

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has four pages of news.

## APP workshop

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has announced Oscar nominee, Luke Davies, will discuss his story of heroin addiction and subsequent treatment including buprenorphine, at an interactive workshop on 18 Mar, at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference.

# Qld pharmacists get travel vax access

**PHARMACISTS** in Queensland will be able to provide an expanded range of immunisations including travel vaccinations, and be able to administer influenza shots to children 10 years and older this year.

Queensland's Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, announced that trained pharmacists will be able to administer cholera, diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (dTpa); diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and poliomyelitis (dTpa-IPV); Haemophilus influenza type B;



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hepatitis A; meningococcal ACWY; poliomyelitis; and measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccines to people aged 16 years and above.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Queensland Branch President, Chris Campbell, welcomed the move, saying the decision to lower the minimum age for pharmacist administered flu shots was an important step ahead of the 2020 flu season.

"This is particularly important given Queensland had a record breaking flu season in 2019 with more than 68,000 cases," he said.

Campbell added the expansion of the range of vaccinations pharmacists can administer would also boost immunisation rates.

"Less than 40% of at-risk

adults are considered to be fully vaccinated and allowing trained pharmacists to administer more vaccines and to a wider cohort will significantly increase immunisation rates within the community," he said.

"The administration of vaccines by pharmacists complements the excellent work done by GPs, nurses, Indigenous Health Workers and other immunisers.

"It increases immunisation rates and has a positive effect on the health of Queenslanders."

Campbell added that the PSA would continue to work with the Queensland Government to secure access to National Immunisation Program vaccination stock for pharmacists.

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## Calendar improvements

Resources Section updated



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## Security fears limit health apps

**PATIENTS'** concerns over the security of personal data could be a major stumbling block to boosting the use of health apps and the digitalization of the health system.

Research conducted by Curtin University's School of Public Health, and led by David Lim, found there was a need to improve the public's understanding of data security and increase transparency about how health app managers store and use patient data.

"While there is growing evidence relating to the potential of digital innovations, there is less information on the willingness of consumers to embrace and utilise digital health technologies," Lim said.

"Our research found this willingness was most associated with two broad areas identified in the study - the time it takes to complete the registration on the mobile health app, and insecurities regarding management of their information."

## SHPA welcomes opioid restrictions

**RECOMMENDATIONS** designed to improve medicines safety and restrict the prescribing of opioids made by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) are being welcomed by the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA).

The PBAC recommendations include the restricted benefit listings for smaller maximum quantities of immediate-release opioids listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels, said the policy shift was timely and necessary to improve quality use of medicines and medicines safety.

"Amid many data points, our 2018 report found more than 70% of hospitals frequently supplied opioids for patients to take home 'just in case', even when they had not required them in the 48 hours prior to discharge, which has the potential to lead to preventable harm.

"These new changes, recommended following advice from the TGA's Opioid Regulatory Advisory Group (ORAG) of which SHPA is a member, are key to reducing the prescribing and dispensing of opioids in quantities



that are in excess of patient need.

"SHPA members, including medicines experts on our Pain Management Leadership Committee, look forward to collaborating with government and healthcare partners on education and awareness campaigns, changes to clinical guidelines and ongoing prescription and compliance monitoring."

PBAC also noted that the TGA had revised the indications of several opioid analgesics to broadly categorise them into opioids for acute and chronic severe pain, and that the TGA would be requiring sponsors to register new smaller pack sizes for some immediate-release opioid analgesics, a measure

first announced at SHPA's 2019 Medicines Leadership Forum.

Michaels heralded the announcement as a win for grassroots member advocacy that is cognizant of the ongoing pain management needs of Australians.

"While we recognise the important role opioids play in providing pain relief for many people, the documented high number of deaths and hospitalisations caused by prescription opioids in Australia is unethical and untenable and we thank our members who contributed crucially relevant frontline data that helped inform these PBAC recommendations," she said.

Pharmacy Daily

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## Priceline hits 2 million health checks

**AUSTRALIAN** Pharmaceutical Industries (API) banner group, Priceline Pharmacy, is celebrating providing its two-millionth free health check using SiSU Health Stations in-store.

The stations assess biometric measurements including height, weight, body mass index (BMI), blood pressure, heart rate, body fat percentage, diabetes risk, lifestyle and family history risk factors.

