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PHARMACY ALLIANCE GROUP
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Pharmacy Expo wrap

THE NSW Branch of the Pharmacy Guild and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia have acknowledged the strong support of exhibitors, sponsors and speakers during the recent Pharmacy Expo in Sydney.

Thousands of pharmacists attended the event at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, taking part in the extensive education program of 50 topics over 80 sessions.

Delegates are reminded to go online to complete their follow-on assessments, enabling them to collect the maximum CPD credits for the weekend and obtain their required 2011 quota.

Guests were welcomed at a cocktail party on Fri 17 Jun by Dr John D'Arcy, who also awarded the top stand awards.

Blackmores won the 'Most Innovative Stand Display' category, while the 'Outstanding Stand Promotion' award went to FIT-Bioceuticals Ltd.

MEANWHILE Guild President Kos Slavos addressed about 120 pharmacists at the annual invitation-only Presidents Breakfast on Sun 19 Jun.

Topics covered included Current Issues in Community Pharmacy, as well as Using IT in the implementation of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement programs.

It also included presentations by Albert Regoli of PDL who spoke on Reducing Dispensing Errors, as well as Tony Rush and Ray Moll of Guild Insurance, who spoke on Self Managed Superannuation Funds.

New competency framework

PHARMACISTS across Australia are being invited to provide feedback on a new consultation document about a new tool which aims to provide greater clarity for the National Competency Standards for pharmacists.

The Advanced Pharmacy Practice Framework Steering Committee (APPFSC) has developed the tool, which is particularly relevant for those who are teaching and preparing candidates for initial registration as pharmacists, as well as for the candidates themselves.

It's the first time that a "comprehensive mapping and customisation exercise of entry-level competency standards has been conducted from a professional perspective," said a statement from the APPFSC, which encompasses a range of groups including the Guild, PSA, AACP, ACP, APC, PDA, SHPA and the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

The new document has been released for consultation, with comments invited from pharmacy

Pure Fat caps warning

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has warned about therapeutic quantities of sibutramine in Pure Fat Three Days Reduce Weight capsules, which have been purchased on the internet by some Australians.

The TGA is advising affected consumers to cease using the products and discard any remaining capsules, and to consult health practitioners if they have any concerns arising.

schools, intern training providers, pharmacy students and interns, preceptor pharmacists and any other interested individuals and organisations.

It aims to recognise that pharmacy students and interns go through a continuum of learning and development, and is hoped to clarify the expected "end points" of contributions by pharmacy schools and intern training providers for each of the entry-level competencies.

Comments are invited until 05 August, and the consultation document is now online at psa.org.au/site.php?id=7668.

Telehealth launch

HEALTHminister Nicola Roxon and PM Julia Gillard this morning previewed Telehealth consultation services, which will be funded by Medicare for the first time from this Friday 01 July.

A joint video conference in Darwin and Adelaide showcased the technology, which allows video conferencing with specialists in capital cities from rural GP clinics, avoiding the time and expense of travelling for consultations.

Participating health practitioners are being offered increased Medicare rebates for Telehealth, bulk billing incentives as well as payments to cover start up costs of installing the technology.

API adds its voice to NPSA

ALL of Australia's CSO wholesale medicines distributors have united in their call for a stop to the exclusive distribution of PBS medicines via the controversial Pfizer Direct network.

Even though Australian Pharmaceuticals Industries is not a member of the peak National Pharmaceutical Services Association, API has added its signature to an NPSA communique which urges the government to "prohibit exclusive supply arrangements of PBS medicines to pharmacies".

It's the latest move in the NPSA campaign, and follows the release last week (PD 22 Jun) of a Deloitte Access Economics report which warned of the collapse of the CSO system if further manufacturers

decide to go direct.

"Pharmacists need more than one source of supply and they need to be able to access all PBS medicines from their full line CSO wholesaler," said NPSA president Patrick Davies.

"The signatories to the communique are concerned that patients will no longer be able to rely on their local pharmacy for supply of their essential medicines if the Government does not act now and demand that manufacturers of PBS medicines to ensure CSO distributors can distribute their medicines," he said.

Other participants in the communique include Symbion and Sigma Pharmaceuticals as well as newly joined NPSA members National Pharmacies and Central Healthcare Services.

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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

Indigenous scholarships

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia yesterday announced the 2011 recipients of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme.

