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Pharmacy scholarships

TWO scholarships worth \$2500 each are available for any student studying at any pharmacy school or university in Australia.

Although the scholarships are provided through the generosity of Pharmacy Cricket, applicants do not need to have any interest or involvement in cricket to apply.

Applicants are asked to provide details of a sound academic record, their capacity to provide leadership and ability to work as part of a team, participation in sport, a commitment to work in community pharmacy and a brief comment on the future of pharmacy and their potential to contribute.

An application form can be downloaded from the 'Events' page at www.pharmacycricket.com.au or email hodgsong@bigpond.com.

Applications close 15 Oct 2012.

APESMA "insults community pharmacy"

THE Pharmacy Guild says that a response from union group APESMA to a review of Fair Work Australia is yet another insult to the community pharmacy sector.

APESMA claimed that the use of template employment agreements in pharmacies had been "singled out for criticism" in the report, asserting that there is a "culture of illegal workplace practices in pharmacies across Australia".

Pharmacy Guild spokesman Greg Turnbull said the Guild completely rejects the "unsustainable slur."

"APESMA's interpretation of the Review of the Fair Work Act...is typically riddled with errors and dishonest spin," Turnbull said.

The expert panel did recommend reinforcing an existing prohibition which prevents prospective employers from making a job offer conditional on entering into an Individual Flexibility Agreement - however this was already illegal under the Act "and has never been encouraged by the Guild".

An APESMA call for a full national audit of jobs in community pharmacy was described as "pretty lame" by the Guild, which said an audit has already been scheduled by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

Body building drug banned

THE Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling has released details of its reasons for adding dimethylamylamine (DMAA) as a Schedule 9 Entry, effectively banning the product in Australia.

DMAA is a body building supplement which is illegal in Canada, was recently banned in New Zealand and is the subject of a US FDA warning.

The medicines scheduling committee initiated a proposal for the rescheduling of the compound in response to New Zealand authorities issuing a temporary Class Drug Notice on 08 Mar.

Currently DMAA is not specifically scheduled in Australia.

Submissions to the committee were mixed, with one supporting the product's prohibition because it's addictive, but others claimed it's safe, effective and has no negative health effects.

In their deliberations members considered a range of factors including international scheduling decisions in the US, Canada, United Kingdom and NZ, and noted that DMAA has "no current accepted therapeutic use".

They also noted that DMAA has a stimulant effect and is being actively promoted as a party drug as well as a sports supplement.

"There are a number of significant adverse events including cardiac, nervous and psychiatric disorders that have been reported with use of DMAA including cerebral haemorrhage and heart attacks, the committee said.

An interim decision has been made to include 1,3-dimethylamylamine in Schedule 9 of the SUSMP, as well as including a cross reference to the index from DMAA to 1,3-dimethylamylamine and 4-methylhexane-2-amine.

New NSW Stage One

GUILD Clinical has announced a series of new Stage One Accreditation workshops, with three sessions accredited by the Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy.

The course includes three days covering each of HMR, RMMR and AACP, and is ideal for pharmacists who have been considering becoming accredited - while those who are accredited already but have not done many home medicine reviews can attend just the HMR day.

Each session comes with 11 Group 2 CPD credits, with further points available for pre-reading.

More info 02 9467 7132.

Mylan HIV/AIDS deal

ALPHAPHARM parent Mylan Inc has announced a new agreement with Gilead Sciences under which it has licensed the rights to produce and market generic versions of Gilead HIV/AIDS therapies.

The deal covers single and fixed dose combinations of products containing emtricitabine, including Emtriva and Truvada.

Mylan CEO Heather Bresch said that "access to affordable medicines continues to be an acute need in tackling HIV/AIDS...Mylan is focused on expanding access to high quality treatments to those in need around the world".

Existing licensing agreements between Mylan and Gilead cover other products in late stage clinical development including integrase inhibitor Elvitegravir and blood boosting agent Cobicistat, as well as finished products such as a generic version of Viread (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate or TDF).

Sessional pharmacy

A UNIVERSITY of Queensland PhD project is seeking to recruit rural pharmacists who have experience in providing sessional pharmacy services, to participate in a phone interview to help explore the benefits and challenges of sessional employment in rural areas.

Queensland Health is looking at the implementation of sessional services at non-pharmacy hospitals as a way of providing consistent care and optimising the role of the rural pharmacist.

To participate email Amy Tan on amy.tan@uqconnect.edu.au.

Events 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.

07 Aug: Guild Business MasterClass: Retail Solutions for Pharmacy, 9am-4.30pm, St Leonards, NSW
guild.clinical@nsw.guild.org.au

08 Aug: Pharmacy financial health, Matthew Harris - Crowne Plaza Surfers Paradise. Details 07 3831 3788.

11-15 Aug: Medici Capital Pharmacy Snow Business Mt Buller - www.medici.com.au.

25-26 Aug: PSA Adventure Education Weekend, Stewarts Bay Lodhe, Port Arthur - lorraine.norris@psa.org.au.

26 Aug: PSA Qld Medicines Update 2012, Dutton Park Brisbane - 07 3896 1900.

29 Aug: HMR workshop, Guild Training Vic Hawthorn kate.castle@vic.guild.org.au.

03-05 Sep: Essential Pharmacy Financial Management 3-day Workshop, Sydney, fmrcbusdev.com.au/pharmacy-2

13-16 Sep: Pharmacy Business Network, National Convention Centre Canberra, pharmacybusinessnetwork.com.

19 Sep: Guild Training Stage One Accreditation Workshop Day One (HMR), St Leonards guild.clinical@nsw.guild.org.au.

02-06 Oct: Pharmacy Guild of Australia Offshore Conference 2012, Waikiki, Hawaii - pgahawaii2012@arinex.com.au.

