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1000 sign up for Good Pharma

MORE than 1000 pharmacies from across Australia have registered for the Pharmacy Guild's Good Pharma program (PD 03 Jun), which is available at no charge for those who sign up before 30 Jun.

The "sophisticated pharmacy analysis tool" is normally valued at \$1000 per client, with the free offer part of the Practice Change Program funded under the Fourth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

Good Pharma's online diagnostic tool analyses pharmacy businesses and identifies ways to focus on the provision of professional health care services.

The initiative "is all about offering pharmacy customers a more patient-oriented service," the Guild said - see www.guild.org.au/pcp.

Cool cargo containers

CSAFE, manufacturers of active temperature controlled cargo containers has signed an agreement with air carrier Cathay Pacific the result of which will see an enhancement of product offerings by the airline's Pharma Lift service.

The AcuTemp(R) RKN active temperature controlled cargo container, which will soon be available on Cathay Pacific is designed to transport products with temperature requirements between +4° to +25° Celsius.

"The heating and cooling capability of this unit, plus its ability to operate in extreme ambient conditions without the use of dry ice has been a welcome addition to our worldwide Pharma Lift product offering," said Jack Lo, Cargo Product and Marketing Manager of Cathay Pacific.

Pharmacy Daily Pharmacy Job of the Day!

Jobs4Careers is Australia's leading source for pharmacy jobs ... click here to find out more and see the Pharmacy Daily Job of the Day ...

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Owners must be registered

THE new national Pharmacy Board of Australia has confirmed that under its new registration standards, "prima facie, a pharmacist who owns a pharmacy is practising pharmacy".

According to the minutes of the Board's last meeting on 28th May, issues considered included ownership of pharmacy businesses which will continue to be regulated on a state and territory basis after the new national registration scheme takes effect from 01 Jul.

Despite this, the Board said it looked at possible pharmacy ownership arrangements by registered pharmacists "and how this would impact on the public in terms of the delivery of pharmacy services".

Because ownership of a pharmacy business is a role that impacts on safe, effective delivery

Bayer stem cell deal

BAYER Schering Pharma has announced a new global strategic alliance with US firm OncoMed Pharmaceuticals to "discover, develop and commercialise novel anti-cancer stem cell therapeutics".

OncoMed was founded in 2004 to investigate "cancer stem cells" which are postulated to drive the growth of tumours.

Admissions on the rise

THE latest report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare shows that between 2004-05 and 2008-09 private and public hospitals admissions rose by a massive 16% in the last four years to around eight million.

The report, 'Australian Hospital Statistics 2008-09' also found that during the study's four year period admissions to public hospital emergency rooms increased at a faster rate than admissions to any other hospital department.

"Public hospitals provide the most emergency department services, with about 7.2 million visits in 2008-09, and an increase of 4.6% on average each year since 2004-05," said George Bodilsen of the AIHW.

The report also found that of the public hospital admissions 70% were seen within the recommended time for their triage category and 100% of the "most urgent" patients were attended to in time.

of services in the profession and involves use of professional skills, the Board said that from 01 July "proprietor pharmacists will be required to maintain general registration, as the National Law stipulates that pharmacists holding non-practising registration must not practise pharmacy".

This means proprietors will need to meet the requirements for professional indemnity insurance, recency of practice and continuing professional development.

The minutes include a broad definition of practice adopted by the Board, including "any role whether remunerated or not in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a pharmacist" - including in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles.

The Board also confirmed that following a "valuable consultation process" it's finalising guidelines on advertising and mandatory notification, as well as its continuing professional development policy and a code of conduct for pharmacists, all of which will be published on its website this month.

Fatty liver meltdown!

THANKS to the hundreds of *Pharmacy Daily* readers who entered our competition yesterday giving away copies of the new book by Dr Sandra Cabot.

The lucky first ten people to enter the competition will be receiving their copies of *Fatty Liver: You can reverse it* shortly.

