

Rosehip listing

ROSEHIP has been added to the Arthritis Australia Complementary Therapies Information Sheet for the relief of osteoarthritis.

The info sheet provides a summary of current evidence about complementary therapies for arthritis.

Pharmacy layouts must work for Peak Period!



- Is every part of your store being trafficked?
- How strong and relevant are your current categories?
- Do they clearly support your health position, or... do they project a mixed business with a dispensary at the back?

Join Hilary Kahn for a one hour action packed online seminar that can immediately make a difference to your pharmacy.

2nd August 2011

2 x 55min Sessions:
11:00am & 4.00pm (AEST)

[CLICK HERE](#) to register

Champix risk uncertainty

NEW research has found a link between smoking cessation medicine varenicline (Champix) and an increase in the risk of serious cardiovascular events.

Published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, the study found a greater number of cardiovascular events (such as an irregular heart beat, heart attack or stroke) with varenicline than with a placebo.

The study looked at data from 14 clinical trials, and found overall Champix increased the risk of cardiovascular events by 72%.

Of the 4,908 patients on Champix across the trials, 52 were found to have suffered serious cardiovascular events, compared to 27 who suffered CV events on various placebos.

Responding to the latest research, the NPS said: "there is still some uncertainty about what this means for people taking the medicine".

"Weaknesses of the study make it hard to determine whether varenicline caused the cardiovascular events and also the true size of any increased risk," said NPS Clinical Adviser Dr Danielle Stowasser.

"It's important to note that the reported increased risk of experiencing a cardiovascular event for people taking varenicline needs to be weighed up against the cardiovascular benefits of quitting smoking," she added.

The NPS is advising patients and healthcare workers who are concerned about Champix that

there are other effective methods of quitting such as other drugs and non-drug options, including counselling.

Patients are also being advised to report any new or worsening side symptoms to their health professional immediately, particularly if they experience chest pain, shortness of breath or trouble breathing or pain in the legs whilst walking.

"Varenicline is a relatively new medicine and its full range of adverse effects is becoming clearer with time," said Dr Stowasser.

Past controversies over the drug have included claims that it increases suicidal thoughts and erratic behaviour in some patients, a warning that was backed up by US, EU and Australian authorities with requirements for Pfizer to list stronger prescribing and consumer information warnings.

Side effects can be reported to the TGA at www.tga.gov.au/hp/problem-report-howto.htm.

NPHA appointments

THIS week 10 expert members have been appointed to a new advisory council for the Australian National Preventive Health Agency.

Chaired by Professor Christine Bennett, Dean of Medicine, Sydney at the University of Notre Dame Australia, Chair of Research Australia and former Chair of the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission, the council will tackle public health issues such as obesity, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and other substance abuse.

Advice will be provided to the NPHA CEO.

Second intern intake

THE PSA is reminding students that the second intake for its National Intern Training Program (NITP) enrolments for 2011 is still open.

The online course includes face-to-face workshops, workplace-based assessments and practical-based projects.

Enrolments are open until 31 August, see www.psa.org.au/intern.

WIN A PURE SPA PACK



Every day this week **Pharmacy Daily** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win a Pure Spa® pack, courtesy of **Pure Spa**.

Pure Spa® natural skincare products contain certified organic rosehip, jojoba, sunflower and natural Vitamin E oils – all rich in natural vitamins and well known for their ability to care for sensitive, newborn baby skin.

Pure Spa® products also contain carefully selected pure essential oils. Made in Australia, naturally. Now available to pharmacies and NOT sold to supermarkets.

For your chance to win your very own Pure Spa® pack, simply be the first person to send in a correct answer to the daily question below:

Name one product in the Pure Spa® babyCare product range

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

Hint! Visit www.purespa.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Kim Novak** from **Ayr District Hospital, QLD**.

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PBS data collection

SUPPLIERS of PBS medicines will have to provide the Govt with data on prescriptions that are priced below the copayment level, from 01 April 2012.

The change will provide an additional tool for health policy planning, monitoring risk management protocols, pharmacovigilance and monitoring the quality use of medicines in the community.

According to the Dept of Health the info to be collected is the same as that already being gathered for subsidised prescriptions, with the exception of the PBS medicine pricing information.

In addition, the collection will only apply to claims submitted online or through the Claims Transmission System.

