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Raehl joins JPPR board

PROFESSOR Cynthia L Raehl has joined The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia's *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research* editorial advisory board.

Amongst her numerous achievements Raehl is recognised for her research which showed that clinical pharmacy services in hospitals reduced mortality rates, total cost of care, length of stay, drugs costs and medication errors.

Community awareness key

MORE work needs to be done to reduce consumer demand for antibiotics, according to NPS.

The comments come as part of NPS' new campaign to reduce antibiotic resistance (*PD* 01 Feb), and are in response to a new study titled *BEACH* (Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health) which found that that overall GPs in Australia have decreased their level of prescribing of antibiotics for acute URTI and to a lesser degree, for 'other RTIs'.

"Prescribing is only one side of the antibiotic story: the other is reducing consumer demand for antibiotics," said NPS CEO Dr Lynn Weekes.

"There is still a lot more work to be done and messages that need to be reinforced," she added.

According to NPS, whilst antibiotics resistance is a global problem, Australia has a lot of work ahead of it in order to stop its own rise in resistance.

"Even if prescribing of antibiotics in Australia was reduced by 25%, Australia would still sit above the OECD average," Weekes said.

"From NPS research, we know that patients often visit their GP expecting or asking for an antibiotic prescription so it's important we raise the dangers of antibiotic misuse with them to reduce the incidence of this occurring.

"In order to begin to reduce antibiotic resistance we need to first capture the community's imagination, and RTIs [respiratory tract infections] are a good place to begin – because everyone catches

colds and can relate to the topic," she added.

As such, the NPS has announced that the first year of its five-year antibiotic resistance campaign will focus on respiratory tract infections.

"But it's important to note that RTIs are only a small piece of the antibiotic resistance puzzle," Weekes said.

"Subsequent years of the campaign will focus on other infections including urinary tract infections and skin infections," she added.

For more information on the campaign see www.nps.org.au.

Long-acting opiod risks

LONG-acting opioids may increase the risk of hypogonadism (low testosterone) in men when compared to those taking short-acting opioids, according to a new study.

Presented at the American Academy of Pain Medicine's 28th Annual Meeting, the small retrospective study involved 81 men aged 18-80 who were referred by primary care to the tertiary pain clinic.

The men were on a stable dose of daily opioids for at least 90 days, and none had a previous diagnosis of hypogonadism.

The study found that 57% of men were hypogonadal overall, but that 74% of those on long-acting opioids were hypogonadal, compared to 34% of those on short term medications.

SA ramps up quitting

SMOKING rates have dropped significantly across South Australia, based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics population figures.

According to the figures, the number of smokers over 15 years of age in SA was 17.6% in 2011, down from 20.5% in 2010.

WIN BEYOND COCONUT WATER



PD has teamed up with **Beyond Coconut Water** this week and is giving five lucky readers the chance to win a case of Beyond Hibiscus Infused Coconut Water.

If you love Beyond Coconut Water then you will love their newest product, Beyond Hibiscus Infused Coconut Water - a world first. Coconut Water has a multitude of benefits with the most significant being its 'natural isotonic' qualities that replenish lost electrolytes and hydrate super efficiently. For your chance to win, simply be the first person to send through the correct answer to the question below to: comp@pharmacydaily.com.au.

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to *Pharmacy Daily's* weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Joanne Lyons**



from **Bookmarx Bookkeeping**.

With the present state of the economy it is now more important than ever to be keeping a close eye on the financial figures of your business.

The good thing about a retail outlet is you can depend on some regularity of income, even if it is not as high as it once was.

By having the regularity of the income, you can then plan to manage the outgoings more carefully.

What are your set monthly expenses? What can be reduced? What do you need to set aside for bills at the end of the month? What is your monthly buying budget for stock?

Have these amounts listed each month so you are in control and are not in for any nasty surprises.

In my observation the business owner who places importance on monitoring the outgoings of their business are doing a better job of managing their business.

By being aware of what is coming in and going out, you can steer the business and be in more control.

By allowing expenses to happen that are more than your business can cope with, can ultimately prove too difficult to deal with putting you in a position of always catching up.

There are many types of reports that can be done weekly and monthly to assist with the management of your business, some the regular ones like a profit and loss and some that can be tailored to suit your individual business.

Drug management issues

AUSTRALIA needs medication management systems that are evaluated and improved with greater emphasis on error reduction, storage reconciliation and pharmacy involvement, according to a new report.

Penned by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards, the report was based on the accreditation performance of 509 healthcare organisations, through the EQulP 4 Program, in 2009 and 2010, and covers a variety of public and private hospitals as well as stand-alone day facilities, with and without on-site pharmacy services.

According to the report's findings, of the 509 healthcare organisations assessed only seven were classified in the Outstanding Achievement category for Medication Safety.

Healthcare organisations that performed well, according to the report, had "medication management programs that sought and found methods to reduce medication errors, increased pharmacy involvement, maintained consistent, frequent medication reconciliations and offered well-designed consumer/patient

Hobart Headspace

THE thirty-third Australian headspace office has opened in Tasmania.

Headspace model provides for holistic care in four key areas – mental health, physical health, alcohol and drug use and social and vocational support.

"Mental health is the single biggest health issue facing young Australians," said the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mark Butler.

education".

Interestingly the majority of healthcare organisations (83%) were assessed in the Moderate Achievement category.

Speaking in the wake of the results, The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia advocated the use of a medication safety as a mandatory indicator, saying it will raise awareness "about the need for a systematic, organisation-wide and evidence-based approach to medication safety".

Formulary handbook

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia has launched the Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and handbook (APF22).

Designed for pharmacists and pharmacy assistants, the new 22nd edition handbook provides current, evidence-based information on areas of pharmacy theory and practice including: identifying drug-related issues, making clinical judgments, counselling consumers on the safe and effective use of their medicines and preparing extemporaneous products or modified oral formulations.

The new handbook also contains new sections covering palliative care, opioid conversion and dose calculations in children.

"The APF has evolved in response to the constantly developing and expanding role of the pharmacist," said Emeritus Professor Sansom.

"It has kept pace with the growing needs of pharmacists as they endeavour to fulfil their professional obligations in an ever-changing and evolving practice environment," he added.

See www.psa.org.au/apf.

DISPENSARY CORNER



LUCKY escape.

A Brazilian helicopter crew had a lucky escape after the aircraft that they travelling on shook itself to pieces.

According to reports, the helicopter had just landed on an airstrip in Para, when it began to shake violently, warning crew exit the aircraft immediately.

The helicopter then split in half from the tail up to the doors, ending when the cockpit separated from the rest the tail.

Fortunately, the crew only suffered minor injuries.

KEEPING the ambulance service in business.

A US daredevil, Jeb Corliss, has faced down with death- and is determined to do so again, right after he gets out of hospital that is.

Corliss, a base jumper, was filming a spot for his upcoming documentary about his antics base jumping off of landmarks, when he ran into trouble.

Wearing a camera mounted to his head, Corliss jumped off a cliff on South Africa's Table Mountain using his special "wing suit" to fly at high speeds back to the ground.

Trouble started when Jeb smashed into the cliff at nearly 200kms an hour, instantly breaking both legs.

Calm under pressure, Corliss was able to deploy his parachute and guide himself safely to the ground where he was airlifted to hospital.

Asked if he would finally hang up his wing suit Corliss said "the only reason I'm getting better is so that I can jump again".



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