

Guild Update

This week's update from the Guild

Your Quality Care pharmacy could be the star!

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia, in partnership with Johnson and Johnson Pacific, invites you to enter Pharmacy of the Year 2010. You could be the next celebrity of Australian pharmacy! Winners will share in a \$17,500 cash prize pool, and also receive:

- a stylish trophy to display in their pharmacy;
- a professional in-pharmacy photo shoot to be used in subsequent promotions; and
- local press and trade media coverage.

All travel and registration costs will be paid for category winners to attend the award ceremony at the Australian Professional Pharmacy (APP) conference on the Gold Coast in March 2010. This year, the award has been revamped to include a new, simpler submission process.

There are now three exciting new categories in which Quality Care pharmacies can be considered as a finalist:

- (1) Excellence in business management
- (2) Excellence in community engagement
- (3) Innovation in professional services.

Each category winner will be in the running to win the overall Pharmacy of the Year Award.

People's Choice

In addition to the revamped Pharmacy of the Year Award, we will once again conduct the popular People's Choice Award, where members of the community can vote for their favourite community pharmacy. Entrants are not required to prepare a submission, with the winner being determined by the greatest number of customer votes.

Voting slips are available to order from the Guild, or you can print them from the Guild website. Members of the public can also vote online (one vote per person) at www.guild.org.au/skyourpharmacist/poty2010.asp.

Submissions close on Friday 18 December 2009 at 5pm. But don't wait until then. Enter today!



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

TGA downplays ADHD claims

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration says allegations in today's *Sydney Daily Telegraph* of an "alarming growth" of psychotic episodes in children taking drugs for ADHD are incorrect, and are based on data taken out of context.

The front page newspaper story claimed at least 30 children taking the medications experienced symptoms such as suicidal thoughts, with the figures based on adverse reactions data from the TGA which were extrapolated to

Pharmacy support

THE Pharmacists' Support Service has begun proceedings to move to an Incorporated Association, which will in turn facilitate an application to the Australian Taxation Office for Deductible Gift Recipient status.

The move was announced as chairman Michael Scavone welcomed a \$2500 donation from the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia.

In operation for 14 years, PSS provides support and counselling for pharmacist and is currently managed by the Victorian branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia.

"The services PSS conducts are vital and the service is operated 24 hours a day by volunteer pharmacists who have been trained in telephone counseling," Scavone said, adding that "Our volunteers are trained to listen to any problem that pharmacists might encounter and to then help find the most appropriate advice or solution when it is needed."

Scavone said obtaining Deductible Gift Recipient status would "facilitate the process of making donations to the service and also make such gifts more attractive to those wanting to make them."

NSW registration

THE Pharmacy Board of NSW has announced that notices for 2010 pharmacist registration will be posted tomorrow, 14 Oct.

Online registration is also available, by selecting the 'Registrant Login' from the board's website and following instructions included with the with the renewal notice - see www.pbns.w.gov.au.

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alarmingly suggest the reactions had doubled in three years.

One of the sensational cases cited included that of a seven year old boy who tried to kill himself while taking Ritalin, while the newspaper also citing "experts" warning that "the true extent of the side-effects is unknown, with many doctors and parents under-reporting the impact".

A spokesperson for the TGA told *PD* that the conclusions were "taken out of proportion" with no causal link between the drugs and the claimed adverse events.

About 400,000 prescriptions for ADHD drugs including Ritalin, Concerta, Strattera and Dexamphetamine are currently written each year in Australia.

Ambos stolen meds

THE NSW Gov is implementing a state-wide drug audit following allegations of possible contamination and substitution of Schedule 8 drugs given to patients.

The review follows the standing down of two ambulance officers for drug abuse, after reports of drug thefts from other officers.

A letter from the Emergency Medical Services Protection Association to the Health Care Complaints Commission also said that it had received info that a large quantity of medications may have been tampered with and 'substituted'.

Three pages today

TODAY'S *Pharmacy Daily* includes a full page inviting nominations for the Pharmacy Practice Foundation/sanofi-aventis Medal of Excellence in Pharmacy Practice - see page three.

