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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, and a full page from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

One week to go

SOCIETY of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia have one week to provide feedback on the second draft of the *Standard of Practice in Infectious Diseases for Pharmacy Services*.

Submissions must be made by close of business on 18 Aug. [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

COVID vax update webinar

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia will host a webinar with University of Oxford Professor of Vaccinology, Sarah Gilbert, on 25 Aug.

Gilbert is the lead vaccinologist on the university's team developing a COVID-19 vaccine.

See [page four](#) for more.

News numbers 'wrong'

NEWS Corp is being accused of "unethical, unfair and inaccurate" reporting in its latest community pharmacy exposé (*PD* 10 Aug).

Responding to criticism of pharmacies' pricing of prescription medicines that fall below the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) co-payment, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia accused the media giant of conducting a "muddle-headed phoney investigation".

A Guild spokesperson reported that prices listed in *The Daily Telegraph's* article had said Blooms the Chemist in Orange, NSW, charged patients \$28.99 for two forms of amoxicillin 500mg, however, the owner, Melanie Moses, said the pharmacy's listed prices for the products were \$9.99 and \$11.95.

Another discrepancy in the *News Corp* reporting compared the Orange-based pharmacy's pricing for Cefalexin 250mg 40 capsules, with other pharmacies' prices for 20 capsules.

"What a schemozzle," the Guild spokesperson said.

"If they are so wrong on three prices from one pharmacy, how reliable is the rest of the



information in this muddle-headed phoney investigation?"

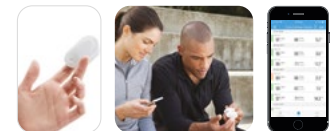
South Australian discounter, Star Pharmacy Group, also reported that *News Corp* had erroneously listed the price of atorvastatin at its Star Discount Chemist in Welland as being \$13.99, \$4 more than the pharmacy's list price.

The Guild also noted that a reporter who called Blooms the Chemist Orange to ask about medicines prices had not inquired about the store's amoxicillin pricing, and had failed to identify himself as a journalist or being from *News Corp*.

"The pharmacy is seeking a correction and an apology," the Guild reported.

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COVID-19 raises patent questions

DURING a pandemic do the usual rules apply, and should the creator of a COVID-19 treatment or vaccine hold exclusivity, International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Ethics Group Chair, Associate Professor Betty Chaar, asks.

Speaking during an FIP webinar last week, the University of Sydney lecturer said the COVID crisis raised ethical questions about how any treatment or vaccine would be distributed.

"When it comes to medicines shortages, we're all familiar with shortages," she said.

"Simply not having enough of this treatment is going to be the fact that we will face, when we find this treatment or vaccine.

"In a pandemic is the whole world eligible to share the findings, or should we restrict access to the country that the treatment was found in?

"What about patents, do the rules still apply - 20 years of exclusivity to those who have

found a new drug?

"Does it actually apply in a pandemic?

"I hope those rules change."

Chaar said health professional leaders needed to "have the moral courage to stand up and voice dissent if necessary", to ensure equity of access to a COVID treatment or vaccine.

She added that in the face of shortages pharmacists would have to prioritise, but stressed decisions should not be made on a "gut feeling".

"It needs to be reflected on very carefully," she said.

"It's important to reflect on our values, which set us apart from a trader or a politician.

"We need to find clinical criteria upon which to rely on to prioritise.

"In the meantime, if we do have to prioritise... you need to specify, communicate clearly and adhere to your own criteria.

"You can't apply some criteria to some stranger, but then if a family



member rocks up or is sick, change that a little bit and break the rules.

"As professionals we will need to adhere to our own criteria, because random choices in such times could cost us our reputation and our professions."

During the webinar, Chaar said the COVID crisis had provided opportunities for pharmacies to "step up" to support their communities.

She also voiced support for pharmacist prescribing saying it was the profession's "time to shine."

Hydroxy warning

HEALTH professionals are urging Australians not to seek access or use hydroxychloroquine to "cure" or "prevent" COVID-19.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners has hit out at Sky News host, Rowan Dean, and Liberal MP, Craig Kelly, for promoting the use of the anti-malarial treatment, in recent days.

Throughout the COVID pandemic, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has taken a firm stance against the use of the drug.

Speaking at a PSA webinar in Apr (PD 09 Apr) University of Wollongong Graduate School of Medicine, infectious diseases specialist and rheumatologist, Associate Professor Alistair Reid, advised pharmacists to exercise their "right to refuse prescriptions" for the drug on the grounds of the lack of evidence to support its use.

