

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.

17-18 Sep: PharmacyLIVE! clinical information conference - more information 02 9431 1100.

17-18 Sep: Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Workshop; 9am - 4.30pm daily; Strathfield South, Sydney www.mhfa.com.au.

20 Sep: Asthma Update for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants - Asthma Foundation at TAFE NSW Coffs Harbour - linda.johnson4@tafensw.edu.au.

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

10-13 Nov: SHPA's Medicines Management 2011 conference in Hobart - www.shpa.org.au.

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

14 Oct: Australian Health and Fitness Forum, Brisbane Hilton-regos info@fitness.org.au

16 Oct: 2011 Australian Self Medication Industry conference, Homebush NSW - details online at www.asmicconference.com.

10-13 Nov: SHPA's Medicines Management 2011 conference in Hobart - www.shpa.org.au.

27 Apr-03 May 2012: 37th PSA Offshore Refresher Conference, Istanbul Turkey - 1300 139 293.

GE pours funds into cancer

GE Healthcare has upped its commitment to the eradication of cancer, with a massive \$100 million challenge to find and fund ideas to accelerate breast cancer detection and improve care.

Launched today in collaboration with several healthcare and financial partners, the initiative aims to accelerate cancer innovation and improve care for patients over the next nine years by funding promising ideas to improve breast cancer diagnostics.

In addition GE has also committed a further \$1 billion to R&D to expand its suite of technologies for cancer detection and treatment over the next five years.

"We envision a day when cancer

is no longer a deadly disease," said Jeff Immelt, CEO and Chairman, GE.

"When you add our cutting edge cancer detection technologies to the innovative ideas of our new partners, it's a powerful formula for tackling cancer and helping doctors and researchers improve care".

GE Australia and NZ ceo Steve Sargent said a one percent cut in the cancer cost burden would save Australia \$190 million annually.

"The opportunity to work with government and the Australian research and healthcare community towards such outcomes is both exciting and humbling," he said.

See www.healthymagination.com to learn more about the initiative.

MHRA on reboxetine

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has published a review of reboxetine, which found that the drug is statistically significantly more effective than placebo in the treatment of patients with severe clinical depression.

The review was prompted by a 2010 German study which concluded reboxetine was associated with a higher rate of safety risks than placebo; and that there was no difference in effectiveness between the drug and the placebo.

According to the latest review, the German analysis was limited in that it only considered seven out of a possible 11 studies on the drug.

This latest review also did not identify any new safety concerns.

Cosmetics regulation

THE Health Dept has confirmed the Senate passage of new laws to regulate ingredients in cosmetics.

The new laws will see the regulation of ingredients in cosmetics fall under the National Industrial Chemicals Scheme (NICNAS).

"For industry this new law will mean that the ingredients in their products will automatically be included in the Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS) without requiring further assessment by NICNAS," said the Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing, Catherine King.

"This both addresses a public health gap and will reduce the regulatory burden on industry," King added.

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FDA food response

THE US Food and Drug Administration has established a new 'foodborne illness outbreak response network' - a team of epidemiologists, veterinarians, microbiologists, environmental health specialists, emergency coordinators and risk specialists.

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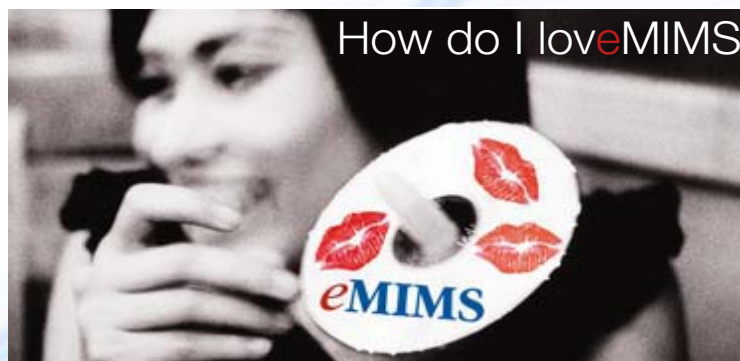


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Event details:

St Leonards, Saturday and Sunday, 22-23 October, 9am-5pm

20 Group 2 CPD credits

Register at:

www.psa.org.au or call 02 9431 1100

Kidney disease rise

A NEW report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare predicts a significant rise in new cases of end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) treated with dialysis or kidney transplantation over the next decade.

The main contributing factors to the increase are Australia's ageing population along with increasing rates of diabetes.

The Pharmacist Coalition for Health Reform has responded to the figures by calling for a greater role for pharmacists in the management of chronic disease.