Congratulations to Andrea Maher, API; Anna So, Harrison's Pharmacy Rhodes NSW; Michael Browne, Boehringer Ingelheim; Janenne Wilson, Pharmacy Guild; Christine Flage, API; Michelle Tanzen, Corum Health Services; Sarah Sinclair, University of Sydney pharmacy student; Paul Speers, Reckitt Benckiser Healthcare; Gerald Lian, Nhill Pharmacy Vic and Ria Imam of Bayer Healthcare.

New orphan drug

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has designated Bioregulatory Consulting's Hepatect CP (human hepatitis B immunoglobulin) intravenous infusion as an orphan drug.

Hepatect CP is indicated for prophylaxis against re-infection of a transplanted liver in patients who carry the surface antigen of the hepatitis B virus.

WIN A BURT'S BEES PRODUCT



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with Burt's Bees and is giving readers the chance to win a Naturally Ageless Intensive Repairing Serum today.

Burt's Bees Naturally Ageless Intensive Repairing Serum helps smooth the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles around your eyes, mouth and forehead to help address the signs of ageing, naturally. This concentrated serum combines the power of antioxidant-rich pomegranate with gentle moisturizers including borage and evening primrose oil. Burt's Bees Naturally Ageless Repairing Serum is 100% natural.

For your chance to win your own Burt's Bees Naturally Ageless Intensive Repairing Serum, simply send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

Name two ingredients that you won't find in Burt's Bees products

Send entry to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

The first correct entry received each day will win.

Hint! Visit www.burtsbees.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: Anna Michael from Greenslopes Hospital.

Accounting

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it all with
advice that
matters.

 Guild

S2 for marijuana

THE Oregon Board of Pharmacy has placed marijuana into Schedule II Controlled Substances category, which contains substances that have a "high abuse potential with severe psychological or physical dependence liability," but which are accepted for medical use only via prescription.

"The Board reviewed scientific and medical literature and heard testimony from experts and members of the public before voting to move marijuana into Schedule II," the Board said in a statement.

CPD Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's*

Continuing Professional Development Calendar, featuring upcoming events and opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

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

23 Jun: Australia's Health 2010 Conference and Report Launch, Canberra National Convention Centre - conference@aihw.gov.au.

23 Jun: Joint PSWA/SHPA 'Drug Information' evening for pharmacists only - more info lgregory@pcwa.com.au.

28 Jul, 30 Jul: One day intensive conference on Pharmaceutical Law - Melbourne (28th) and Sydney (30th) - 02 9224 6011.

01 Aug, 08 Aug: Drug Interaction Seminar presented by Debbie Rigby and Geraldine Moses - Sydney and Gold Coast 12 CPD \$275 drigby@bigpond.net.au.

20-21 Aug: 2010 South Australian Pharmacy Community Forum & Trade Exhibition in Adelaide - details on www.sapcf.com.au.

28 Aug-02 Sep: 70th FIP World Congress, Lisbon, Portugal - www.fip.org/lisbon2010.

11-12 Sep: Australasian Conference for Compounding Pharmacists - www.accp.net.au.

15-18 Sep: Pharmacy 2010, the Pharmacy Management Conference on Hamilton Island - www.pharmacyconference.com.au.

28-31 Oct: PSA's Pharmacy Australia Congress in Melbourne - details www.pac10.com.au.

Qld Health ownership move

PHARMACISTS in Queensland have been advised that from 01 July regulation of pharmacy business ownership in the state will be undertaken "as an interim measure" by the Drugs and Poisons Policy and Regulation Unit of Queensland Health.

The new national registration scheme will see the demise of the Pharmacists Board of Queensland from the end of the month - with the board previously also in charge

MA R&D push

MEDICINES Australia says a Senate Economics Committee recommendation in favour of the proposed 40% research and development tax credit (PD 14 May) will help "keep Australia at the forefront of medical research".