19-21 Oct: PSA Pharmacy Australia Congress, Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre - www.psa.org.au/pac.

01-04 Nov: SHPA 38th annual conference - Medicines Management 2012, Canberra - mm2012shpa.com.

13 Nov: Australian Self Medication Industry Conference and Awards Dinner, Homebush Bay Sydney - asmi.com.au.

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CDC tobacco report

THERE has been a sharp increase in the total adult consumption of pipe tobacco used for roll-your-own cigarettes since 2008, which has offset a decline in total cigarette consumption, according to a report from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Total cigarette consumption continued an 11 year downward trend, declining 2.5% between 2010 and 2011, but "dramatic increases in non-cigarette smoked tobacco products have slowed the long decline in overall consumption," the report says.

Between 2000 and 2011 there was a 482% increase in consumption of pipe tobacco.

And over the same period there was a 233% increase in sales of large cigars - largely due to tobacco manufacturers adding weight to many small cigars so they could be reclassified as "large" and thus avoid higher taxes and regulation "while at the same time retaining a size and shape very similar to cigarettes".

Medicine top Oz exporter

THE Australian medicines industry has the potential to be a key driver of the Australian economy, with Australian Bureau of Statistics figures released yesterday showing that the pharmaceutical sector was Australia's biggest high-tech export earner last year.

Exports of pharmaceutical and medicinal products totalled more than \$4 billion in 2011-12 - up over 8% on the previous year.

Medicines Australia contrasted the sector's strong performance with that of the car industry, which exported \$2.76 billion last year; while wine exports totalled \$2.03b.

CEO Brendan Shaw said the growth of pharmaceutical exports "highlights the Australian medicines industry's sustained contribution to the economy.

"By any measure, this is an outstanding export performance," Shaw said - particularly in light of the performance of the broader manufacturing sector, the high Australian dollar "and the fact that

the medicines industry receives no co-investment from government.

"This kind of result highlights just how resilient the medicines industry is given the prevailing market conditions, and underscores the industry's potential to be a key player in the post-mining boom economy".

Shaw urged officials to consider the potential of the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector.

"As a nation we already earn more in exports from medicines than cars or wine, but with revamped policy settings and incentives from Government we could build the Australian medicines industry into one of our key innovative export industries," he said.

Medicines Australia estimates that with Asian countries already accounting for around 50% of pharmaceutical exports, with the right policy incentives Australian medicines exports to the region could increase fivefold by 2020.

"Given our proximity and the expanding Asian market, the opportunities are tremendous".



DISPENSARY CORNER

A THOUGHTFUL father in China has turned the roof of his house into a sheep farm, in order to supply his baby girl with a plentiful supply of milk.

Wei Xingyu lives in Changsha, Hunan province, and said he decided to farm the livestock on the roof of his four-storey apartment building because of recent concerns about poisoned baby formula.

In 2008 there was a huge melamine contamination scare which killed six babies in China and made many more ill.

"We didn't know whether we could trust any milk formula after so many scandals, so we decided that only fresh milk, produced right here in the home, would do," he said.

He bought two ewes and later added a ram to the rooftop ranch.

"I cut grass for them to graze on and if it gets too hot on the roof I walk them to my parents' home to graze because it is cooler and has more shade," he said.

IT'S not just human males who are doomed to an early death - females outlive males in many species, according to a report in *Current Biology* this week.

And contrary to popular wisdom it's more than hard work, stress and stupid accidents that lead men to an early grave.

Monash University researchers worked with scientists from Lancaster University in the UK to analyse the mitochondria of 13 different groups of fruit flies - and found "numerous mutations" which affect how long males live and their speed of ageing.

"Intriguingly, these same mutations have no effects on patterns of ageing in females," said Dr Damian Dowling from Monash.

It's postulated that because the mitochondria are passed down by females, the age-related mutations are "slipping through the gaze of natural selection".

WIN A KISS AND TELL PACK

This week *Pharmacy Daily* is giving 10 lucky readers the chance to win a Kiss and Tell pack, courtesy of **Designer Brands**.

Kissable lips is the promise from Designer Brand's Kiss and Tell Collection, it features:

- Eternal Colour Lipstick: Rich, full coverage lipstick, the Vitamin E based formula locks in colour that lasts, and glides onto lips for a perfect pout.



- Chubby Lipstick Crayon: The creamy coverage of lipstick in the form of a wind up pencil. Loaded with Cocoa Butter and Vitamin E, it is just what lips need to feel soft and smooth.

- Lip & Cheek Rouge gives flirty flush power to cheeks and helps create beautiful pout-worthy lips and comes with a FREE Lip Brush.

Purchase any 3 products from the Kiss & Tell Collection and receive a FREE Cosmetic Bag. Visit www.dbcosmetics.com.au.

For your chance to win this great prize pack, simply be the first person to send in the correct answer to the daily question below.

What is a Chubby Lipstick?

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

Congratulations to yesterday's lucky winners, **Zoe Blandford** from **The Pharmacy Guild of Australia** and **Mel Nash** of **Health World Limited**.

TGA labelling review

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has released details of several submissions to its current medicine labelling and packaging review, with the consultation closing on 24 Aug.

The review, which launched in May, will cover recommendations on both OTC and prescription medicines, including improvements to the visual presentation of labels and packages to enable the safe use of medicines.

One of the submissions, from UNSW Professor of Clinical Pharmacology, Ric Day, urges that generic names on prescription medicines be much bigger than brand names, and also be "more prominent by way of font, bolding and colour".

Day also says that to increase the uptake of generic medicines the PBS should "purchase generic drugs only when the patent on the originator drug expires."