6000 PD subscribers!

TODAY *Pharmacy Daily* received its 6000th subscriber registration, with the milestone achieved about two and a half years since the publication launched.

Rather than buying mailing lists, *PD* subscribers only include people who have signed up to receive the publication at our website, and so we're thrilled that more than 6000 people in the Australian pharmacy industry have chosen to read *Pharmacy Daily* every day.

We'd like to thank our loyal readership for your ongoing support and welcome your feedback on info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Edwards on board

RUSSELL Edwards has been re-elected as a director of the National Prescribing Service for another three-year term.

Edwards, former vp and md of Amgen Australia has chaired the NPS audit board since Oct 07.

"Russell has detailed knowledge of the industry and quality use of medicines principles," said NPS Chair, Dr Janette Randal.

"His strong leadership and influential skills are greatly appreciated and he is regarded as an opinion leader in the pharmaceutical industry, particularly in the field of biotechnology," she added.

Peak manufacturers' body Medicines Australia also welcomed Edward's reappointment, with acting MA ceo Brendan Shaw saying the move "is a positive move in fostering an effective Quality Use of Medicines agenda across the healthcare system."

Shaw said Russells experience of the pharmaceutical industry would "remain pivotal" in the constructive relationship between MA and the NPS.

APP 2010

11-14 March

Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Queensland



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Registration now open!

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Diabetes stats

A NEW report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare comparing the most recent range of diabetes prevalence data has named the NHS and NDSS reportage as the most reliable national data available.

According to the NHS and NDSS 2004/05 reports the prevalence of diagnosed diabetes among Australians was 3.6%.

Transplant up in smoke

A BRITISH man who received a heavy smokers lungs in a recent transplant procedure has died, after the drugs he was on to prevent organ rejection accelerated the growth of an existing tumour in the new lungs.

As he had already undergone a transplant operation, the hospital blocked his bid to obtain a further pair of lungs.

According to reports, 51% of all UK lung donations come from smokers, but these are rigorously screened for problems prior to use.

NZ bans cold meds for kids

THE New Zealand Ministry of Health has ordered that cough and cold medicines not be given to children under six years of age "in light of limited evidence that these medicines work in children, and reports of side effects."

The NZ medicines regulator, Medsafe, issued a statement last week saying that it's accepted the recommendation of the Cough and Cold Review Group, which recently looked at the benefits and risks of the medications in children.

The review was ordered after authorities in the UK and Canada also recommended against the use of the products in children under 6.

Medsafe said it would work closely with manufacturers to implement the recommendations as soon as possible.

Chair of the review group, Andi Shirtcliffe, said "after full consideration of the data, the Group has recommended that oral cough and cold medicines should not be used in children under six with the exception of those

containing only bromhexine.

"Our review found that the balance of risks and benefits for the use of these medicines in children under six is unfavourable," she said.

The move is an extension of the previous policy which required sponsors to include the statement 'Must not be used in children under two years of age' on products to be sold over winter 2009.

In Australia the TGA recommends that cough and cold medicines shouldn't be used in infants and children aged under 2.

Medications affected by the new NZ move include those containing guaifenesin, ipecacuanha, dextromethorphan, pholcodine, phenylephrine, pseudoephedrine, oxymetazoline, xylometazoline, brompheniramine, doxylamine, chlorphenamine, diphenhydramine, promethazine and triprolidine.

Electric cig warning

THE FDA is warning that the so called 'safe' alternative to smoking, the E-Cigarette, currently being marketed across the US and sold in stores including Walmart, may not in fact, be a safe option.

The battery-operated device has a light which glows like a lit cigarette, and an internal vial which contains nicotine amongst other chemicals, which is in turn connected to an atomiser so the 'smoker' can inhale the mix.

"We don't know whether there is any impurities in there that could be dangerous, we don't know where they deliver the nicotine and what the effect might be on the body, there's a tremendous amounts of unknowns associated with these products," said Dr Janet Woodcock, director of the FDA Centre for drug evaluation and research.

"We are going to have to explore these chemicals...some of them are quite concerning," she added.

The device is currently illegal to sell in Australia, however it appears to be available through sites such as online auction house eBay.

Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair recently announced it would begin selling the electronic cigarettes during its flights so that deprived smokers could once again enjoy a nicotine hit while travelling.



