THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has announced that it will open up its online CPD points recording system to all pharmacists - not just its membership base. The move is certain to be welcomed by many across the pharmacy sector, with PD receiving a number of enquiries in recent weeks from readers concerned about keeping track of their CPD once it becomes compulsory under the new national registration scheme from 01 July.

Under the new National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) all registered pharmacists will be required to complete continuing professional development which is relevant to their scope of practice.

Initially 20 credits will be required for the period ending 30 September 2011, increasing to 30 credits over the next year and then 40 for the 12 months to 30 September 2013. The national Pharmacy Board of Australia will annually audit compliance with this requirement, with the online tool at psa.org.au set to be available to all pharmacists so they can ensure they correctly comply.

In addition, members and non-members attending PSA functions will have their points recorded automatically.

PSA National President, Warwick Plunkett, said the Society had decided to open up the system to non-members "because of the importance of accurate recording of CPD points under the NRAS. "PSA feels it is in the best interests of the profession as a whole to enable all pharmacists, whether members or non-members, to utilise the specially designed PSA tool for this purpose."

"The NRAS marks an exciting new era for pharmacy and PSA is proud to be able to help ensure that its implementation is effective and beneficial to the whole pharmacy profession," Plunkett said.

Jackson on new GMIA code committee

PSA director John Jackson is one of five independent members appointed to the new Code Complaint committee established by the Generic Medicines Industry Association under its code of conduct which is currently the subject of an ACCC probe.

The committee will also include three representatives from GMIA member companies, with the other independent members including competition and consumer lawyer David Lieberman as chairman, Dr Shane Carney of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Judith Maher nominated by the Consumer Health Forum, and Susan Coates from the TGA. GMIA member companies include Sigma, Alphapharm, Apotex, Hospira and GenePharm.

Drugs in R&D open

PUBLISHER Wolters Kluver Pharma Solutions has announced that its Adis journal Drugs in R&D will be available at no charge, moving from its previous subscription-based model. Originally launched in 1999, it’s the first Adis journal to make its content publicly accessible and free for all. The publication is now freely accessible on the internet at www.adisonline.com/drugsrd.
Health, Beauty and New Products

Nutraceutical support for ageing
Longeve-T from Orthoplex is a scientifically formulated nutritional supplement with important nutrients, herbs, vitamins and minerals known to support healthy ageing and optimal health and vitality. Nutrients include reservatrol, curcumin, selenium, ginkgo biloba, brahmi, grapeseed, Vitamin E and Vitamin C, with the product being a Practitioner-Only supplement which can be prescribed once consultation and assessment of requirement is performed by a qualified health practitioner.
RRP: $51.80 (60 tabs)
Stockist: Bio Concepts, 07 3868 0699

New Choice for dehydration
Symbion has extended its Pharmacy Choice range of private label products for independent pharmacies with the addition of Pharmacy Choice Oral Rehydration Salts. The product extends the brand’s digestive category range, with the orange-flavoured salts containing glucose to treat and prevent dehydration caused by diarrhoea and traveler’s gastroenteritis in both children and adults. Symbion says it’s a high quality product in attractive packaging and “provides consumers with a great alternative to the market leaders”.
RRP: $10.95
Stockist: Symbion 1300 774 000

Stretch marks have a new enemy!
Avado’s Stretch Mark Creme is designed to reduce the likelihood of getting stretch-marks by promoting skin elasticity and keeping it soft and supple. Created from Vitamin A, C and E, rich avocado oil, as well as a plethora of essential oils including camellia oil, evening primrose oil, bergamot oil, calendula oil, rosehip oil and rosewood oil as well as sunflower extract, shea nut butter and coca butter the creme is super rich and thick and may need a few minutes to soak in before putting clothing on over it - to avoid it getting on and sticking to fabrics.
RRP: $11.75 (100mL)
Stockist: Avado Organics 03 6225 4098

Decongestant comes with pain relief
Sudafed PE Sinus + Anti-Inflammatory Pain Relief is a new pharmacy-only product which combines phenylephrine hydrochloride and ibuprofen 200mg. It offers a non-drowsy fast-acting formula which relieves nasal congestion as well as targeting sinus pain caused by inflammation. It’s available in packs of 24 or 48 tablets, and the launch is being supported with a $2m marketing campaign including a new TV commercial as well as in-store displays. J&J Pacific says the double-action product “provides pharmacy customers with superior relief from winter’s most common culprits”.
RRP: $15.95 (24-pack) and $25.95 (48-pack)
Stockist: Johnson & Johnson 1800 029 979

Revive those tired legs
High Tech Health has released a new ‘Reviving’ Foot & Leg Gel to help combat dry skin which plagues many people during the colder months. The product is ideal for use with the Circulation Booster, and is a hydrating non-greasy gel with a menthol base. It is used to revive tired feet and legs and enhance the conductivity of the electrical waves to the skin.
RRP: $12.49
Stockist: High Tech Health 1800 505 108
Herbs and Natural Supplements: An Evidence-Based Guide 3RD EDITION

Lesley Braun PhD, BPharm, DipAppSci Naturopathy, GradDip Phytotherapy; Research Fellow, Cardiothoracic Surgical Research Unit, Monash University (Alfred Hospital), Melbourne; Research Pharmacist, Alfred Hospital, Melbourne; Lecturer at RMIT and Monash Universities, Melbourne; Vice President of the National Herbalists Association of Australia

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Herbs and Natural Supplements: An Evidence-Based Guide 3e presents evidence-based information on the 130 most popular herbs, nutrients and food supplements used across Australia and New Zealand. Organised alphabetically by common name, each herb or nutrient listed includes information such as daily intake, main actions/indications, adverse reactions, contraindications and precautions, safety in pregnancy, and more. The new edition has been expanded with 2 new chapters (Pregnancy and Wellness) and 10 additional monographs (Arginine, Dunaliella, Elde, Goji, Pelargonium, Prebiotics, Red Yeast Rice, Rhodioila, Shatavari and Taurine).

This book was identified as “high quality” (Tier 2) in the NPS Review of the Quality of Complementary Medicines Information Resources Report, released March 2009.

Features
- provides current, evidence-based information on herbal, nutritional and food supplements used in Australia and New Zealand
- user-friendly and organised by A-Z herbal monographs, making information easy to find
- appendices offer important additional information for the safe use of herbal and nutritional supplements, including a list of poison centres, associations, manufacturers plus much more.
- clear and comprehensive tables including Herb/Natural Supplement – Drug Interactions and Pharmacological Actions of all Herbs and Natural Supplements listed
- a glossary of terms

New to this edition
- NEW - 2 unique and comprehensive chapters – Herbs and natural supplements in pregnancy and Introduction to wellness.
- All chapters completely updated and expanded.
- 10 NEW monographs to be added to the existing 120.

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