Tamika Hagan (University of Newcastle), Thomas Mylne (University of Queensland) and Shannon Unsworth (University of New England) will each receive up to \$60,000 during their time at university under the program.

Scholarship holders receive \$15,000 a year for up to four years of study to help cover the cost of studying away from home.

Winners also participate in a mentoring program to help establish pharmacy community ties.

The program is funded by the Department of Health and Ageing and managed by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, and is an incentive of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Programs under the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement.

It's been established in recognition of the key role Indigenous pharmacists play in providing "improved, culturally appropriate pharmacy services to better meet the needs of Indigenous communities and patients".

UK society proposal

MEMBERS of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain are currently being asked to vote on the introduction of a new Pharmaceutical Scientist membership category, with the move requiring approval by two thirds of those voting.

Asthma vigilance urged

PHARMACISTS are being urged to actively encourage their patients with asthma to take control of their condition, following the release of new research showing increased risk for the two million Australians living with asthma.

One in five patients surveyed by the National Asthma Council Australia (NACA) said they were anticipating an attack every week this winter.

"Yet despite a potentially serious

season predicted, the study has revealed that 65% of Australians with asthma surveyed do not have a current up-to-date asthma action plan," NACA said.

More than half of those polled had not been vaccinated against influenza, and a similar proportion had not seen a healthcare professional for a lung check this year, the figures revealed.

"Asthma needs to be taken seriously at this time of year," said National Asthma Council ceo Kristine Whorlow.

"Preparation is the key to avoiding unnecessary exacerbations and hospitalisations," she added.

NACA says initial figures for this winter suggest that incidence rates in 2011 may surpass those of 2010, which saw 70% rates of asthma attacks, and a 16% hospitalisation rate for those with the condition.

The study was undertaken online 03-07 Jun by Stollznow Research, with the support of AstraZeneca.

Generic warnings

THE NSW Pharmacy Council says it continues to receive complaints from patients "confused by the plethora of generic brands" available on the PBS.

In an update to NSW pharmacists, the Council says it appears that many pharmacists "do not take the time to explain the differences in colour, shape, taste etc for bio-equivalent products".

The situation is further complicated by the fact that in some cases originators do not have a brand price premium, meaning the price to the consumer is the same whether a generic or the original brand is supplied.

"The pharmacist must spend time with the patient to explain bio-equivalence, packaging differences...and ongoing vigilance to avoid medicine error," the Council urged.

Consumers should not be expected to frequently receive a different brand of the same drug or active ingredient, it added.

Longer PAC11 earlybirds

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has extended the early bird registration period for its upcoming Pharmacy Australia Congress, which will take place in Melbourne 06-09 October.

Special rates will now be available for registrations before Mon 18 July, with PSA members paying \$775 (a saving of \$150), while for non-members the earlybird rate is \$960, saving them \$195.

Up to 30 CPD credits are on offer over the four days of the congress, which is themed *Discovery, Development, Diversification*.

Earlybird registration can be completed online at pac11.com.au.

Research spending dip

SPENDING by the global pharmaceutical industry on research and development has for the first time ever decreased in 2010, with overall expenditure amounting to US\$68 billion, down almost 3% on the R&D spending for both 2008 and 2009.

Win a 1 year supply of Carmex® lip balms

Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with Carmex® lip balm this week and is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a one year supply of Carmex lip balms, just in time for winter.



Each pack contains:

- ✓ 2 x Carmex® lip balm jars
- ✓ 2 x Carmex® lip balm squeeze tubes,
- ✓ 1 x Carmex® lip balm original flavoured Click Stick™ with SPF 15
- ✓ 1 x Carmex® lip balm strawberry flavoured Click Stick™ with SPF 15

The unique formula of Carmex® lip balm helps to soothe, moisturise and relieve dry, chapped lips caused by environmental factors resulting in why this award-winning lip balm is a favourite of celebrities and make-up artists all over the world!

For your chance to win this fantastic prize, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the daily question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

What level of SPF do the Carmex Click Sticks™ contain?

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Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner, Irene Nimorakiotakis from Pharmore Pharmacies.

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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.



DISPENSARY CORNER

MEDICAL research is coming in very handy for a number of apartment complexes in the USA, who are reportedly using DNA testing on dog poo to find out who hasn't been cleaning up after their canine companions.

