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ACP speed networking



THIS month pharmacy students and interns had the opportunity to engage with pharmacy owners, employed pharmacists and members of the pharmacy industry at the Australian College of Pharmacy's 'Speed Networking' event in Adelaide.

The event ran in a similar way to speed dating, whereby the attending pharmacy students/interns were allotted time-limited intervals with the pharmacy professionals to discuss current pharmacy issues, ask questions and develop networking skills.

After the 15 minute interval was over the participants then rotated.

According to the ACP, the event was so well received that 80% of participants stayed a further two hours to unofficially network with industry guests and leaders.

The Adelaide event followed the inaugural 'Speed Networking' event held at the ACP Annual Conference in Brisbane last month.

"The College believes this new type of event structure will attract and develop pharmacy students, interns and pharmacists in a challenging environment with the skills required to be successful in the industry," the ACP said.

Pictured above at the event is (from left) pharmacists Lloyd Smith, Michael Bakker, Daniel Rifkin and NAPSA President Chris Braithwaite.

Fighting to keep overtime

PHARMACISTS deserve to be paid compensation for after hours work, according to the latest APESMA submission to the Senate Review on penalty rates.

According to APESMA demolishing penalty rates will do nothing to attract "bright Australians" to the profession and maintain pharmacists' reputation for professionalism.

"APESMA is fighting to retain the

lawful penalty rates that professional pharmacists deserve for their hard work," said CEO of APESMA Chris Walton.

"Many pharmacists depend on penalty rates to meet their weekly expenses and plans for the future," he added.

Walton went further to defend penalty rates, arguing that they are not the reason that some Australian pharmacies are facing financial difficulties.

Instead, Walton agreed with Kos Scavos, President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's suggestion that the most likely culprit for pharmacy bankruptcies is increasing rents.

"Landlords and rents are reason 1, 2, 3 and 4, as to why pharmacies have got into trouble," Scavos said.

Walton continued with his case, saying that at present Australia has a "proven culture of underpaying professional pharmacists".

"We cannot let Australian pharmacists receive even less for their hard work," he said.

Big BBQ for prostates

TODAY Australian politicians are hoping to lead by example with a Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) Big Aussie Barbie event outside Parliament House, to raise funds and awareness for prostate cancer.

Launched this month, the PCFA Big Aussie BBQ initiative is aimed at raising \$800,000 to help advance research, raise awareness and provide essential peer support to men living with prostate cancer and their families.

During today's political BBQ, the PCFA will take the opportunity to brief Parliamentarians on the latest prostate cancer awareness figures detailed in the new report - *Research, Awareness, Support: Ten Years of Progress in Prostate Cancer*.

According to the report, 9 in 10 Australian men say they have been tested for prostate cancer by the time they are in their mid 70s and there has been a 12% increase in the percentage of men who feel informed about the disease.

See www.bigaussiebarbie.com.au.

Scholarship winners

FIVE pharmacy students across the country have been awarded scholarships under the Pharmacy Guild's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Scholarship Scheme.

Winners include: Angela Den, Nicola Rummery and Brianna Wright from the University of New England; Zoey Jones, University of Queensland; and Sarah Logan, University of South Australia.

The winners will receive financial support for up to four years of study to help cover the cost associated with studying away from home, and will also participate in a mentoring program to establish ties within the pharmacy community.

Sigma helps sell shares

SIGMA has established a share sale facility for holders of unmarketable parcels in the company.

An unmarketable parcel of shares with a market value of less than \$500 is any shareholding of 719 shares or less.

Sigma has around 1800 shareholders with an unmarketable parcel of shares.

To assist these shareholders Sigma is offering a facility to sell shares without having to use a broker or pay brokerage costs, with the company vowing to pay all costs of sale for shareholders who make use of the service.

The move is designed to reduce costs associated with maintaining small shareholders (such as printing and mailing costs of annual reports etc).

CHMP elects Chair

THE European Medicines Agency has announced that the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) has elected Tomas Salmonson as its new Chair for a three-year mandate.

