



**Today's issue of PD**  
Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus a full page from Homyped.

## Monash ranks #1 again

THE 2019 QS World University Rankings by Subject have ranked Monash University in the top three in the world in Pharmacy and Pharmacology.

This is the third year in a row that Monash has achieved a perfect score for its pharmacy subject area.

The QS Rankings assess the world's best universities across five broad fields and 48 subject areas.

## CPD half way point

NPS MedicineWise has urged pharmacists to review their individual Continuing Professional Development plans, with Apr marking the half-way point of the CPD year.

NPS is also running a survey on pharmacists' use of health podcasts - see [surveys.nps.org.au](http://surveys.nps.org.au).

## Autonomous prescribing push

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has strongly backed the "autonomous prescribing" model for pharmacists, proposed as one of three options by the Pharmacy Board of Australia in its current consultation on pharmacist prescribing (PD 06 Mar).

The Guild's formal response to the consultation cites UK research showing that pharmacist prescribing is "as safe and effective as doctor prescribing," saying the other two options in the paper "will not address any of the public needs for improving medicines access and management".

Other options canvassed include collaborative prescribing under structured or supervised arrangements, which the Guild said would be less effective.

"If pharmacist prescribing is to contribute to the delivery of sustainable, responsive and affordable access to medicines, then prescribing has to be autonomous," the Guild said.

"Prescribing under a structured prescribing arrangement or under supervision relies on another health care professional and will therefore not be flexible enough to meet the needs of all Australians who for example may live in a rural or remote area where there is no or very limited access to a medical doctor or nurse practitioner."

The Guild noted that current pharmacy undergraduate programs address some of the competencies to prescribe, while identified gaps could be addressed and included in the curriculums of accredited degree programs.

"We are confident that accredited training programs can be developed for currently registered pharmacists to update their skills so that they can be endorsed as autonomous pharmacist prescribers," the Guild submission added, suggesting a framework based on the UK model where prescribing pharmacists would require at least two years' post registration experience.

## Chemist Warehouse takes Bubs stake

CHEMIST Warehouse has signed a new agreement with listed infant nutrition manufacturer Bubs Australia, which will see 28 Bubs products on shelves from Jun 2019.

Under the pact Chemist Warehouse will invest all of its fees for marketing and promoting the range to subscribe for shares in Bubs, which will ultimately see it take about 8% of the business.

The shares will be purchased in three annual tranches, subject to the satisfaction by Chemist Warehouse of certain sales performance targets.

Chemist Warehouse Chairman and Co-Founder, Jack Gance, said "by investing in Bubs we are moving from a conventional supplier-customer relationship to what we expect to be a mutually beneficial long-term partnership to bring the Bubs range to an even wider public".

The deal is worth about \$43 million at Bubs' current share price.



**NEW**

### OLIVE LEAF EXTRACT\*

To place your order please contact your Pharmabroker representative.  
T: (02) 8878 9777  
E: [mashton@pharmabroker.com.au](mailto:mashton@pharmabroker.com.au)



 ALL NATURAL

 AUSTRALIAN GROWN

 FRESH LEAVES

 VEGAN FRIENDLY LIQUID  
VEGETARIAN CAPSULES

 wellgrovehealthAU  
[wellgrovehealth.com.au](http://wellgrovehealth.com.au)

\* Traditionally used in Western Herbal Medicine to support immune system health and relieve symptoms of common colds and flu. Always read the label, use only as directed. If symptoms persist see your doctor.

Stay up to date  
on the go

Download the app



## Discharge fears flagged

**PHARMACISTS** are voicing their frustrations that the profession does not have a greater role in ensuring patients safe discharge from hospitals at weekends.

ACT-based pharmacist, Sarah Sinclair, raised the issue on Twitter after meeting a patient who had been prescribed new medications prior to being discharged on Sun 14 Apr but did not receive any medication counselling.

“Frustrated that the first (and only) pharmacist a post-MI patient saw today for four new long-term medicines was me, in the community pharmacy late on a Sun after discharge,” she said.

“No meds counselling at hospital, no pharmacist review represent a missed opportunity for genuine collaborative care.”

Responding to Sinclair’s tweet, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

Early Career Pharmacist board director and hospital pharmacist, Lauren Burton, said the lack of pharmacist involvement in patients’ discharge was “borderline negligent”.

