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PD's Expo winners

PHARMACY Daily would like to thank everyone who came and dropped by our stand at this year's Pharmacy Expo.

Congratulations to the following winners of our Pharmacy Expo competition: Cheryl Lee from Chemist Warehouse Tamworth who has scored a Family Pass to Sydney Aquarium; Jenny Jones from Campbelltown Hospital Pharmacy who has won a Family Pass to Sydney WildlifeWorld; and Lenisha Sutaria from Pulse Pharmacy Double Bay, who has scooped up a Family Pass to Sydney Tower Observation Deck and Oztrek.

Senate PBS deferral inquiry

THE Government's new processes regarding the requirement of cabinet approval for all new drugs listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme has been formally referred to a Senate inquiry.

Yesterday NSW Liberal Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells moved that the Finance and Public Administration References Committee look into the govt's administration of the PBS, with particular relation to "the deferral of listing medicines which have been recommended by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory

Committee," with Senate passing the motion just after midday.

Other areas for Committee consideration include whether the deferrals will have consequences for patients and the pharmaceutical sector; any impacts on the future availability of medicines in the Australian market; the criteria and advice used to determine medicines to be deferred; the financial impact on the Commonwealth Budget of deferring the listing of medicines; the consultation process prior to a deferral; and compliance with the intent of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with Medicines Australia in May 2010.

The Committee has been asked to produce a report into the cabinet deferrals issue by 18 August.

Higher PPI start-ups

PHARMACISTS who have registered for Pharmacy Practice Incentives are set to receive higher than expected start up payments of up to \$8,070, based on the current level of registration uptake.

Start-up payments are for the following three priority areas: Dose Administration Aids; Clinical Interventions; and Staged Supply.

The adjusted start-up payments are: Clinical Interventions - \$4550 (previously \$3400); Staged Supply - \$1720 (previously \$1300) and Dose Administration Aids which remains unchanged at \$1800.

So far around 4,400 pharmacies across the nation have signed up to the PPI scheme, with the special start-up payments still available for pharmacies who register for the program before 30 June.

After this date pharmacies will still be able to sign up for the PPI scheme, but will be unable to access the start-up payments.

Eligible pharmacies can register now online at www.5cpa.com.au.

Wholesalers enlist pharmacists

PHARMACISTS frustrated with slow or incorrect Pfizer Direct deliveries are sharing the stories of how their patients are affected, as part of the National Pharmaceutical Services Association push to have all PBS medications required to be available via CSO full line wholesalers (**PD** yesterday).

The campaign follows a roadshow undertaken by Symbion recently, with many pharmacists expressing concerns about patient impacts.

A range of examples were cited, including a situation in Tamworth where a psychiatric patient urgently



needed a Pfizer medication but was unable to get it in a timely manner - either from the supplier or other pharmacies nearby.

Eventually the patient was able to get it at the local hospital - which ironically was supplied via Symbion rather than by Pfizer directly.

Pictured above are some of the concerned pharmacists: Anthony Mezhar, John Leung and John Bronger, with NPSA President Patrick Davies.

New NPSA members

THE National Pharmaceutical Services Association has confirmed that state-based wholesalers National Pharmacies and Central Healthcare Services have joined the organisation, as exclusively revealed by **Pharmacy Daily** yesterday.

NPSA President Patrick Davies said the move gave the group increased representation, and reflected the industry's attitude towards the issues currently being faced across the sector.

"We welcome these two wholesalers to the organisation and we look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that key stakeholders and decision makers understand the importance of CSO Distributors to the timely supply of medicine to all Australians".

Beautiful make-over

AUSTRALIAN natural skincare company, U Little Beauty, has completely redesigned its product packaging.

The move is designed to clearly position the brand as a "natural, Australian made and owned skincare brand".

In addition to its new packaging, U Little Beauty has signed TV personality Toni Pearen as its brand ambassador.



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Sigma appointment

SIGMA Pharmaceuticals today announced the appointment of Gary Dunne as its new General Manager of Healthcare.

