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Time to get vax accreditation: Sclavos

PHARMACISTS are being urged to become accredited immunisers to ensure the profession can support the rollout of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily* following a webinar featuring University of Oxford Professor of Vaccinology, Sarah Gilbert, hosted by the Australasian College of Pharmacy (ACP) and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch last night, former ACP and Guild National President, Kos Sclavos, said pharmacists needed to be prepared to both administer COVID-19 vaccines and educate the public about them.

"The aim of the Guild and the College in organising the event was to motivate more pharmacists to become vaccinators," he said.

"We want more pharmacists to be advocates for disseminating the facts about COVID-19 vaccines.

"We've seen in a recent national survey...30% of Australians said they wouldn't take the vaccine



even if offered."

With the Queensland State Government already confirming pharmacist immunisers will be empowered to administer COVID-19 vaccines, Sclavos said other Governments across Australia and New Zealand have already indicated pharmacists will play a key role.

Sclavos added "if every GP, every GP nurse, every vaccinating pharmacist had no other task but to vaccinate the population of

Australia and New Zealand, that would take four months".

"I'm asking pharmacists to become involved in going through the accreditation and being a vaccinator."

Guild Queensland Branch President, Trent Twomey, said pharmacists were well-placed to support a COVID-19 vaccine rollout campaign, with 97% of Queenslanders living within 2.5km of a pharmacy.

"Queensland pharmacist vaccinators are already leading the nation in immunisation provision, being able to provide the community with vaccinations against a range of bacterial and viral diseases, which is an integral part of communicable disease world-wide."

Allergy relief

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See **page three** for more.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from **eze allergy**.

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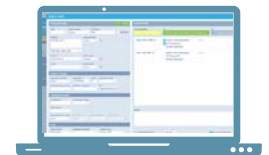
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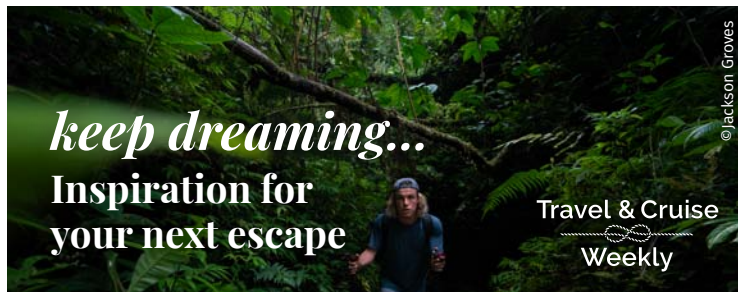
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Dispensary Corner

KENYAN police have busted a would-be pharmacist for peddling counterfeit "ViagraPro" capsules in an upmarket suburb of Nairobi. Peter Cummings Thatia, the 47-year-old "mastermind", was nabbed earlier this month following a raid by officers from the Pharmacy and Poisons Board and "sleuths" from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations. Police officials reported two polythene bags containing "a white powdery substance", a capsule filling machine and advertising fliers were seized alongside the fake medications during the raid.

Pharmacy robber jailed

A PHARMACY robber who assaulted a 79-year-old cleaner and threatened to hit him with a tomahawk has been sentenced to four years behind bars.

Southport District Court heard Harry Robert MaGrath entered a pharmacy in Nerang on the Gold Coast on 24 Jun 2019, and demanded that the pharmacist on duty fill a bag with prescription drugs.

The pharmacist was then told to lock herself at the back of the premises, before 79-year-old, Colin New, attempted to stop MaGrath, hitting him with a pole.

However, the 25-year-old thief pushed New to the floor before taking a tomahawk from his bag and warning "I'll hit you, I'll hit you with it," the *Gold Coast Bulletin* reported.

MaGrath pleaded guilty to armed



robbery, serious assault of a person over 60, and a string of drug, weapon and other offences, with Judge Bernard Porter QC handing down a four year prison sentence.

However, having served 428 days already, MaGrath is eligible for parole immediately.

NAPSA Chairs

THE National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) has announced its new Chairs for 2020/21.

Sophie Keating has been named Alumni Chair, with Ellie Hawkins as Publications Chair, Kathryn Mayanja as Pharmacy Awareness Chair, Ethan Paul as IPSF Chair, Verity Boustead as Research Chair, and Izzy Jusufi as Rural and Indigenous Chair.

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