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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of pharmacy news.

Sleep support

STRESSES and strains related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic are impacting people's moods and sleeping patterns Biome Australia Founder, Blair Norfolk says.

Norfolk said Biome Lift Probiotic can help boost patients' mood and support them to get a better night's sleep.

"Biome Lift Probiotic is a natural mood enhancing probiotic that contains unique probiotic strains that act via the gut-brain axis, to reduce low mood and enhance sleep quality," he said.

Guild seeks Govt cleaning support

STATE funding is needed to support pharmacies to pay for professional cleaning when a staff member tests positive for COVID-19 Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, believes.

With the COVID infection rate rising in a number of Melbourne suburbs, and the State Government ordering residents back into lockdown, Tassone told *Pharmacy Daily* that increased cleaning costs were adding the challenges faced by pharmacy owners in Victoria.

"There were already existing challenges with COVID, particularly depending on where your pharmacy is located," he said.

"Pharmacies in business districts, large medical centres where doctors had practised telehealth or large shopping centre environments were doing it pretty

tough in any case with COVID.

"Now with this return of lockdown provisions the business community is very concerned about how well they'll be able to recover from a second round.

"Pharmacies that have had positive test cases amongst their staff have had to have professional external cleaners come and disinfect and sanitise the premises and are facing bills in the thousands and thousands of dollars to do so.

"These proprietors are doing whatever it takes to protect the public and reopen as soon as possible.

"The Guild really feels that the Victorian Government should provide some business support for those instances to offset the cost, because it's a significant cost for what is an essential health service that has really stepped up from the



commencement of this pandemic.

"For some proprietors it is a real challenge in this environment to be able to meet those costs."

Tassone added that there were some "indications of potential hoarding behaviour returning", but not on the levels seen in Mar.

He said that pharmacies were doing their best to limit instances of patients stockpiling medicines.

Managing type 2 diabetes training

GUILD Learning and Development is partnering with Novo Nordisk to deliver a new CPD-accredited online training module for the management of type 2 diabetes.

Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists are a group of medicines that provide robust glycaemic control and weight loss benefits, which makes them an option for intensifying treatment in many people with type 2 diabetes.

The *Ozempic (semaglutide)*:

a *once-weekly GLP-1 for the management of type 2 diabetes* module looks at the importance of early intensification of diabetes management, and provides information on the dosing, administration and clinical use of Ozempic.

The activity has been accredited for 1.5 hours of Group 1 CPD, which can be converted to 1.5 hours of Group 2 CPS.

VISIT Guild Learning and Development for more.

Pharmacists display culinary skills

BRITISH pharmacists are showing off their compounding skills, whipping up some favourite meals and sharing them on social media with the hashtag #PharmFoods.

Since the implementation of lockdown restrictions in the UK in Mar, a number of pharmacists have been posting their culinary creations "to keep positive and make something tasty and different each night".

A range of mouth-watering looking dishes have been served



up from tacos with homemade salsa to home-smoked pulled pork and smoked salmon with patatas bravas, and asparagus wrapped in bacon plated up with smoked cauliflower cheese.

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Suspended over deliberate error

A CANADIAN pharmacist has been suspected from practising for 18 months and fined C\$10,000 for deliberately dispensing the wrong medication to a patient.

Shivangi Patel had been licensed for 43 days and was working alone, when the incident occurred, with a patient entering the pharmacy shortly before midnight on 25 May 2019, presenting a prescription for Suboxone.

Patel had already locked the dangerous drugs safe and was unable to reopen it, and after the patient threatened to call the police if she did not dispense the drug, she crushed another medication and gave it to the man.

Initially Patel denied providing the wrong medication, but confessed after being told there was video evidence.

GP slams PSA's 7CPA performance

FORMER Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Expert Committee - Quality Care, Dr Evan Ackermann, is taking aim at the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) for its role in negotiations over the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA).