Dunne will lead Sigma's core operations of retail, wholesale, logistics and supply chain, and has extensive retailing experience, including roles with Clive Peeters, Coles, Aldi and Woolworths.

TGA fees to increase

MOST TGA fees and charges are set to rise by 3.4% effective from next Fri 01 July, after the approval of new regulations by the Executive Council last week.

Fees and charges have been rounded to the nearest \$10 for items under \$10,000 and to the nearest \$100 for items worth \$10,000 or more.

The regulations have also been amended to split evaluation fees for registration of prescription medicines into two components covering application and evaluation.

The total amount of these two items will remain the same as the current evaluation fees.

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.

29 Jun-02 Jul: 9th International Conference on Life Long Learning in Pharmacy, Rotorua NZ - www.llpharm.com.

02 Jul: Workshop on Sexual Health Central Coast, NSW details on [02 9431 1125](tel:0294311125).

14-18 Aug: Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Conference 2011, Mount Buller, Victoria - www.medic.com.au.

06-09 Oct: PAC11, Melbourne Convention Centre pac11.com.au

13-15 Oct: Pharmacy Assistant National Conference, Gold Coast - pharmacyassistants.com.au

Accredited CPD from ACP, SHPA

THE Australian College of Pharmacy (ACP) and the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) are both now able to formally accredit pharmacists with Continuing Professional Development points, after passing all the requirements of the Australian Pharmacy Council.

The Council has been authorised by the Pharmacy Board of Australia to enable appropriate organisations to accredit CPD on its behalf.

"CPD for pharmacists is an important part of maintaining the skills and responsiveness of the profession and ensuring the continuing quality and safety of pharmacy services for the Australian community," a statement from the Australian Pharmacy Council said.

"While CPD does not have to be accredited, accreditation ensures the educational quality of a CPD activity and its relevance to contemporary pharmacy practice, as well as independently verifying

the number of credits that can be allocated to a CPD activity," the Council added.

The APC has approved both the Australian College of Pharmacy and the Society of Hospital Pharmacists Australia to accredit CPD for a period of up to three years.

Cladribine withdrawal

MERCK Serono has informed the TGA of a decision to withdraw its Movectro (cladribine) multiple sclerosis treatment from supply.

The company says that additional clinical trials would be needed to meet US FDA and European Medicines Agency requirements for the approval of the drug, and has decided not to pursue further the worldwide approval process due to the length of time required and the "changing competitive landscape".

Movectro is currently only supplied in Australia through a select number of neurologists, with about 150 patients receiving the medication.

DISPENSARY CORNER

THE world's oldest person, Brazilian Maria Gomes Valentim, passed away this week, after a remarkable 114 years of life.

Born in 1896 Maria was able to witness the passing of two centuries, and the remarkable events, inventions and people which have helped shape the world into its current formation.

Maria always credited her health and longevity to a healthy diet.

She leaves behind one son, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

CARDIFF Royal Infirmary Hospital in the UK has come under public criticism after it was discovered that the administration had placed a tambourine into one of its day rooms instead of an emergency buzzer.

Patients were asked to bash the tambourine to get the attention of nurses if they needed medical attention whilst in the room.

If the tambourine broke, the hospital also had a back-up pair of maracas for patients to shake.

The hospital has since apologised for the unusual procedures, saying it would replace the percussion instruments with an electronic emergency bell.

IF you've had a hard day at work spare a thought for the road builders working on Shifou Mountain in China's Hunan Province.

Considered one of the most dangerous jobs on the planet, the roadbuilders are currently in the process of creating a 3.21km wooden path thousands of metres above the ground (below).

"It's not as dangerous as people think," said one road builder.

"You just wear the ropes, and then everything is okay," he added.



WIN A PURE SPA PACK



Every day this week **PD** is giving one lucky reader the chance to win an 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:

Are the Pure Spa products free from petro chemicals and parabens?

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

Hint! Visit www.purespa.com.au

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, **Sarah Newman** from **Pharmabroker Sales**.