PCHR spokesperson, PSA ceo Lisel Wett, said pharmacists were "currently being under utilised and can play a crucial role working alongside other health care professionals to help patients managing chronic illnesses such as diabetes and kidney disease".

WIN A BABY PACK



Pharmacy Daily has teamed up with **Aromababy** again and is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a baby pack, valued at \$26.95.

As used in select hospitals for fifteen years, Aromababy is a professional, world-leading brand not sold to supermarkets assuring you of a pharmacy-focused approach to expanding your baby care category.

To win this great baby pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the question below to:

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Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winner: **Jolyon Hawley** of **Aspen Pharmacare**.

Australians are paying more

AUSTRALIANS pay more for their medicines than citizens in most other developed nations, according to a new study published in the *Australian Health Review*.

Conducted by researchers at the University of Western Australia's School of Population Health, the study looked at changes in patients' out-of-pocket spending on prescription medicines over time, and how spending in Australia compares with other OECD countries.

It found that Australia ranks 4th out of the 14 OECD countries in terms of out-of-pocket expenditure for patients with universal pharmaceutical subsidies.

In fact researchers calculated that Aussie patients pay 28% of national pharmaceutical expenditure, ahead of South Korea (27%), Slovak Republic (26%), Sweden (22%), France, Luxembourg, Japan and Switzerland (17%), Germany (15%), Czech Republic (11%) and Spain (6%).

Australians were however pipped at the spending post by patients in Finland (36%), Denmark (33%) and Poland (34%).

Spending on PBS medicines was also found to have jumped by \$45 from \$16 per person in 1971 to \$62 per person in 2007.

And this is a trend that is not limited to just publicly subsidised drugs, with the researchers also finding that expenditure on all prescription medicines had risen to \$134 per person in 2007 (after adjusting for inflation).

The rise in spending, they said, is due to aging populations, increased availability of new medicines and the rise in chronic disease.

"These findings show that the prescription medicine expenditure of Australian patients has increased substantially over recent years and that compared to other OECD countries, Australian out-of-pocket costs are now in the mid to upper range," said study leader Dr Anna Kemp.

"Any further increases risk substantially affecting access to and use of prescribed medicines, with potential risks to patient health and wellbeing.

"Policy makers should consider the ongoing affordability of medicine to patients, as well as to the wider community, when reviewing pharmaceutical reimbursement policy," she added.

Menopause education

YOUNGER women need more information about menopause, according to a recent survey.

The US OWL study looked at responses from 1,048 women and found that nearly 70% of those aged between 30-44 didn't know enough about menopause, with nearly one quarter saying they have more information about erectile dysfunction than menopause.

Interestingly 60% of women said they were comfortable discussing menopause with healthcare providers, whilst only 13% would speak to family and friends about it.



DISPENSARY CORNER

FINGERNAILS scratch their way to history.

A professional Vegas singer, Chris Walton, has taken out the title of the World's Longest Nails.

She took the crown for her 3.09 metre long left hand nails and her 2.92 metre long right hand nails.

And if you think her nails hold her back from life, think again - Chris claims she does all the household cleaning and her own makeup.

FARM fresh from the lab.

Scientists are getting ever closer to producing in-vitro meat, with researchers claiming the world's first artificial sausage is just six months away.

According to Professor Mark Post of Maastricht University in the Netherlands (the mastermind behind the sausage) the meat currently growing in his lab is made from pig cells and horse fetal serum.

At present, the so called "pain free meat" is whitish in colour, due to the lack of blood, and it is low in myoglobin- the iron and oxygen-binding protein found in the muscles of most mammals.

"We are looking at ways to build up the myoglobin content to give it colour," said Post.

It is hoped that if successful the slaughter-free snags could help feed the 9.3 billion starving people worldwide, and cut down on the environmental impact of farming.

"We are growing cities of 30 to 40 million - Jakarta, Shanghai - gigantic cities, with almost no internal food production capacity," said food security expert Julian Cribb.

"Those cities are horribly vulnerable to shortages ... and that's where these new foods will come in," he added.

As an added incentive for the scientists, the PETA has said it will pay \$1m to the first company or individual to create "commercially viable synthetic meat".



PHARMACY FOR SALE

TWC Charlestown Pty Limited (Receivers & Managers Appointed) T/A Terry White Chemists Charlestown is being offered to the market for sale.

For a copy of the information memorandum please contact Sean Roffey (PBS Pharmacy Brokers) on email pbs@healthbusinesssales.com.au or call 0408 882 111.