

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from Nova Pharmaceuticals.

## Stay COVID safe

AUSTRALIANS are being urged to take a different approach to coping with heatwaves this summer to stay COVID safe.

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Victoria Chair, Dr Anita Munoz, said Australians need to rethink their plans for surviving hot days as gathering in air-conditioned shopping centres posed a risk.

Munoz is encouraging people to drink plenty of water and keep in the shade as much as possible.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the RACGP's Extreme Weather Factsheet.

## Strategic new president for College

FULLIFE Pharmacies Group Strategic Advisor, Michelle Bou-Samra (pictured), has been named as the Australasian College of Pharmacy's (ACP) new President.

Outgoing President and Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch Committee representative, Chris Owen, announced he was stepping down from the role to focus on his other pharmacy industry duties and the Owen Pharmacy Group.

Owen was named as ACP President in Jul 2019 (PD 02 Jul 2019), and under his leadership members backed a controversial move to bring the College under the management of the Guild's Queensland Branch earlier this year (PD 21 Jan).

Announcing Bou-Samra's appointment as his successor, Owen said she was a "highly impressive candidate, known for her collaborative leadership style".

"Bou-Samara has been involved at all levels in the pharmacy industry

for almost 30 years and is a well-known Fellow of the College," he said.

"I have every confidence that the College will continue its 'excellence in education' mission and will continue its renaissance under Michelle's leadership.

"We're sure she'll bring a wealth of experience to the College and further enhance the value of membership for years to come."

Bou-Samra said she was honoured to be selected to lead the ACP.

"I am determined to continue the College's momentum as an independent educational provider, which is resonating strongly in the market," she said.

"My mission is to lead the College to even greater things for our members."

The College also announced the resignation of CEO, Kathy Knack, after 18 months in the role, but will remain with the organisation as a director.

"Kathy has been instrumental



in the College's turnaround and modernisation journey.

"We could not have done it without her," Owen said.

"Kathy's business and pharmacy education skills have meant that she's been at the forefront of pharmacy education for nearly two decades.

"Her contribution can be measured by the thousands of people who now enjoy employment across the pharmacy industry."

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## Unsung hero no more

**NORTH** Queensland's Alive Pharmacy Warehouse Group's 11 stores are celebrating its Managing Director, Georgina Twomey, being named as a finalist in the Australia Post Online Retail Industry Association Awards' (ORIAS) Unsung Hero Award large retailer category.

The award was introduced as a new category in the ORIAS this year to recognise "those who have worked harder than ever to keep their business running through 2020".

Twomey, said she was pleased the group had been recognised for the "gut busting" efforts made by the entire team to support local communities in North Queensland during a "tumultuous year".

Twomey praised staff across the group for their work in implementing innovations across the business's digital platforms.

"We've implemented our reinvigorated e-commerce and our medications management app this year to help our patients and customers no matter which channel they choose to shop through," Twomey said.

"We couldn't have been innovative without our wonderful



Alive Pharmacy Warehouse team.

"They are the true unsung heroes, passionately serving the local community every day."

Sydney-based fashion brand, Esther & Co's buyer, Eunsoo Jeong, took out the overall award, with Knobby Underwear HR and Team Coordinator, Tahlia Tuihalangie, A1 Motorcycles General Manager, Luciano Cinel, C&L Tool Centre E-commerce Manager, Jun Xie, and Payday Deals Customer Experience Manager Kirsty Milroy, named alongside Alive's Twomey as category finalists.

## Equitable access key to COVAX success

**WORLD** leaders are being warned that failure to guarantee equitable access to COVID-19 vaccinations (COVAX) to people across the globe will have adverse economic impacts.

A report published by private research and consulting firm, the Eurasia Group, found that leaving low- and lower-middle-income countries (LLMICs) without access to vaccines could "put decades of economic progress at risk", both for LLMICs and advanced economies alike.

The Eurasia Group found a global equitable vaccine solution would deliver economic benefits to Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Qatar, South Korea, Sweden, the UAE, UK and US, to the tune of US\$466 billion by 2025.

"Only a holistic, multilateral approach to equitable vaccine distribution, tests, and treatments will make it possible to end Covid-19 around the world," the report said.