“The absence of hospital pharmacy services on weekend, including skeleton services... is a growing problem,” she said.

“It’s also frustrating that a patient can leave without a pharmacist knowing or being informed.

“Embedding pharmacists at transitions of care, or mandating that a patient must see a pharmacist, especially when their ongoing treatment and health depends on medicines is critical and not involving a pharmacist is borderline negligent.”

Pharmacy academic, Rohan Elliott, warned the lack of pharmacist involvement had significant patient safety consequences, citing common prescribing errors on discharge scripts.

“If scripts are not reviewed by a pharmacist before discharge, errors may not be detected,” he warned.

## Termination options

**ALL** women should be able to access both medical and surgical options for termination of pregnancy, according to new draft guidelines for consultation from the UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).

Medical termination involves mifepristone followed by misoprostol - see the consultation guidance at [nice.org.uk](http://nice.org.uk).

## Fake pharmacist to pay \$14,000

A NSW man who falsely held himself out as a registered pharmacist has been fined \$10,000 and ordered to pay legal costs of \$4,000, after being convicted in court last Thu.

A sentencing hearing ordered the penalties for Michael Simon, who was alleged to have worked as a pharmacist between 25 and 29 Jun 2018 at a family-owned pharmacy in the Sydney suburb of Randwick.

Simon has never held registration under the National Law, and is not eligible to be registered.

The conduct was identified when an inspector with the Pharmacy Council of NSW conducted a routine inspection of the pharmacy, noting a sign near the dispensary which indicated that Michael George Simon was the Pharmacist in Charge.

The inspector could not find details for Simon on the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) public register, and ordered the pharmacy to be closed before referring the matter to AHPRA which later charged him.

AHPRA CEO Martin Fletcher said the case demonstrated AHPRA’s work to protect health consumers, saying “claiming to be registered as a pharmacist when you’re not violates the trust of patients and the community.

“It creates a significant risk to the health and safety of the public and AHPRA will take all necessary steps to protect Australia’s health consumers against such unscrupulous claims.”

## Flu vaccine update

**THE** Department of Health has posted the latest review and recommendations by the Australian Influenza Vaccine Committee (AIVC) relating to recent influenza isolates circulating in Australia and the Southern Hemisphere.

All vaccines this year are egg-based, with quadrivalent vaccines to immunise against an A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus; an A/Switzerland/8060/2017 (H3N2)-like virus; a B/Colorado/06/2017-like virus (B/Victoria/2/87 lineage); and a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata/16/88 lineage).

Trivalent vaccines will include an A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus; an A/Switzerland/8060/2017 (H3N2)-like virus; and a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (B/Yamagata/16/88 lineage).

More details at [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au).

## Win With Dermal Therapy

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Dermal Therapy



are giving away a skin care pack valued at over \$30.

NEW to the range is the **Dermal Therapy Lip Balm Tub**. The tub has the same concentrated formula containing a synergistic blend of ingredients specially designed to hydrate and soften severely dry lips, keeping them smooth and healthy looking.

Visit [www.dermaltherapy.com.au](http://www.dermaltherapy.com.au) to find out more.

To win, be the first from NSW, ACT or QLD to send the correct answer to the question to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**How many lip care products does Dermal Therapy have in their range?**

Check here tomorrow for today’s winner.

Introducing the new  
**GUILD MENTOR PLATFORM**

**MENTORS**

Share your experience

**MENTEES**

Develop your career in community pharmacy

Register today to be a mentor, mentee or both!  
[guild.org.au/mentorplatform](http://guild.org.au/mentorplatform)



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

**NRL R6 WINNER**  
Congratulations  
**DANIEL WHARTON**

from IGA Superpharm Zillmere

Daniel is the top point scorer for Round 6 of Pharmacy Daily’s NRL footy tipping competition.

**GuildDigital**

Pharmacy Daily NRL tipping competition is sponsored by GuildDigital, with the top tipper for the season winning a \$1,000 gift card.

NSW permit LTPS/19/31793 / ACT permit TP 19/02664



## Dispensary Corner

**ROUGH** roads in the northern US state of Nebraska are being hailed for saving a man's life, after the ambulance he was in hit a large pothole and got his heart beating correctly.

Paramedics were racing the 59-year-old to hospital, after being called in response to a tachycardic heart rate in excess of 200 beats per minute.