MA ceo Brendan Shaw said that if passed by parliament the proposal would effectively lower the cost of conducting R&D by 10%, helping secure "high value research jobs and down the track deliver health benefits such as early access to medicines through clinical trials conducted in Australian hospitals and universities".

FDA approvals

THE US Food and Drug Administration has approved a new chemotherapy drug for the treatment of advanced prostate cancer.

Sanofi-aventis' Jevtana (capazitaxel) is used in conjunction with prednisone, and is the first treatment for "advanced, hormone-refractory, prostate cancer that has worsened during or after treatment with docetaxel".

Jevtana was approved in 11 weeks under the FDA's priority review program, which allows for an expedited review period for drugs which may offer major advances in treatment, or provide a treatment where no adequate therapy exists.

MEANWHILE the FDA has also approved a new indication for Novartis' Tasigna (nilotinib), for the treatment of rare blood cancer Philadelphia chromosome positive chronic phase chronic myeloid leukaemia (PH+CP-CML) which is a slowly progressing blood and bone marrow disease linked to a genetic abnormality.

of pharmacy premises regulation.

Due to the transition, pharmacists are advised that processing of Change of Pharmacy Ownership Forms will be affected this month, and in fact it's unlikely the Board will be able to process applications received after 4pm today and cannot guarantee that they will be finalised before 30 June.

Fake Tamiflu alert

TESTS of so-called 'Generic Tamiflu' sold over the internet have revealed that the fraudulent product does not contain Tamiflu's active ingredient, oseltamivir.

The US FDA said that instead the fake medication contained cloxacillin - meaning that patients who are allergic to penicillin products could be at risk if they take the medication.

The FDA said it bought the 'Generic Tamiflu' without a prescription from a website claiming to be an online drugstore.

"A rogue internet website marketing drug products may look like a professional and legitimate website, but may actually be an illegal operation," said a spokeswoman for the FDA.

"Medicines purchased from websites operating outside the law put consumers at increased risk due to a higher potential that the products will be counterfeit, impure, contaminated, or have too little or too much of the active ingredient," she said.

Compliance update

MEDICARE Australia has provided an update of its compliance program for 2009-10 which has seen it finalise 48 audits of pharmacists in relation to "anomalous claiming".

Issues investigated included claiming for supply after the date of death of a patient, as well as duplicated claiming.

Medicare has also finalised five investigations of pharmacists for suspected fraud, as well as started audits of pharmacies which appear to be claiming multiple times for the same prescription.

The update also confirms a review of a "small number of pharmacies who are high users of Medicare special numbers".



DISPENSARY CORNER

WE'RE not the only ones!

Scientists in Japan have discovered that monkeys love to kick back and watch a bit of television.

The scientists studied a three year old rhesus macaque and found that he really enjoyed watching a video of a circus elephant, tiger and giraffe performing their tricks.

They worked out that the monkey was enjoying the TV using near-infrared spectroscopy which examined blood flow to the monkey's brain whilst he was watching the box.

The spectroscopy found that whilst watching the acrobatic performances of the animals his frontal lobe (the brain's pleasure centre) became very active.

LET'S hope they didn't reach the frozen food section!

Sixty human heads found in three separate containers tucked away in a 24hr Southwest Airlines cargo carrier are under investigation, after their discovery was made by airline employees who noticed their the containers were not labelled properly and failed to reveal their contents.

The heads, were found individually packaged in non-airtight plastic containers inside the three larger containers which were then duct-taped closed.

According to their paperwork the human cargo was destined for Medtronic Inc's facility in Texas.

Shortly after the investigation launched, Medtronic claimed ownership, saying that the heads had actually been earmarked for neurosurgeon training.

A Medtronic spokesperson did however say that the company had only ordered four heads, as well as around 40 skull pieces which still contained the workings of the ear.

According to investigators, although it is commonplace to ship human remains for medical research, what is unusual is that they were not labelled properly, and may have unwittingly been handled and stored incorrectly.