"Developing countries, and particularly LLMICs, face dire humanitarian and economic consequences if the pandemic cannot be contained and

eradicated, paving the way for economic recovery and a renewed focus on core development issues.

"The ethical imperative to help countries in need should be reason enough for wealthy nations to join the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) and contribute to the COVAX-Advance Market Committee.

"There are also clear, self-interested reasons to invest in the health and prosperity of LLMICs.

"From a geopolitical perspective, the ACT-A program will help to ensure political stability, deepen commercial and diplomatic ties with LLMICs, raise donor countries' international profile and promote liberal norms.

"From an economic perspective, donor countries will be able to unlock a sizable boost to external demand over the next five years at a fraction of the cost of domestic economic stimulus."

WHO Director General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, urged developed economies to contribute to ACT-A saying "its the smart thing for all countries - socially, economically and politically".

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## Dispensary Corner

**FOR** months health authorities around the world have been encouraging people to remain monogamous during the COVID-19 pandemic to limit the spread of the virus.

The value of such sage advice has been highlighted this week after attendees at the Naughty N'Awlins swingers event learned the hard way.

The partner-swapping party in New Orleans, touted as the "most popular lifestyle and swinger convention in the country since 1998", saw 41 lusty participants catch the virus - no data was available for any other conditions that may also have been shared.

Event organiser, Bob Hannaford, said he had worked with a virologist to implement a number of measures including temperature checks, a mandatory mask requirement, and encouraging guests to get pre-tested for the virus.

Prior to the event Hannaford told *Nola.com* that he had "created the safest possible event".

However, after news of the positive cases emerged he admitted, "I wouldn't do it again if I knew then, what I know now".

With at least one attendee being admitted to hospital, Hannaford said, "It weighs on me, and it will continue to weigh on me until everyone is 100% better".

He added that he had grappled with whether it was "moral or ethical" to host the event in the weeks leading up to it.

## WA polities urged to back pharmacy

**CANDIDATES** running in next year's Western Australian State elections are being urged to support a push for community pharmacy to play a greater role in the delivery of primary care.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia WA Branch President, Andrew Ngeow, called on political parties and independents to commit to the organisation's election platform.

"This platform is essentially providing a plan for the next term of government to better utilise the community pharmacy network within Western Australia's primary healthcare system," he said.

The Guild is calling for the establishment of a "strategic reserve of medicine for the WA community", to empower pharmacists to administer an expanded range of immunisations - including COVID-19 vaccines when they become available, and to maintain the COVID-19 Continuance of Critical Community Pharmacy Services model to ensure vulnerable

patients retain access to medicine in emergency or disaster scenarios.

WA politicians are being urged to commit to working with the Guild to develop an implementation plan for the pharmacy-specific recommendations of the Sustainable Health Review and the Review of Community Pharmacy Ownership.

Candidates are also being asked to back a review of the Commercial Tenancy (Retail Shops) Agreement Act 1985, to include a moratorium on rental increases for a transitional phase of at least 12 months from the end of the COVID-19 Emergency Period, and to support a guaranteed 'departure with dignity clause' for businesses that become insolvent as a result of the pandemic.

"The Government should, as a matter of urgency, conduct a review of the Commercial Tenancy (Retail Shops) Agreement Act 1985," Ngeow said.

"The legislation has proven ineffective in providing appropriate levels of protection to tenants,



including community pharmacies, and our recent experience has not delivered us any level of confidence that it will be suitable for the needs of these businesses in the post-COVID-19 recovering economy."

The Guild is also seeking financial support for community pharmacy focussed training, with the organisation calling for pharmacy and dispensary assistants to be provided financial incentives by the State Government for the training at Certificate II-IV levels.

## Win with Powerhouse Pharmacy Brands

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## TGA webinar

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) will host an Introduction to dynamic model for medicine availability webinar next Thu 10 Dec.

TGA consultant and Alfred Health Director of Pharmacy, Professor Michael Dooley, and Alfred Health Pharmacy Research Coordinator, Susan Poole, will demonstrate how the model can be used to estimate supply and demand forecasts for specific medicines in the COVID-19 context.

**CLICK HERE** to register for the webinar which will run for 90 minutes from 2pm AEDT.



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