The partnership between Priceline Pharmacy and SiSU Health started in 2015 with the groups signing a five-year extension in Aug (PD 21 Aug 2019).

Since the introduction of the SiSU Health Stations in Priceline Pharmacy stores across the country an average of 15,000 patients a week have undergone in-store health checks.

The health station checks take four minutes on average, and the companies said that over the next three months the health stations will add the identification of atrial



fibrillation, which can often be undiagnosed without regular heart health check-ups with a GP.

Patients can track their health performance using the SiSU Station app of the company's online portal, which allow them to view all their

test results from health checks using the in-store stations.

Priceline Pharmacy's website notes that additional health pathology and skin diagnostic services are expected to be added to those provided by the stations.

## Guild PA training

**JOB** seekers in Tasmania are being given the opportunity to undergo training to become pharmacy assistants through a new subsidised program.

The 11-week part-time course, provided by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, commenced last week in Launceston, with 14 local job seekers taking part.

On completion the trainees will have achieved their SIR20116 Certificate II in Community Pharmacy, Guild Tasmanian Branch Manager, Monique Mackrill said.

"Graduates are trained in interacting with customers, communicating in the workplace, merchandising, stock control procedures and entry-level product knowledge", she said.

The Guild has also announced a program to train students at Burnie High School.



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## Dispensary Corner

A BRITISH pharmacy owner's efforts to diversify from mainstream pharmacy have landed him with a 28-month jail sentence.

The Birmingham-based pharmacist, Sarfraz Hussain's shift in focus from licenced retailer to illegal wholesaler, saw him order medications worth up to £1.4 million, which he sold on to drug dealers.

Local news website, *BirminghamLive*, reported the 49-year-old had squandered the profits from his side hustle on expensive cars - which some may view as a solid investment - and "business pipe-dreams".

Appearing before Birmingham Crown Court, Hussain admitted to four charges of supplying class C drugs and three counts of possession with intent to supply a class C drug.

The prosecution noted that the products concerned were all prescription-only medications, and were tranquillizers, which are in "huge demand" on the illicit market.

It was noted that Hussain had held a wholesale licence, which had been revoked after investigators found deficiencies with his business procedures and record keeping.



## Falcon finds Advantage



**ADVANTAGE** Pharmacy is continuing to expand its presence across Australia, with the recent addition of its 256th pharmacy, at Falcon, Western Australia.

The new Advantage Pharmacy Falcon officially joined the group on Fri, with Group CEO, Steven Kastinakis, on hand to celebrate the grand opening with proprietors, Noel and Sue Fosbery, and WA State MP, Zak Kirkup.

The pharmacy has been serving Falcon for 40 years and has been

in its current location for 15 years prior to joining the group.

The pharmacy has a strong focus on delivering professional services, with the team administering over 5,000 flu vaccinations alongside other vaccine services.

The store also runs a sleep apnoea diagnosis and treatment service, while also supporting local groups including the Port Bouvard Surf Life Saving Club.

**Pictured**, the Advantage Pharmacy Falcon team.

## Guild Update

### APP 2020

**INTERNATIONALLY** renowned, award-winning screenwriter and novelist and Academy Award nominee for Hollywood blockbuster *Lion*, Luke Davies, will be a feature at APP2020 on Wednesday 18 March.

Mr Davies' novels include *God of Speed* and *Totem*, which won the Age Book of the Year Award. However, it was his book *Candy*, an autobiographical account of how he lived through his 20s addicted to heroin, that really got people interested in his personal story. He later adapted *Candy* for the screen in which Heath Ledger starred. After Heath's death his father, Kim Ledger, was instrumental in activating the RTPM system.

Workshop facilitator and owner of a pharmacy active in the opioid replacement therapies program, Angelo Pricolo said he was keen for pharmacists to hear Mr Davies' story.

"Luke was able to get out of the downward spiral in part by the relationship he maintained with his community pharmacist," Mr Pricolo said.

"This first-hand account of how pharmacists are assisting patients in the ORT program is a warm-hearted reminder of the role of community pharmacy in this field".

For more details about this workshop and to register, download the APP2020 program at [appconference.com](http://appconference.com). APP takes place from 18-22 March on the Gold Coast.

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