EBOS launches RAP with AFL star

SYMBION owner, EBOS Group Limited, has unveiled its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), as part of the company's commitment to strengthening relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

EBOS teamed up with former Indigenous AFL player turned artist, Gavin Wanganeen, to develop the RAP, which has been formally endorsed by



Reconciliation Australia.

Wanganeen has produced an artwork called Shooting Star (pictured), to mark the occasion.

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Dispensary Corner

THE hearts of the Australian pharmacy sector were broken last night when the industry's own *Ninja Warrior* splashed out in the final episode of this year's competition.

For the uninitiated, *Australian Ninja Warrior* is a Channel 9 show in which muscle-bound contestants navigate a complex series of extremely difficult gymnastic obstacles.

Jordan Papandrea, whose family owns Sydney's Pittwater Pharmacy, was competing for the fourth time and once again made it all the way to the Grand Final of the competition which was this year filmed in Melbourne.

Papandrea had two minutes and 15 seconds to get through six obstacles on his Stage Two run of the final, but unfortunately our hopes were dashed on the very tricky second challenge, the "spin hoppers" (pictured).

Ironically, the slippery spinning bars which proved such a challenge for Jordan were described by the commentators as "pills" - but to us they look a bit more like capsules.



Pharmacist sentenced

ANGERED by allegations of being a drunk and a thief, a former pharmacist in New Zealand has earned himself three months community detention, for a revenge campaign against his former employers.

Simon Cooper was sentenced on three charges of causing harm by posting digital communication and creating a false document.

Hamilton District Court heard that Cooper had been found guilty of professional misconduct and fined NZ\$35,000 last year in relation to incidents that occurred while employed by Hamilton Pharmacy between Jan 2013 and Jun 2014.

After parting company with the pharmacy group, one of the directors sent a fax to other pharmacies in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty areas accusing Cooper of drinking while on duty and theft.

Cooper launched defamation proceedings which were retracted, and in Nov 2017, he commenced his campaign against his former employers, sending anonymous



emails to one of the group's directors claiming her husband had a gambling issue, then sent similar emails to the other directors including a forged letter on NZ Racing letterhead saying the man was unable to operate accounts due to his gambling problem, *Stuff.co.nz* reported.

In Dec 2018 Cooper set up a dating profile for another director claiming he was a newly divorced gay man from Auckland, and included his mobile number.

The man received a number of messages of a sexual nature, including a photo of a penis.

The court ordered Cooper to undergo community detention with a curfew from 8pm until 4am.

Win with Soodox

This week Pharmacy Daily & Soodox are giving away a bottle of their Soodox™ Vytal Antibacterial Hand Wash worth RRP \$9.95

Soodox™ Vytal Antibacterial Hand Wash is a gentle formulation containing Australian Kakadu plum extract and lemon myrtle. It is formulated to not only kill 99.99% of germs, but to also leave your hands refreshed and cleansed without drying them out. Perfect for bathrooms, kitchens and washrooms.

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Guild Update

Pharmacy winners on video

THE three winners of the 2020 Pharmacy of the Year awards - Wizard Pharmacy Kalgoorlie Central, Wheatbelt Health Centre Pharmacy and Capital Chemist Chisholm - feature in a new video (accessible [here](#)) highlighting some of the challenges faced by community pharmacies this year.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen pharmacists and their staff go to amazing lengths to overcome unprecedented challenges to be able to continue helping patients and their communities.

To reflect this, the Guild Pharmacy of the Year 2021 program will take on a new format.

Sponsored by Care Pharmaceuticals, the awards will move from the traditional process where pharmacies either self-nominate or are nominated by branches or QCPP assessors. Rather than following a judging process which includes visits to finalist pharmacies, this year the award will showcase the community pharmacy network, and all that community pharmacies have done and continue to do during these challenging times.

YOUR EXCLUSIVE UPDATE ON COVID-19 VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

from the perspective of the University of Oxford

This webinar will assist participants in understanding the development and clinical issues with one of the lead COVID-19 vaccine candidates.

**PROFESSOR
SARAH GILBERT**



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Join Professor Sarah Gilbert, Professor of Vaccinology at the University of Oxford and Co-Founder of Vaccitech, live from the United Kingdom.

Prof. Gilbert is the lead vaccinologist on the front-running University of Oxford team developing a COVID-19 vaccine. She will detail her mission to create the world's first mass-produced COVID-19 vaccine and take questions from Australian pharmacists during this exclusive clinical webinar.

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