Salmonson, a pharmacist, is currently the senior scientific advisor at the Swedish Medical Products and since 2007, Dr Salmonson has been the elected Vice-Chair of the Committee.



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IN conjunction with the release of its 2013 Europe brochure Globus has released a series of special deals including return airfares to Europe from \$1475 per person as well as savings of 10% on tours booked 12 or more months ahead of departure.

2013 Globus tours include an 11-day Warsaw, the Baltics and St Petersburg adventure taking in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia before concluding in St Petersburg and priced from \$2,319 per person twin share.

See www.globusfamily.com.au.

HURTIGRUTEN has extended its No Single Supplement offer until 27 Apr 2013.

The deal is applicable on selected departures between Oct 2012 to Apr 2013 of its 12-day Classic Round Voyage, 11-day Norwegian Discovery Voyage, 7-day Classic Voyage North and 6-day Classic Voyage South.

See - discovertheworld.com.au.

Cancer survival on the up

MORE Australians are surviving cancer now than they did thirty years ago, according to a new report by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The report, titled *Cancer survival and prevalence in Australia: period estimates from 1982 to 2010*, found that 5-year survival from all cancers increased from 47% to 66% in the period 1982-1987 to 2006-2010.

Despite this overall cancer survival rate, researchers found that variations still exist between types of cancer.

The cancers with the largest survival gains between 1982-1987 and 2006-2010 were kidney cancer, non-Hodgkin lymphoma and prostate cancer, however researchers noted that four cancers did not show any significant changes in survival over this time: cancer of the lip, cancer of the larynx, cancer of the brain and chronic lymphocytic leukaemia.

"Between 2006 and 2010, the cancers with the highest survival were testicular cancer, lip cancer, prostate cancer, thyroid cancer, and melanoma of the skin," said AIHW

spokesperson Anne Bech.

"All of these cancers had a 5-year survival of 90% or more.

"On the other hand, pancreatic cancer and mesothelioma had the lowest survival- 5-year survival for these cancers was less than 10%".

The report also found that women generally had slightly higher survival rates than men, with 5-year survival for all cancers equalling 67% for females compared with 65% for males; whilst younger Australians had a higher survival rate than older people.

Survival was slightly lower for people living in remote and regional areas compared to those in major cities, and it was also lower for those with greater socioeconomic disadvantage.

According to the data, for those with cancer who had survived 5 years past their diagnosis, survival prospects were very positive-more than 90% for the next five years (for all cancers combined).

DISPENSARY CORNER

WANT to know the genetic attributes of your unborn child? There's an app for that.

The HG Apps Store has developed an 'Our Baby' App for iPhone/iPod Touch/Android which it claims will help users find out the most likely genetic attributes that a baby will have, even before it is conceived.

Developed by a genetic scientist, the app takes into account the genetic information about the parents and then predicts what the likelihood of a range of genetic traits that a baby from that partnership is likely to have.

The app then creates a cartoon image of the baby illustrating its key traits, which can then be shared via twitter and facebook or emailed to friends and family.

WIN A SUKIN SKINCARE PACK!

soft and clean without the tightness often associated with sensitive skin. The pack is valued at RRP \$30 and includes two soap-free cleansers which gently remove excess dirt, whilst calming actives soothe the skin. The team is completed with the non-greasy facial moisturiser, offering long-lasting hydration and a soft, nurtured and smooth complexion.

For your chance to win, be the first person to send in the correct answer to the daily question below.

Complete this sentence: Sukin Sensitive products result in calm, _____ and _____ skin.

Email your answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Hint! Visit www.sukinorganics.com

Congratulations to yesterday's winners Kiri Fitzpatrick, from the University of Tasmania and Robyn Hedges, from Pymble Pharmacy.



US breast approval

THE US FDA has approved the sono-v Automated Breast Ultrasound System, the first ultrasound device for use in combination with a standard mammography in women with dense breast tissue who have a negative mammogram and no symptoms of breast cancer.

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