

Order API calendars

AUSTRALIAN Pharmaceutical Industries is urging pharmacies to order their 2012 API Calendars, with just over 23 days left before the final deadline.

The special deal ends August 31 and online ordering is available at www.pharmacycalendars.com.au.

For more information see **page three** of today's *Pharmacy Daily*.

Lyme Disease Appeal

PHARMACIES across Australia are being invited to join the country's first ever Lyme Disease Appeal which launches on 01 September, at the start of the tick season.

Free information leaflets on Lyme disease are available, as well as counter collection tins to help raise awareness of the condition.

It's an initiative of Sydney based pharmacist Dr Mualla Akinci McManus, who has founded the Karl McManus Foundation.

Karl McManus was bitten by a tick in 2007 on Sydney's Northern Beaches, and developed flu-like symptoms which were not correctly diagnosed because of a lack of knowledge of Lyme disease, leading to his eventual death last year.

PSA seeks CPD input

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia is asking members to provide feedback on its continuing professional development activities, with the results of an online survey set to help shape the 2012 PSA calendar of programs and how they are delivered.

The brief poll closes on 26 August and can be accessed online at <http://bit.ly/psasurvey>

S100 working well - Guild

THE Pharmacy Guild has suggested a number of enhancements to the Section 100 scheme for the supply of PBS medicines to remote area Aboriginal Health Services (AHS), as part of a submission to a Senate enquiry into the program.

The scheme, which uses the infrastructure of community pharmacies to deliver the drugs, has worked well but due to funding limitations "has yet to realise its full potential," the Guild said.

Current payment arrangements should be retained, but transport costs for community pharmacies servicing remote AHSs should be separately funded based on a

"model which reflects the variables which drive these costs".

The Guild also suggested the adoption of a three-tiered handling fee to include a basic fee for 'bulk supply' plus a dispensing fee and a fee for Dose Administration Aids when requested by the AHS.

The submission urges the creation of an electronic claiming method for S100 claims via the PBS Online system, with information gathered in this way also able to be used to provide drug utilisation data.

New Board website

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia has today relaunched its website, with the updated version said to make it easier to navigate and find information.

As well as clearer menus and more information tailored to the pharmacy profession, it also now includes information about the national registration scheme and links to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. See www.pharmacyboard.gov.au.

Indian pharmacy attack

HEALTH officials in India have launched a crackdown on unregistered pharmacists, as well as on some registered practitioners who "hire out" their certificates in return for a monthly payment.

The state of Andhra Pradesh is estimated to have 67,000 pharmacy outlets, of which only 10,000 are actually staffed by registered pharmacists.

US S-P reps win case

PHARMACEUTICAL sales representatives working for Schering-Plough in the USA have won an industrial victory over non-payment of overtime by the firm.

A national class action suit claimed that the reps often worked more than 40 hours per week but received an annual salary without overtime pay, with the US Federal Court ruling in their favour and likely to award significant damages.

"The US Department of Labor recognises that pharmaceutical reps are not exempt from overtime pay," said the group's attorney, Charles Joseph.

"Schering Plough pharmaceutical reps are owed a lot of money for the often extraordinarily long hours they work with no additional compensation," he said.

The campaign has been promoted via a special website at www.pharmarepovertime.com.

Pennsylvania offers KI

HEALTH officials in the US state of Pennsylvania - which is the location of five nuclear power plants - are offering local residents free potassium iodide tablets.

The distribution will take place this Thursday, with the tablets available to anyone who lives or works within a 10 mile radius of the nuclear power stations.

Potassium Iodide works to protect the thyroid gland against harmful radioactive iodine which could be released during a nuclear emergency.

Individuals will receive four 65mg tablets each, which they can store until needed during a meltdown.



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The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

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Event details:

Liverpool 1 May
Illawarra 5 June
Coffs Harbour 17 July
Penrith 24 July
Newcastle 18 Sept
Albury 23 Oct
Tweed Heads 13 Nov
10 Group 2 CPD credits

Register at:

www.psa.org.au

Guild Update

This week's update from the Pharmacy Guild

PBS Roadshow

FOR pharmacy owners in Australia, 1 April 2012 represents a very significant date.

On that day considerable price drops on generic medicines will occur in relation to the guaranteed savings which Medicines Australia negotiated with the Federal Government. Those price drops will vary but an overall average 23 per cent price drop has been guaranteed by Medicines Australia.

To assist pharmacy owners as they prepare for these changes, the Pharmacy Guild is running a series of strictly member-only events.

In the lead up to this date, pharmacies need to manage their inventories very carefully and it is advised that pharmacies have the minimum stockholdings of impacted medicines on their shelf on 30 March 2012.

