care related topics, including Arthritis, Osteoporosis, Gastrointestinal, Genitourinary, Heart failure, Parkinson's disease, Depression and insomnia, Dermatology, and Geriatric overview.

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Prostate ultrasounds

A NEW treatment for prostate cancer using ultrasound is more successful than surgery or radiotherapy, according to UK researchers.

Intensive ultrasound therapy has been found to match the 92% early-stage cure rate of the existing treatments - but is much less invasive and has fewer side effects such as incontinence or impotence.

The one-off ultrasound treatment involves a hospital visit lasting just a few hours, and has been the subject of an ongoing clinical trial.

The study was published in the *British Journal of Cancer*, with the technique to be assessed for use in the UK National Health Service.

Pfizer to market CSL's Thelin

PFIZER Australia this morning announced a new agreement under which it's acquired the local distribution rights for Thelin (sitaxentan sodium).

Thelin was previously distributed in Australia by CSL Limited, but in Feb 2008 Pfizer purchased Encysive Pharmaceuticals which allowed it to acquire the global rights to Thelin, as well as other pipeline candidate drugs.

Thelin is an oral, once daily highly selective endothelin receptor antagonist, indicated for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension in patients with Functional Class III symptoms to

improve exercise ability.

The head of Pfizer Specialty Care Business in Australia, Brad Edwards, said the move "further expands Pfizer's portfolio of specialty products and will increase the company's presence in the pulmonary hypertension area.

Thelin will complement Retavio (sildenafil citrate) which is also a pulmonary arterial hypertension treatment.

Both medications are listed as Section 100 drugs on the PBS.

SA scanners mandate

THE Pharmacy Board of South Australia has reminded pharmacists that from 01 Jul 09 barcode scanners must be used as part of the dispensing procedure in pharmacies and pharmacy departments across the state.

For premises to be re-registered in 2010 and beyond it will be necessary to confirm the use of dispensary barcode scanners, with the move following evidence confirming a 50% reduction in selection errors as a result of scanner user.

FDA approves Multaq

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved Multaq tablets (dronedarone), which is used to help maintain normal heart rhythms in patients with a history of atrial fibrillation.

The drug is to be used in patients whose hearts have returned to normal rhythm or who will undergo drug or electric-shock treatment to restore a normal heartbeat.

Sunscreen saving

IF everyone in Australia used sunscreen every day the rate of skin cancers would be reduced by about 25%, according to a study published this month in the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*.

Scientists at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research said that while such a move would cost \$1 per day per person, "this is a fraction of what people pay for cosmetic skin-care products" and would produce similar outcomes in terms of appearance.

They also estimated major savings in treatment costs and prevention of about 20 deaths a year.



DISPENSARY CORNER

FORGET about acquiring bizarre diseases in hospital or doctors' waiting rooms - the newest bacteria breeding ground is internet cafes.

Researchers in the UK have found that shared computer keyboards are usually heavily contaminated with bacteria, with five times the number of micro-organisms compared to PCs generally used by just one person.

They warned that "high use, multiple-user internet cafes and computer labs are hotspots for harbouring germs such as the potentially fatal golden staph," according to the *Daily Telegraph*.

THE early stages of dementia were being exhibited by a Swiss woman last week, who called emergency services to attend her home to put out a fire.

The elderly woman in Zurich alerted police and firefighters early in the morning, saying that her TV set was ablaze.

Officers rushed to the building, but when they arrived found no smoke or signs of fire.

Instead they found that the woman's TV set was tuned to a German station which broadcasts an image of a fireplace outside of normal programming hours.

"The fire was extinguished with the press of a button," an official police statement said.

A MAN in Florida, USA, exhibited his keen anti-smoking attitudes by drenching his wife with a garden hose when she tried to light up inside their home.

The 51-year-old has been charged with domestic battery, after the cigarette sparked a vigorous disagreement.

The arrest report said during the fight the pair struggled over the phone, and the man elbowed his wife in the mouth.

When officers arrived in response to calls about a domestic disturbance, they found the woman soaked with water.

Her husband claimed he had been watering the lawn and didn't intend to spray her.

WIN AN ICE AGE 3 PACK



It's the last day to enter this week's *Pharmacy Daily* competition, in which there's an \$80 Ice Age 3 prize pack up for grabs. We've already received lots of entries - including this creative one from Gareth Davidson of sanofi-aventis:

Surely immediate application of an Ice Age 3 pack to the affected area is the most effective way to reduce swelling, decrease healing time and stop tears, helping you forget about a tumble?

Pharmacy Daily & Elastoplast know how unsettling it is for you and your child when they take a little tumble.

Have your child playing silly like Sloth again and protect their small wounds with NEW Elastoplast Ice Age 3 strips.

Not only will the plasters help the wounds heal faster, but the character strips are a great way to put a smile back on their face as they pick out their favourite character strip.

To coincide with the release of Ice Age 3 in cinemas, *Pharmacy Daily* & Elastoplast are giving away an Ice Age 3 prize pack, valued at over \$80 to one lucky reader this week.

For your chance to win this prize pack containing one Ice Age 3 double season pass, a kite, lunch box, height chart and five boxes of Elastoplast Ice Age 3 & Heavy Fabric Strips, simply send in an answer to the weekly question below to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au:

Tell us how you think Elastoplast and Ice Age 3 can make small tumbles forgotten.

All entries must be submitted by the end of the week.

To view the Ice Age 3 product info, visit www.elastoplast.com.au and click on 'spending time with kids'.

Please note: The product may vary from images shown.

