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Last chance for PPF workshop

THE Pharmacy Practice Foundation is again inviting last minute enrolments in this weekend's Retail Workshop, which will take place at the University of Sydney 9am-4pm on Sunday.

The workshop is led by pharmacy expert Bruce Annabel, and will be followed by four seminars over the next month or so.

It costs \$500 for the workshop and the four seminars and \$300 for the workshop alone.

The program is sponsored by Sandoz - for more information see the flyer on **page three**.

Iodine research

A STUDY conducted in New Zealand has found that daily iodine supplementation improved cognition in mildly iodine deficient children.

The study is the first in the world to target kids aged 10-13 with mild iodine deficiency, and was reported this week in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

Australian endocrinologist and iodine expert, Professor Creswell Eastman, said the "groundbreaking research" showed that every second child in Australia could potentially benefit from an increase in iodine intake.

R U OK? Day

THE National Prescribing Service is one of the official supporters of R U OK? Day which was announced this morning in Canberra by Health Minister Nicola Roxon, as part of World Suicide Prevention Day.

The initiative aims to address high rates of suicide by bringing Australians together to help prevent its risk factors.

R U OK? Day will take place on 29 Nov and will promote awareness of information and support by raising the profile of a number of organisations providing these services to the community.

NPS is taking part because of its role in providing information on medicines which play a big part in helping people with depression.

Other supporting organisations include beyondblue, the Black Dog Institute, Inspire Foundation, Lifeline, LifeForce, Mindframe, Sane Australia, headspace and Suicide Prevention Australia.

See www.ruokday.com.au.

Guild offers NZ Project Stop

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has offered authorities in New Zealand a free year-long trial of its Project Stop online pseudoephedrine tracking system.

It's the latest move in a campaign by the Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand which has for some time been urging the NZ govt to consider introducing the initiative, as part of the fight against illicit amphetamine manufacturers, who make products known as 'P'.

"As frontline health professionals, pharmacists see firsthand the devastating effects of the drug 'P' on New Zealand communities," said NZ Guild ceo Annabel Young.

"The majority of customers wanting these products are using them for legitimate reasons and we

would like them to be able to continue doing so.

"Project Stop will give pharmacists the ability to sell these medicines with confidence," she added, giving police the ability to focus their attention on other sources of the drug.

Radio New Zealand yesterday reported on the free trial, with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia saying it's contributed to a 42.5% reduction in the number of clandestine labs operating here in the last four years.

The pseudoephedrine issue is contentious in New Zealand, where the country's chief science adviser has recommended rescheduling the compound as prescription-only, or even banning it completely.

Last Dec the Australian National Chemical Diversion Congress held its annual meeting in Wellington, NZ, and also called for the introduction of a similar program to Project Stop to monitor and control the sale of pseudoephedrine-containing medicines from New Zealand pharmacies.

Heparin standards

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration this morning issued details of a proposed new Therapeutic Goods Order covering a standard for Heparin.

The TGA is seeking written submissions on the document, which sets out the particular requirements for heparin when used in a therapeutic good or used as a precursor to an ingredient or component in a therapeutic good, which will help to ensure that the contaminant over-sulfated chondroitin sulfate (OSCS) is not present.

The move follows the identification of the contaminant in some heparin products last year (**PD** 25 Mar 08) after an increase was observed in serious allergic reactions associated with the use of heparin for injection.

A series of worldwide recalls eventuated leading to shortages of heparin, while the TGA introduced a requirement for a number of heparin-containing products to be tested by manufacturers.

The proposed Standard for Heparin can be viewed at the TGA website www.tga.gov.au.

New DIA chief

THE Drug Information Association has announced that Paul Pomerantz will become its new worldwide executive director effective 01 Dec.

Pomerantz replaces William Brassington, who's been acting in the role since Jul 2008.

Consumer input to code review

NEXT week's Therapeutic Goods Administration Industry Consultative Committee meeting will hear from a number of organisations on Parliamentary Secretary for Health Mark Butler's push for ethical promotion of therapeutic goods (**PD** yesterday).

It's understood that as well as industry bodies, the consumer perspective will also be presented by at least one organisation including the Consumers Health Forum of Australia.