Commercially available DNA sampling kits are being used by the property managers, who have ordered residents to submit samples from their dogs so DNA profiles can be placed on file.

The special kits are available from a company appropriately calling itself PooPrints.

"It's one of the coolest things I've ever done as a property manager," said one of the officials in charge of the crackdown.

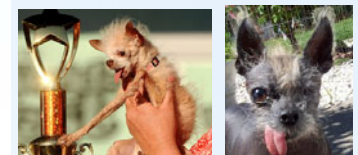
AND speaking of doggie DNA, here's some that's probably not really worth preserving.

The World's Ugliest Dog crown has been bestowed upon Yoda, a 14-year old Chinese-crested chihuahau.

Rescued from abandonment behind an apartment building by his loving owner, Yoda sports a protruding tongue and almost hairless legs.

His owner told media that when she first found her beloved pooch, she thought he was a rat, however having a closer look realised it was a pup, scooped him up took him home and named him after the rather withered-looking Star Wars favourite.

Other crowd pleasers in the ugly line-up included Handsome Hector, who was the 2010 Ugliest Dog runner-up and whose entrance elicited more than a few giggles from the crowd with the words: "Handsome Hector, aka Hecki, is, in his own opinion, devastatingly handsome".



Yoda is pictured above left with his trophy, whilst Handsome Hector is right.



Blackmores provides natural pain relief

Blackmores' new **Flexagil** pain relief cream is a natural topical medication for the relief of joint pain, acute and lower back pain, restricted joint mobility, muscle pain, and sports injuries. Flexagil's active ingredient is comfrey extract. Comfrey has been used for many centuries as a remedy for bruising, pulled muscles and ligaments and sprains. Other product ingredients include hydroxybenzoates, phenoxyethanol and peanut oil- so it is not suitable for people with peanut sensitivities. The cream itself is white in colour and scented with lavender, and was proven in a trial to be superior to a placebo and a non-inferior diclofenac gel for managing pain in uncomplicated unilateral ankle sprains. A further trial found Flexagil was superior to a placebo in treatment of acute upper and lower back pain. Flexagil will be released into stores for public sale in the next few weeks.

RRP: \$8.95 (25g), \$15.95 (50g), \$24.95 (100g)
Stockist: Blackmores

Natural coldsore antiviral cream

Australians looking for a natural therapy to treat their winter coldsores will be happy to learn of the new **Propovir** coldsore ointment. Clinically proven to heal coldsores up to three to four days faster, and to reduce pain associated with the virus, Propovir contains propolis extract ACF, a naturally occurring substance collected by bees from plant sources. With its antibacterial, anaesthetic and anti-inflammatory properties, Propovir is said to be the only treatment for cold sores that effectively targets all stages of a cold sore – from initial tingle or blister through to healing.

RRP: \$11.95
Stockist: 03 9763 0322



Travelan



Wipe away travellers' diarrhoea

Travelan is made using bovine colostrum from dairy cows which are immunised with a vaccine to produce high levels of enterotoxigenic E coli antibodies. Travelan works by binding to E coli bacteria and effectively prohibiting it from attaching to the intestinal tract and causing travellers' diarrhoea. The specific antibodies bind to all the E coli serotypes and are not

absorbed into the blood. Evidential proof of the tablets' ability to reduce the risk of travellers diarrhoea is found in recent randomised, double blind placebo trials conducted in Europe and the US. The trials found that Travelan demonstrated protection of up to 90% against E coli infection. The trials also found Travelan had no reported side effects and that it also reduced the symptoms of gastrointestinal disorders such as abdominal cramps and stomach pain.

RRP: \$22.95
Stockist: www.travelan.com.au.

Enjoy moist mucosa

Colgate's Dry Mouth Relief Fluoride Mouthwash contains a tri-polymer system that coats the soft tissue of the mouth to hold in moisture and provide relief from a dry mouth. The three polymers include xanthan gum, cellulose gum and carbomer which work together to form a film which covers the mucosal surfaces of the mouth. In addition to retaining moisture, the formula also helps to protect against irritation, and also provides fluoride protection to help prevent cavities. As an added bonus, the mouthwash contains no alcohol, and is SLS-free with a very mild flavour.

RRP: \$11.99
Stockist: Contact your local Pharmabroker Sales Branch

