

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.

21-22 Oct: IIR's Primary Health Care Reform Summit, Hilton on the Park Melbourne - details www.iir.com.au/primary.

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

11-14 Nov: The 36th National SHPA Conference, Medicines Management 2010 in Melbourne - mm2010shpa.com.

20-29 Jan 2011: Pharmacy Study Tour, Mammoth Mountain California and Las Vegas - www.medic.com.au/events.

01-10 May 2011: The PSA's 2011 Offshore Conference in Venice, Italy and Salzburg - www.psa.org.au.

Intern programs approved

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has given formal approval to two pharmacy Intern Training Programs as part of the accreditation process under the new National Scheme.

The Australian Pharmacy Council, in its capacity as independent accreditation body for the Board, has given the nod to programs from the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and also the university group, the National Alliance for Pharmacy Education.

The PSA said its program is designed to smooth the transition between student life and professional pharmacy practice.

According to The PSA, "the NITP is especially relevant under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) which requires registration nationally instead of pharmacists registering in each state individually".

Combining discussion on state and national issues, with interactive workshops and work-based activities, the program aims to utilise and expand on pharmacists' skills and knowledge in practice.

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"PSA recommends students consider the course and the provider that is best going to assist them with their career in the short and long term and that should be with the organisation that best helps them develop as a pharmacist," a statement added.

"A great strength of the NITP program is that it is delivered by the PSA, the professional organisation representing the professional interests of pharmacists and the practice of pharmacy wherever pharmacists work in supporting the Australian health-care system".

MEANWHILE the the Pharmacy Internship Training Program offered by the new National Alliance for Pharmacy Education has also been accredited.

The alliance was formed earlier in the year by Monash University, The University of Queensland, University of South Australia and The University of Sydney.

The group said students enrolling in the NAPE program will be assisted in their journey by a range of "experienced educators and pharmacists, practising in a variety of settings".

The program is designed with flexibility in mind, and utilises online, face to face and self directed modes of education.

According to the NAPE, the course also "allows interns to easily access their coursework irrespective of their location and to balance study with their work and personal lives".

The program can also be used as a stepping stone to a graduate certificate of pharmacy practice, should students choose to complete an additional year of part-time study at the completion of their intern year.

"We believe that ready access to cutting edge university postgraduate award courses, including intern training programs, is crucial for pharmacists as they contribute to and enhance health care delivery in Australia," said Prof Bill Charman, Chair of NAPE.

"Our program uniquely combines the best aspects of an academic award, with a contemporary practice focus and delivery by experienced practising pharmacists," he added.

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\$5m grant for training

THE Federal govt has granted \$5m for a dedicated education precinct and ward-based training facility for doctors, nurses and allied health professionals within the new Epworth HealthCare private hospital, in Geelong.

Conflict rules tightened

THE European Medicines Agency has strengthened its rules on conflicts of interests of its scientific experts.

The new rules are based on robustness, efficiency and transparency, and conflicts of interests are now classified into three categories incl. direct, indirect and no interests.

Scientists must now provide a signed declaration of interests that could affect their impartiality, and will then be assigned a risk level which will in turn may restrict the involvement of the expert taking into account the nature of the interest, the time passed since the interest occurred and the type of activity the expert will be involved in.

WIN AN ORGANICS PAMPER KIT



Certified Organics are great and even better when buying them in a gift set, the perfect Christmas present for all ages.

This week **PD** has been giving readers the chance to win an Organics Pamper kit, one of the great gift bags from the NEW Organic Collection.

Designer Brands Organics provides intense moisturising protection for hair and skin, leaving it soft and supple for complete head to toe hydration. With the launch of Designer

Brands Organics, certified organic skin care no longer means having to pay the price for purity. This paraben-free, urea-free, SLS-free, artificial colour-free range is certified organic, dermatologist tested and is biodegradable. Good for you and the planet!

Based on the healing and nurturing power of organic Aloe Leaf Juice, this is beauty without boundaries when it comes to skin and hair loving benefits and affordability.

For your last chance to win, simply be the first reader to send through the correct answer to the daily question below:

How many products are in the Organics range, not including the kits?

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

Hint: Visit www.dbcosmetics.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Anna Michael, RACS Pharmacist from APHS.

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Further Reductil advice

ABBOTT has issued further details regarding the withdrawal of Reductil from the Australian market.

According to Abbott pharmacists may continue to dispense current shelf stock or return it to their wholesaler for credit.

For patients Abbott has said that they can return their current 30-day supply of Reductil to the original dispensing pharmacy for a refund up until 08 Nov, and that to receive a refund all stock must be in original packaging and contain at least one capsule.

In addition pharmacists should mark all returned stock with 'Patient Returns' when sending it to their wholesaler for credit for the complete wholesale amount.

Pharmacists are also advised that to ensure confidentiality, they should ensure all returned medicines do not contain any patient information.