MEANWHILE Medicines Australia ceo Ian Chalmers welcomed the govt's commitment to a "level playing field for marketing obligations," with ceo Ian Chalmers saying there was currently "an uneven operating environment for the conduct of pharmaceutical companies which undermines public confidence in the industry."

He said he was looking forward to contributing to a "solution that sees all companies required to meet a common ethical standard of professional conduct."

WIN TANNING CREAM

CONGRATULATIONS to Nina Huynh of Penna's Cecil Pharmacy in Cecil Hills NSW, who was the first **PD** reader yesterday to tell us that Le Tan has a CARAMEL fragrance.

Le Tan has teamed up with **Pharmacy Daily** once again this week to give readers the chance to win a tube of Le Tan's new Original Tanning Cream.

Valued at \$12.99, the Le Tan Original Tanning Cream is an easy to apply cream that spreads on evenly, leaving a no-streak flawless finish.

With the colour developing over four hours, apply at night to wake to a beautiful healthy glow.

The delicious caramel fragrance also eliminates any 'fake tan' smell.

Proudly Australian, Le Tan has been providing affordable suncare and self tanning products to Australians for many years.

To receive your very own tanning tube for FREE, simply send through the correct answer (along with details of where you work in pharmacy) to the following question:

How long does it take for the tan to develop?

Send your answer through to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

The first correct entry will win the prize, so be quick!

Hint: Most answers can be found on the Le Tan website at www.letan.com.au.



Priceline promo

PRICELINE will be showcased at this weekend's Magazines Go Live fashion and beauty festival which takes place in Sydney starting tomorrow.

Operated by ACP Magazines, the event will have a number of fashion and beauty-related exhibitors, with Priceline operating a special Pamper Parlour.

Guests will be offered a variety of free beauty treatments - such as mini manicures, eye and lip makeup touch-ups and hair styling - from the talented Priceline Princesses in a "gorgeous retro salon setting" which allows them to soak in the nostalgia of the seemingly simple carefree days of the fifties.

Priceline beauty ambassadors Natalie Gruzewski, Laura Dundovic, Paula Duncan and Jessica Orcsik will also be calling by at the Priceline pod over the weekend.

The event is on at the Royal Hall of Industries in Moore Park, and an all day ticket costs \$50.

For more information see www.priceline.com.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature.

Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals which we're sure will be of interest to everyone in the pharmacy industry.

HOLLAND AMERICA LINE is offering a fabulous family cruise holiday aboard its *ms Volendam* which departs Sydney on 06 January 2010.

The 14-day Pacific Treasures cruise visits a range of ports including Vanuatu, Fiji and New Caledonia, and is priced from just \$2246 per person including all on-board meals, activities and entertainment.

For more information see your travel agent or call 1300 857 037.

VN HOLIDAYS is offering a special "Saigon on a budget" tour of Vietnam starting at about \$940 per person including taxes.

This bargain includes return Vietnam Airlines economy class airfares from Sydney, two nights

FIP president PAC presenter

THE President of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), Dr Kamal K. Midha, will be one of the keynote speakers at the upcoming Pharmacy Australia Congress in Sydney, with the event following the FIP Congress which started last Fri in Istanbul, Turkey.

Midha will focus on the continuing and growing role of the Federation, which was formed in 1912 and provides an international platform where "pharmaceutical science and pharmacy practice meet and bring together objective, scientific knowhow and expertise on all aspects of medicines.

"FIP has developed and adopted a global vision and mission, based

ADEC addition

THE Australian Drug Evaluation Committee has also recommended approval of Bristol-Myers-Squibb's new combination clopidogrel and aspirin film-coated tablet (DuoCover, ComCover, Apothecon) for continuation of therapy in patients with acute coronary syndrome (**PD** yesterday)

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Guild



DISPENSARY CORNER

A MASTER cheese-grader in the UK has insured his nose for £5m.

63-year-old Nigel Pooley has worked at Wyke Farms for 12 years, selecting more than 12,000 tonnes of cheddar every year with his expert sense of smell.

Lloyds of London will cover the specialist schnozz on behalf of the company, which relies on his expertise to select and save the best cheeses.

The insurer said Mr Pooley "breaks new ground as our first cheese nose".

