

Kung Flu Fighting

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia says pharmacists need to be prepared for a possible second wave of swine flu infections, after warnings issued earlier this month by eminent Australian virologist Dominic Dwyer (PD 15 July).

The Guild says its Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Program, affectionately known as the 'Kung Flu Fighter' campaign, is particularly timely given the alert.

Launched via funding provided under the Fourth Community Agreement, the program includes a series of training resources in infection control and business continuity planning for pharmacists and pharmacy staff.

Also included in the program is a range of custom business tools and personal protective equipment, including face masks.

Pharmacists also have access to a variety of materials to distribute to staff and customers regarding proper cold and flu etiquette.

"Over 1800 pharmacies participated and took advantage of the new training and specialised resources. Over 1200 pharmacy staff members registered for infection control and business planning workshops across Australia," said the National President of the Guild, Kos Sclavos.

"I am personally very encouraged at this outstanding commitment and the proactive attitude of pharmacies toward the threat of an influenza pandemic," he added.

For more information about the Kung Flu Fighter program see - www.pandemicprepared.org.au.

New drooling drug

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved a new drug for the treatment of severe chronic drooling in children aged 3-16 years, caused by neurologic disorders, called Cuvposa (glycopyrrolate).

The oral solution reduces drooling by effectively lowering the level of saliva produced by the patient.

Already indicated in the treatment of peptic ulcers and the reduction of anaesthetised patient saliva, glycopyrrolate has in the past, according to the FDA, been used off-label by doctors to treat drooling in the developmentally disabled population.

Willach looking to hospitals

THE collapse of the Australian operations of pharmacy robotics supplier Gollmann Bouw (PD 21 Jul) hasn't dampened the enthusiasm for the local market of the other major player in the market, Willach + Heise.

Jorg Heise, Willach's ceo, told PD this morning that he's concerned that the failure of Gollmann may impact the industry's perception of robotic suppliers, reassuring that Willach + Heise is trading strongly.

He said he believed that Gollmann Bouw underestimated the expenses of a national sales and support network in Australia.

The difficulties experienced by the Gollmann Bouw joint venture were "not because the business model doesn't work," he said.

Heise said that with Willach well-established in community

pharmacy here, the next phase is to look at hospital pharmacy.

One difference between Willach and Gollmann is that Willach offers conventional dispensary solutions as well as robotics, meaning that its market here is potentially bigger.

"Robotics are sexy - and they're one way of achieving improvements in the dispensary," he said.

"But drawers and carousels can also deliver significant efficiencies".

The Gollmann-Bouw collapse is believed to involve a significant number of unsecured creditors, with some sources estimating liabilities in excess of \$1.4 million.

Attendees at the creditors meeting earlier this week included Vic Guild President Dipak Sanghvi, but it's unclear at this stage how many Guild members have been affected by the failure, with Gollmann not providing any further details at this stage of the status of existing orders or contracts.

Further information on the collapse is likely to emerge in about three weeks when the Gollmann-Bouw administrator holds its second creditors meeting.

Tick for Novartis deal

THE ACCC today announced it will not oppose the proposed acquisition of Alcon Laboratories by Novartis, after accepting undertakings from Novartis that it will sell the Alcon injectable miotic business to Bausch and Lomb in Australia to ensure that it's not the sole supplier in the local market.

SA to quit smoking

THE South Australian Minister for Health, John Hill, has announced funding for the 12-month trial of a quit smoking plan titled Quit SA.

The mobile text service will enable smokers who want to quit, to register with Quit onQ via calling Quitline on 13 78 48 or online at www.quitonq.quitsa.org.au.

Once registered, members will receive free support text messages daily.

Members will be able to set the number of texts that they want to receive, as well as the time of day they want their first and last messages sent, and can cancel their membership at any time.

In addition, if the quitters experience cravings they can simply text 'Tempt', 'Social' or 'Stress' to the support number, and they will receive a rapid response text to help them stave off the cigarettes.

"Quit onQ is a great example of how technology can empower and support people who want to take charge of their health," said Hill.

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Registration reminder

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia is reminding pharmacists that they only have a few days to complete their registration before the final cut-off date on 31 July.

If a pharmacist has not registered by the end of the month, they will not be allowed to continue practising.

To renew registration APHRA advises that pharmacists need to logon to the Board website (www.pharmacyboard.gov.au), and using their personal User ID and Password (that was sent out by the Board in the past fortnight) follow the site's renewal prompts.

For pharmacists who have lost their User ID or Password, the Board recommends speaking to an AHPRA team member on 1300 419 495.

IV Thiamine withdrawal

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has advised that it is no longer able to extend its exemption to Baxter Healthcare to supply IV Thiamine in Australia.

Currently the TGA is working closely with Baxter to find an alternative supply mechanism.

For info see www.tga.gov.au.

WIN A MINERAL STARTER KIT



Every day this week, **Pharmacy Daily** is giving readers the chance to win Mineral Starter Kit courtesy of **Total Beauty Network**.

Exclusive to Designer Brands is a Mineral Starter Kit including the staple products need to help you get into the mineral faze.

Infused with minerals and vitamins which care for your skin, Designer Brands Mineral Starter Kit makes skin look healthy, natural and radiant all day long. Our talc & bismuth-free products mean NO IRRITATION or CLOGGING, just beautiful, flawless skin.

For your chance to win your very own Mineral Starter Kit this week, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

How many hues of brown are in the multi-colour bronzer?

Email your answer to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

The first correct entry received will win!