For refunds relating to the gap between the refunded dispensed price and wholesale price, Abbott has said that it will reimburse this upon receipt of the Pharmacy Record Sheet Patients Return form and supporting documentation.

Abbott will process all documentation received by 12 Nov. For more info call 1800 225 311.

Corbett on Board

GENERIC drug manufacturer HalcyGen has appointed Roger Corbett as a non-executive director.

The former Woolworths ceo, current Fairfax Media Chairman and Reserve Bank board member said he was "delighted to work with the HalcyGen board at a time of significant change".

Pharmacy Daily Pharmacy Job of the Day!

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CVS busted for meth role

US pharmacy giant CVS has been slapped with a whopping US\$77.6 million fine after it was busted by authorities for inadequately monitoring the sale of products containing pseudoephedrine.

The largest operator of retail pharmacies within the US, CVS was found guilty of failing to monitor the sales of particular cold and flu medications between 2007 and 2008, and in turn aiding methamphetamine drug manufacturers in Las Vegas and California to produce large amounts of the drug for illegal sales.

The fine, agreed to as part of a compliance deal struck between by prosecutors and CVS, represents the largest ever civil suit to be paid under the US' Controlled Substances act, and comprises of a \$75m fine and \$2.6m in forfeited profits.

Whilst the fine is hefty, the deal has seen the pharmacy giant able

to avoid criminal charges.

"This case shows what happens when companies fail to follow their ethical and legal responsibilities," said U.S. Attorney André Birotte Jr.

"CVS knew it had a duty to prevent methamphetamine trafficking, but it failed to take steps to control the sale of a regulated drug used by methamphetamine cooks as an essential ingredient for their poisonous stew," said Birotte Jr.

A statement from CVS has accepted responsibility for what the company is calling an "unacceptable breach of the company's policies [that is] to totally inconsistent [with its] values".

"CVS/pharmacy is unwavering in its support of the measures taken by the federal government and the states to prevent drug abuse," said the pharmacy giant's ceo, Thomas Ryan.

Chelation warning

THE US Food and Drug Authority has issued a warning letter to the manufacturers of eight over-the-counter chelation products regarding unproven claims.

According to the FDA the companies are promoting the chelation drugs and devices with a range of unproven claims, including that they can remove toxic metals from the body, treat autism spectrum disorder, cardiovascular diseases, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, macular degeneration, and other "serious conditions".

Despite the claims, the FDA has said that chelation products involved have not been approved for OTC use in the US and are in violation of the US the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

"These products are dangerously misleading because they are targeted to patients with serious conditions and limited treatment options," said Deborah Autor, director of the Office of Compliance in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

"The FDA must take a firm stand against companies who prey on the vulnerability of patients seeking hope and relief," she added.

For info see www.fda.gov.

Nurse prescribing

NURSE Practitioners will be able to prescribe a range of PBS medications from the start of next month, according to a draft of the November PBS reported in the *Australian Doctor* publication.

Prescribing rights will be available for smoking drug Champix (varenicline), a range of antipsychotics and SSRIs - but will be limited by each practitioner's scope of practice, as defined by training and experience.

Authority prescriptions will be allowed, but the move does not cover highly specialised drugs or S100 arrangements.

Nurse practitioners will also be required to have a collaborative arrangement in place with a doctor.

AMA vice-president Steve Hambleton said this means that GPs will be kept informed about what people are being prescribed - which he said was vital because it could "impact a patient outside [the nurse's] scope of practice".

New AusPARs

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has published new AusPARs on Dronedaron Hydrochloride, Fibrin sealant and Rituximab.



DISPENSARY CORNER

FACEBOOK saves lives.

A British nurse, Nicola Sharp, who was surfing the internet on social networking site Facebook, was able to alert her friend to a potential tumour in her child's eye, after spotting it in one of the posted photos.

Sharp noticed in one photo that her friend's two-and-a-half year old child had red-eye reflection in her right eye, whilst only white in her left, which is a typical sign of eye cancer.

Phoning her friend immediately after spotting the problem, Sharp was able to get the child taken to the doctor.

Tests on the eye then revealed the presence of two tumours, which had caused no other symptoms other than the white reflection, and would not have been picked up until after the cancer spread, which according to the child's doctors would have been fatal.

BRUSHING teeth...there's an app for that!

iPhone has launched a new app designed to help motivate children and lazy adults to brush their teeth.

Titled Motivetrix, the app displays a diagram of human teeth, with individual teeth areas coloured in different tones.

The app user then follows the colour sequence whilst brushing their own teeth to get a full 2-3 minute clean.

CHARITY has its rewards.

Workers unloading a charity bin in Wollongong, NSW, have unearthed a first-edition of George Orwell's iconic *Nineteen Eighty-Four* novel.

Still covered in its original jacket, the book is estimated to be worth several thousand dollars, and is slated to be auctioned off at a fundraising book fair this coming weekend.

In a silent auction, eager bidders will be given a sheet of paper and asked to write their details, as well as how much they want to pay, the highest bidder will then be contacted to collect the rare prize.