IT'S good to be tall, according to a US study which found that people of higher than average stature live better lives.

The *Journal of Economics and Human Biology* reported on the study, which involved a telephone poll of more than 454,000 adults who were asked for their height and an evaluation of their life.

Men who were taller than 178cm consistently rated their lives higher than shorter men, while there was a similar but smaller effect for women.

The authors of the study said the findings were almost entirely explained by the positive association between height and both income and education.

A CHINESE fat cat could be the fattest feline in the world, according to its owner who's hoping to get his pretty pussy into the Guinness Book of Records.

Xu Jirong of Qingdao in the northern Shandong province said his cat has a 70cm waist and puts on more than a kilogram in weight every year.

"I suspect the problem is that she much prefers pork to fish," he said, adding that "she can swallow down four or five pieces of raw pork within minutes."

The cat is named Chubby.



Smile for the camera, Chubby!

on a long history of activity, to unite pharmacy and pharmaceutical organisations in achieving a common goal," he said.

FIP's stated aim is "to improve global health by advancing pharmacy practice and science to enable better discovery, development, access to and safe use of appropriate, cost-effective quality medicines worldwide."

The conference will be held at the Sydney Hilton Hotel 15-18 Oct - more info www.pac2009.com.au.

Big bottle blitz

MORE than 250,000 hot water bottles have been recalled across Australia since the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission initiated a nationwide blitz on inferior products.

Random checks of 30 brands of hot water bottles have seen more than half fail mandatory safety standards, said ACCC deputy chairman, Peter Kell.

18 of the brands didn't comply with requirements mandating acceptable bottle thickness and stringent quality levels relating to leakage, seam strength and pressure.

The blitz followed a spate of severe burns due to hot water bottles splitting, leaking or bursting.

Brands voluntarily withdrawn or removed from shelves by the ACCC include 'Cuddly', 'Dr Hot', 'Home Master', 'Stillwater', the H1304 2 litre bottle supplied by New Global International in NSW and the TRS Trading Group's bottle sold in 'The Reject Shop' stores.

More info 1300 302 502.

Fosamax US lawsuit

A US federal judge has rejected attempts by Merck & Co to have 24 cases alleging that biphosphonate osteoporosis treatment Fosamax causes jaw damage dismissed.

The judge ruled that testimony from two doctors claiming jaw damage after less than three years of continuous use could be admitted, saying it was "sufficiently reliable to allow a rational jury to establish such a connection".

Merck is facing claims from almost 900 patients saying Fosamax caused osteonecrosis of the jaw.

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**Workshop: Profitability Factors of Your Pharmacy,
Risk Factors and Opportunities.**

Sunday, 13th September 2009, 9:00am to 4:30pm

- Discover sources of dispensary profit
- Improve performance with KPIs & benchmarking

Seminar 1: Taking the Easy Yards.

Monday, 14th September 2009, 7:00pm to 9:00pm

- Analysis of the current state of the pharmacy industry
- Profit building and sustainability in a risky climate

Seminar 2: Tightening the Wheel Nuts.

Monday, 28th September 2009, 7:00pm to 9:00pm

- The pharmacists' role in revolutionising the dispensary process
- Workshop pharmacy case studies

Seminar 3: Building a New Vehicle of Profitability.

Monday, 12th October 2009, 7:00pm to 9:00pm

- Converting retail to a profitable & competitive business
- Enhancing your business on-line

**Seminar 4: Evaluating & Driving Performance Using
Modern Financial Management Tools.**

Monday, 26th October 2009, 7:00pm to 9:00pm

- Modern financial management tools and key performance indicators
- Tools to improve space, stock and staff returns

Cost

\$500 for the workshop and the four seminars
\$300 for the workshop alone
\$275 for the series of four seminars*
\$100 for a single seminar*

***The seminars are available free of charge to
PPF members**

Venue

**Badham Lecture Theatre 3,
Faculty of Pharmacy,
The University of Sydney**

Registration

Pharmacy Practice Foundation

Tel: (02) 9351 7829

e-mail: ppf@pharm.usyd.edu.au

For further information about Workshop and
Seminar topics, please go to

<http://www.pharm.usyd.edu.au/ppf/index.shtml>
and click on the Retail Seminar link.



The University of Sydney