Hint: Visit: www.tbn.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: **Felicia Woong**.

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Maltaq approval

SANOFI-AVENTIS has today advised of the TGA approval of its new antiarrhythmic treatment **Multaq** (dronedarone) 400mg.

Multaq is indicated to reduce the risk of cardiovascular hospitalisation in patients with paroxysmal or persistent atrial fibrillation or atrial flutter, with a recent episode and associated cardiovascular risk factors, on top of standard therapy.

The medication has been shown to reduce the primary endpoint of cardiovascular hospitalisation or death from any cause by 24% in a trial of 4628 patients.

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.

The **VIBE HOTEL** at Rushcutters Bay in eastern Sydney is offering a Family Connections Package, for families wanting an affordable mini-escape.

The package includes one queen room interconnected with one twin room, complimentary buffet brekkie (for two adults and two kids), free parking, two drink vouchers, unlimited soft drinks for children, free in-house movie, a kids fun pack and a complimentary baby cot (if needed).

The package is priced from \$280 and is available until 30 Nov - for online bookings see www.vibehotels.com.au.

ESEACRUISE.COM has released a \$261pp twin share deal for a three-day **Dawn Princess** voyage from Adelaide to Melbourne, departing on 06 Dec.

For more information visit www.esecruising.com.au.

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PSA supports early careers

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has unveiled a new section on its website, dedicated to early career pharmacists.

According to the PSA, the new site feature is designed to allow early career pharmacists (ECP) the ability to monitor the Society's ECP Working Group Projects, submissions and activities.

Established last year as a means to provide support for students, interns and pharmacists within the first ten years of their career, the ECP Working Group's objectives include the identification of the needs of young pharmacists (professional development, practice support and advocacy) and to advise the PSA on how to address these needs.

"The new area on the website is

NPS Medicines Talk

THE NPS has released the latest edition of its Medicines Talk publication.

The issue discusses in detail topics including 'What's on a PBS script?', 'Medicine interactions explained', 'Got a cold and feeling lousy?' and 'Vitamins and minerals are medicines too'.

The free NPS Medicines Talk quarterly newspaper is available to view now at www.nps.org.au.

Scooter warning

IN RESPONSE to the deaths of two Australians from mobility scooter accidents in the last fortnight, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has launched a scooter safety campaign.

Aimed at cutting down on injuries, the campaign revolves around the distribution of a safety booklet which promotes easy steps to cut down risks.

Safety steps in the booklet include keeping the load limit down, not exceeding 10kmph, only using roads as a last resort, installation of a flag and reflectors, road crossing only at lights or pedestrian crossings and wearing a helmet.

The ACCC is urging healthcare professionals to get on board with the campaign by handing out the booklets.

Pharmacists can call 1300 302 502 to order the leaflets.

a method by which we are letting ECPs know of the work we are undertaking and the results we are achieving," said the recently-appointed Chair of the ECP Working Group, Justin Lee.

"The ECP Working group is a very active and forward thinking and this site is a way of developing two-way communication between the group and pharmacists.

"I envisage new ideas to result from this interaction, as well as the further development of exiting projects and programs," he added.

See the new section online at www.psa.org.au/ecp.

PAC Early Birds close

EARLYBIRD discounts for the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's 2010 Pharmacy Australia Congress end today.

Held in Melbourne from 28-31 Oct, one highlight of the event will be the *Mandatory CPD: Making it Work for You!* session on Fri 29 Oct.

According to the PSA the workshop will guide pharmacists through: 'Understanding life-long learning in the context of career development and the pharmacist's professional role in delivering health services', 'Comparing their own professional capabilities and work practices with existing standards and guidelines' and 'Developing a plan of action for addressing professional development and learning needs'.

The workshop also aims to help pharmacists to apply learning to extend or advance professional practice.

"Pharmacists realise that their working environment has changed significantly under the NRAS and want to make the best use of the mandatory CPD system which is now in place," said PAC organising committee chair, Alistair Lloyd.

"No matter what a pharmacist's area of practice, where they are in their career, or what they wish to achieve, pharmacists will leave this workshop well-equipped to meet the Pharmacy Board registration standard on CPD, and in a manner that will add value to their everyday practice," Lloyd added.

For info, or to register see www.pac10.com.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

BREWERS in Austria have revealed the secret of a new beer which is claimed to boost drinkers' sexual performance - the brew apparently contains cheese.

The UK's *Metro* newspaper says the beverage "promises a positive and healthy response" after a big night of drinking.

One drinker told *Metro* that he was looking forward to getting smashed at the local before a warm welcome at home.

"My wife can't have any objection to me spending the night down the pub now," he said.

THE University of Tasmania has launched a new mental health initiative which aims to help people tackle the fear of flying.

The uni's Psychology Clinic says the four-session Aerophobia program aims to help people understand their fears and develop coping strategies.

An experienced pilot explains the mechanics of flying, with sessions also including group counselling and instruction in relaxation techniques.

The free program has already had good feedback, with spokesperson Dr Caroline Scwerkolt saying it had allowed people to "travel interstate to see new grandchildren or catch up with people they went to school with 20 years ago".

THE newest shortie steps up.

Measuring in at a mere 76cm, Huang Kaiquan from the Chinese province of Huang, is hoping to take the title of the World's Smallest Man (living).

Coming in only 1.4cm taller than the previous title holder, He Pingping (who died earlier in the year), 40-year old Kaiquan has told local media that in addition to being short he also smokes heavily, is a former magician and still lives with his mother.