On the same date, the largest molecule on the PBS, Atorvastatin (Lipitor), will see new generic market entrants. This molecule will begin its price disclosure process with a 16% price drop.

While price disclosure and PBS reform have been in place for a number of years, many criteria have changed and many pharmacists are not familiar with the new arrangements.

The members-only events will cover all the key elements of which pharmacy owners need to be aware. The Pharmacy Guild urges all members to take this opportunity to attend one of these presentations.

Go to www.guild.org.au and click on the "PBS Roadshow" link under "Events" (in the "News and Events" section) for the event brochure or phone Rebeka Dalton on 07 3831 3788 for further information.



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia

New PSA clinical conference

MEDICATION adherence will be a key focus of a new conference launched by the NSW Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia this morning.

PharmacyLIVE!, which will take place in Sydney on 17-18 September, is described as "one of the biggest clinical updates for pharmacists in NSW," with PSA NSW president Charlie Benrimoj saying the event aims to enhance pharmacists' knowledge and skills in managing patients suffering from chronic diseases.

It also targets a stroke awareness campaign to be funded by the new NSW Coalition government, which Benrimoj said "provides a template for future pharmacy based programs targeting chronic disease management."

"We all know that numerous patients stop taking medications prescribed to them for the treatment of chronic disease, often within one year of their initial diagnosis," he said.

Benrimoj said this lack of adherence leads to less than optimal health outcomes.

"The need for pharmacy based patient education and support is increasing," he added, meaning there are "exciting professional and financial opportunities available to the pharmacy profession as a result".

PharmacyLIVE! 2011 will be organised in streams covering seven National Health Priority Areas, and the event is being presented in collaboration with a range of organisations including Arthritis Australia, The Heart Foundation, Asthma Foundation NSW, Alzheimer's Australia and The Australian Diabetes Council.

A special Clinical Interventions workshop will also feature, to assist participants in providing further professional services.

Attendance at the conference will award up to 26 Group 2 CPD Credits and earlybird discounts are available for bookings by 19 Aug.

For info call 02 9431 1100.

WIN A GAIA BODYCARE PACK



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with **GAIA** this week and is giving away Bodycare packs to five lucky readers.

Each pack is valued at \$59.80 and contains two body washes and two body moisturisers.

GAIA Bodycare soap-free washes and skin-softening moisturisers contain natural and organic ingredients for naturally soft, beautifully healthy skin every day.

Australian made and owned, GAIA Bodycare has been specially formulated for the skincare needs of women and comes to us from the makers of GAIA Natural Baby. Contact National Pharmacy Manager Rebecca for opening order deals and special offers - m:0418 293 366 or rebecca@rebles.com.au



For your chance to win this fantastic GAIA Bodycare pack, go to the website: www.gaiaskinnaturals.com, then email your answer to the question below by COB on Friday to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

In 25 words or less tell us why you stock GAIA Bodycare products – or why you should!

Five most creative entries will win this great prize and their names will be announced in **Pharmacy Daily** on Monday 15th Aug.



DISPENSARY CORNER

HERE'S a fascinating scientific research project.

Chemists at the federal Department of Sustainability and Environment are working to produce an artificial version of wild dog urine, in the hope it can be used to keep dingoes away from precious livestock.

The idea is based on the premise that pheromones in dingo wee create a so-called "bio boundary" marking out territory, which other wild canines are then unwilling to cross.

"You can use this non-lethal barrier to keep animals out of where people don't want them - in their back yards or those sort of urban areas where towns are encroaching into the bush, or on a farm where there are sheep," said senior government researcher Alan Robley.

The project involves collecting urine from dingoes in zoos across the country, and then analysing its molecular signature so it can be recreated.

NO wonder there's a market for bunion plasters.

A survey of British women has found that those with large feet are ashamed of stepping out in appropriately sized footwear.

The poll, conducted by the Debenhams department store, found that 82% of women with size 8 or 9 feet were embarrassed to tell shop assistants their size when at the shops - and more than a third said they strongly disliked taking their shoes off in public.

A Debenhams spokeswoman said the research had been undertaken following a trend toward shopping for shoes via the internet.

"Buying shoes online can be a tricky feat which is why we decided to ask women why they were doing it behind closed doors."

"We were surprised to learn that a case of cold feet was behind it all," she quipped.



TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

23 DAYS **8** HOURS LEFT

ORDER YOUR 2012 API CALENDAR

Visit www.pharmacycalendars.com.au to order in 3 easy steps.



1 Register your business details and authorised contact person.



2 Design, create and approve your calendar baseplate.



3 Place your order and checkout.

api



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ENDS AUG 31st