"There will be no change to the existing dispensing or claiming processes and approved suppliers will not have any additional workload apart from validation of essential information such as prescription dates, pharmacy identification, patient eligibility and medication details," a statement from the department said.

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 Jul:** Re-Entry Course; St Leonards/Rosebery, NSW - 02 9431 1100.
- 24 Jul:** Vitamin D Pharmacy Only Seminar; Sydney Hilton - 1300 650 455.
- 25 Jul:** Discussion Group- Diabetic Foot Problems; Launceston General Hospital - 03 62312636.
- 27 Jul:** Vitamin D Pharmacy Only Seminar; Brisbane Hilton - 1300 650 455.
- 31 Jul:** Vitamin D Pharmacy Only Seminar; Sofitel - 1300 650 455.

ACCC acts on SensaSlim

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has progressed in its court action against the promoters of the SensaSlim weight loss spray.

The ACCC is alleging six cases of misleading and deceptive conduct, including the failure to disclose the involvement of disgraced businessman Peter Foster in its operations.

The ACCC is also prosecuting the company for falsely representing that the SensaSlim Spray was the subject of a large worldwide clinical trial when in fact no such trial was conducted.

It's also addressing claims by the company that it had unqualified support as to the effectiveness of the SensaSlim Spray and the

purported clinical trials from Australian obesity specialist Dr Matthew Capehorn - claims which the doctor has since refuted.

Other points of alleged misleading and deceptive conduct made by SensaSlim according to the ACCC include representing that Michael Boyle was managing the business of SensaSlim; failing to disclose that Boyle was intending to resign as Director immediately following the launch of SensaSlim; and falsely representing that SensaSlim franchisees were already participating in, and profiting from, the SensaSlim franchise, that a SensaSlim franchise had a certain earning potential and that there was a "money back buy back guarantee".

New Pharma honours Liauw legacy

IN a fitting tribute to the late Judy Liauw, her daughter, pharmacist Shu Fen Liauw, and Amanda Galbraith, the chair of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Women and Young Pharmacists' Committee, officially launched New Pharma at the Pharmacy Women's Congress Dinner in Cairns last Saturday night.

In her position as the former chair of the Women and Young Pharmacists Committee and Guild National Councillor Judy was the driving force behind the development of the initiative.

"Judy's vision was to provide young pharmacists considering ownership with access to the right information in a simple and logical manner," a statement from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia said.

"The Guild had already developed the *Buying and Selling a Pharmacy Guide - 7 steps to a highly effective sale or purchase*, but Judy wanted to go one step further. She wanted to provide the answers to the many questions about what to do and how to do it, as she knew young pharmacists were asking about how to become a pharmacy owner."

New Pharma aids potential pharmacy buyers with advice on establishing and running a viable pharmacy business, including identifying the right pharmacy; assessing your capabilities needed for pharmacy ownership; evaluating the financial and non-financial considerations; negotiating; working through the buying process; transition of ownership and establishing the business.

Amanda and Shu Fen are pictured above at the New Pharma launch.

For further New Pharma information and to subscribe, go to www.newpharma.org.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

BEING tall may have its drawbacks.

A study published this week in *The Lancet* has found that people of above average height face higher risks of getting cancer.

The researchers from Oxford University collated data about the medical history of more than 1.3 million British women between 1996 and 2001, finding a correlation between height and cancer rates.

They speculated that increases in height over the last 100 years, due to better food and lifestyles, could help to explain the higher incidence of cancer across the global community.

HEALTH warning.

Several US states are in the process of drawing up rules which would outlaw wexting (walking while texting), in the interests of public health.

Already officials in Idaho have begun to issue US\$50 fines for people caught wexting across streets, whilst unsuspecting wexters in Pennsylvania are staring down the barrel of a similar fate.

Pennsylvania officials were first alerted to the health dangers of wayward wexters after a YouTube video of a woman falling into a fountain whilst busily wexting became an overnight sensation.

Rather than rushing into issuing wext fines, Pennsylvania is first trying a softer approach, reminding residents to be aware of their surroundings via a Give Respect, Get Respect campaign.

Meanwhile for wayward wexters all over the world, iPhone has an app which allows users to switch to their forward-facing camera as a background whilst texting, so they see where they are going.

The app does however come with the following disclaimer: "We can't take any responsibility for your stupidity, so please don't go walking into traffic, off cliffs, or into the middle of gunfights while emailing".