However when the vehicle hit the bump in the road, his heart returned to a normal sinus rhythm, the ambulance officers told *ABC13* news.

Doctors said the incident was rare but not unique, with irregular heartbeats more often treated with an electrical shock.

"Classically, you'll see it on television. The paddles...Clear... and a big jolt.

"Turns out, you can also do that with a pothole," one doctor said, with the man expected to make a full recovery.

**DRINKING** alcohol, while not generally advised for health reasons, can actually help you learn a foreign language.

A new study published in the *Journal of Psychopharmacology* describes an experiment in which German-speaking students were separated into two groups.

One drank water, while the others drank a set amount of alcohol based on their weight before speaking for two minutes with a Dutch interviewer.

Those who had been given alcohol scored better for their use of their foreign language, with the researchers saying they believed the alcohol reduced their nerves and improved their performance.

## Drug dealing pharmacists

**PHARMACISTS** are among the 60 US healthcare professionals facing prosecution over alleged health care fraud and opioid peddling.

US Assistant Attorney General, Brian Benczkowski warned the Department of Justice intended to exert the full force of the law on the seven pharmacists identified by the Appalachian Regional Prescription Opioid Strike Force.

The cases relate to 350,000 unusual prescriptions and 32 million opioid pills.

"You can rest assured when medical professionals behave like drug dealers, the Department of Justice is going to treat them like drug dealers," Benczkowski said.

*National Public Radio* reported that strike force identified unusual prescribing practices by 31 doctors, including cases where some were writing "inordinately large quantities, 100 prescriptions per

day" or other suspicious activities, including scripts being provided without any evidence that patients had been physically examined.

In one case a doctor "had a pharmacy operating outside his own waiting room", the broadcaster reported.

### Fake ED drug alerts

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has issued safety advisories about three fake erectile dysfunction (ED) drugs that consumers have purchased online.

BMSW 4600MG Black Ant Capsules and Japan Tengsu tablets contain sildenafil while Horny Little Devil capsules contain both sildenafil and tadalafil.

These products pose a serious risk to any consumer's health and are illegal to sell in Australia.

Visit [tga.gov.au](http://tga.gov.au) for more info.

### Measles cases up x4

**THE** number of measles cases reported worldwide in the first three months of 2019 has quadrupled compared with the same time last year, according to the World Health Organization.

## Guild Update

### Patients to benefit in Qld

**PATIENTS** in Queensland will benefit from last week's ground-breaking decision of the State Government to accept in principle a range of recommendations to make better use of community pharmacists' scope of practice.

The Queensland Government has accepted all of the recommendations of last year's Parliamentary Committee inquiry into pharmacists' scope of practice and the establishment of a Pharmacy Council.

The Government response directs Queensland Health to develop and evaluate a State-wide trial to provide low-risk emergency and repeat prescriptions for the contraceptive pill and for antibiotics for urinary tract infections.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia particularly wants to thank the many Queensland Guild Members who made submissions to the Committee, providing evidence and argument that was clearly compelling.

This a major step forward for patient care and sensible use of the community pharmacy network.

## CMA hosts world congress



**COMPLEMENTARY** Medicines Australia (CMA) this month hosted the World Congress for the International Alliance of Dietary Food Supplement Associations (IADSA) in Sydney.

The event included a presentation

by TGA chief John Skerritt to delegates from around the world.

**Pictured** are Chair Emeritus Ric Hobby, CMA Chair Michelle Stout and Adjunct Professor John Skerritt with IADSA Executive Member and CMA CEO Carl Gibson.



# HOMYPED

**Smarter Shoes for Better Health**

Homyped has been designing and engineering footwear solutions in Australia, since 1969.

Our fresh new brand targets better health and freedom from pain associated with common foot conditions.



### **Pressure Relief**

Applies to every shoe in the range. Relief from fatigue & Symptoms of plantar fasciitic, heel spurs and bunions



### **Alignment & Stability**

Maximising balance and stability, improved posture, comfortable movement and foot realignment to help minimise risk of falls



### **Support & Protection**

Providing care, support, protection and relief from ongoing health condition such as diabetes peripheral neuropathy and osteoarthritis

**Join our network of leading pharmacies today!**  
**\$500 new stockist packs available.**

### **Contact:**

National Sales | Andrew Carter

T: 0438 008 664

E: [andrewcarter@homyped.com.au](mailto:andrewcarter@homyped.com.au)