DISPENSARY CORNER

MIND over matter is the solution to breast augmentation procedures.

A stage hypnotist David Knight is claiming that his specially devised hypno CD set can enlarge women's bust by up to two sizes!

"Every lady's breasts have been grown by the mind. The mind grows it, so the mind can enhance it. Fact," Knight said.

Citing a remarkable 85% success rate (based on customer 'feedback'), Knight is so convinced in his own mind powers that he is offering a money back guarantee.

Knight's unorthodox method was highlighted in a BBC show examining hypnosis, which saw one of the presenters even able to register his pet cat as a qualified practitioner.

A TWO year old British child, Oscar Wrigley, has become the youngest male Mensa inductee by registering an IQ equal to Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking.

"Oscar was recently telling my wife about the reproductive cycle of penguins," said Oscar's proud dad Joe.

"I'm fully expecting the day to come when he turns around and tells me I'm an idiot," Joe added.

Assessors at the Gifted Children's Information Centre who gave Oscar the Stanford-Binet test which is able to measure IQ up to 160, said his scores were higher than was able to be measured.

A PARALYSED miniature dachshund name Henry has taken his first tentative steps following a new treatment by scientists at Cambridge University.

Henry has been paralysed since a disc ruptured in his spine in Nov 08, however scientists were able to have him up with tail wagging after Cambridge's Veterinary School completed a procedure which took cells from his nose and injected them into his spine.

It is hoped that this procedure could eventually be used to help humans suffering from severe spinal injuries.

Relax with this Lavender pack

CONGRATULATIONS to Juliana Kobryn from Blooms the Chemist, who was the first *Pharmacy Daily* reader to tell us 3 health uses for Bosisto's Lavender Spray.



RECENT statistics show the average person spends over 2.5 hours a day worrying and a quarter of us toss and turn at night as a result.

Fear no more, because Bosisto's has the perfect anxiety antidote, called Bosisto's Lavender Spray.

Bosisto's has teamed up with *Pharmacy Daily* this

week, giving readers the chance to win a Bosisto's Relax Pack every day this week, featuring Bosisto's Lavender Spray; Oil; a Handy Hints brochure and luxury fluffy bed socks, valued at \$45 each.

The ingenious Lavender Spray product harnesses the clinically proven therapeutic properties of 100% pure *lavendula angustifolia* oil, in a handy Spray can.

For your chance to win this sensational Bosisto's Relax Pack, simply be the first reader to email the correct answer to the daily question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Name 3 household uses for Bosisto's Lavender Spray?

Check out the Bosistos website for hints at www.fgb.com.au.

MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE IN PHARMACY PRACTICE

AWARDED TO A PHARMACIST

Sanofi-aventis and the Pharmacy Practice Foundation share the vision that outstanding Pharmacy Practice should be recognised.

This medal is awarded to a community or hospital pharmacist who is putting new professional ideas into their practice. This will have resulted in practice changes that are innovative, differentiated and of demonstrable value to the consumer and the profession. It should be possible to articulate and assess the value of these ideas, albeit subjectively.

Please nominate a community or hospital pharmacist who is putting good professional ideas into their practice.

The 2009 medal will be presented to the recipient at the Governors' Dinner to be held on Wednesday, 11 November 2009.

Previous recipients:

Reginald Maher (1997), Raymond Feller (1998, posthumously), Benjamin Basger (1999), The Illawarra Pharmacists Asthma Care Team (2000), Phillip Davis (2001) and Bob Crane & Ben Wilkins (2002), Arnold Green (2003), Susan Samimi (2004), Susan Welch (2005), Rhonda White (2006), James Delahunty (2007) and Albert Regoli (2008).

Nominations should include the nominee's contact information, specific details of the contribution made and duration, and reasons why the nominee is considered a suitable choice. It should also include a summary of 500 words or less and Curriculum Vitae.

Please forward to:

Andrea Thompson, Pharmacy Practice Foundation, Building A15, University of Sydney NSW 2006 or email to: ppf@pharm.usyd.edu.au

Deadline: 20 October, 2009



The University of Sydney
Faculty of Pharmacy