In an article published by the RACGP's *NewsGP* website, Ackermann suggested the PSA had been "asleep at the wheel" during the 7CPA negotiations, suggesting the Society had failed patients by not pushing for 60-day dispensing to be included in the agreement.

"[They] achieved nothing for their members in any funding or professional development sense," he said.

"They fell over backwards for the business demands of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

"Both the Guild and the PSA have a long history of medication policy misjudgements [such as] codeine, opioids, increased dispensing quantities - so that no one rates

their health policy opinions that much anymore."

Ackermann also dismissed the PSA's call for Continued Dispensing arrangements that have been in place since Jan's bushfire crisis, and extended through to 30 Sep in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to be made permanent.

"[These dispensing arrangements] allow consumers to continually acquire their PBS-subsidised medicines without obtaining a valid prescription from their GP," he said.

"Continued monitoring is a core quality issue for any chronic disease. It is a very short-sighted strategy to effectively stop or sidestep reviews by the responsible prescriber.

"Pharmacists want to usurp this role, but in reality they have no experience and little insight into a prescribers' therapeutic rationale, chronic disease management, or management in the context of multimorbidity."

Responding to the *NewsGP* article



on Twitter, PSA lead negotiator, Shane Jackson, said the piece was "[the] largest amount of self-interested drivel that I've seen for a long time".

"When patients couldn't see their GP, they were able to get their medicines from pharmacists," he said.

Commenting on Jackson's reply, Australian Medical Association Western Australia Branch President, Dr Andrew Miller, called for the deregulation of the community pharmacy sector.

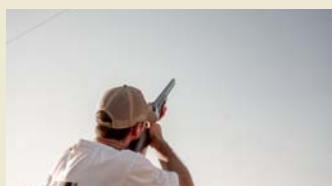
Armed robbery suspect arrested in QLD

QUEENSLAND Police have apprehended a 45-year-old Rockhampton man who is alleged to have held up a Maroochydore pharmacy on Fri night.

The man reportedly ended the pharmacy armed with a replica shotgun and threaten staff.

Police said the accused stole a sum of money before fleeing the scene on foot.

The bandit was located "minutes



later" by the dog squad hiding in front of a nearby business.

The man has been charged with armed robbery and making threats.



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Dispensary Corner

AND you thought COVID-19 was a problem for the world.

Authorities in Inner Mongolia have issued a new public health warning after two men contracted bubonic plague.

Also known as the Black Death, the pair are believed to have caught the disease after eating the meat of some marmots they had hunted.

The alert in Bayan Nur forbids the hunting and eating of the rodents that could carry plague, and also asks the public to report any suspected cases - as well as to report any sick or dead marmots.

BLING is still clearly king in India, where a man has been spotted protecting himself from coronavirus with a US\$4,000 gold mask.

Shankar Kurade, a resident of Pune (pictured), insists he's complying with government directives about face coverings, but did admit "it's a thin mask with minute holes so there's no difficulty in breathing...I'm not sure whether this mask will be effective".

The images were shared by local news agency ANI.

India has so far recorded over 18,000 COVID-19 deaths.



PSA, SHPA talk pain

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) have launched a new four-part online opioid education program.

Talking pain: Opioid options and alternatives is now accessible through both the PSA and SHPA websites, and has been designed to educate pharmacists about the recent opioid regulatory changes to encourage safe medicines use.

PSA National President, Dr Chris Freeman, said the challenges caused by inappropriate opioid use were clear.

"We are all aware of the compelling evidence surrounding the harm associated with inappropriate use of opioids, which make up an important component of the 250,000 Australians admitted to hospital each year because of their medicines, as outlined in PSA's *Medicine Safety: Take Care* report," he said.

"Acute and chronic pain can be challenging to effectively manage, often requiring an individualised



approach, which is why pharmacists have a crucial role in guiding safer use of medicines to manage pain, across both the community and hospital settings."

SHPA President, Peter Fowler, said the emphasis on clear conversations and behaviour change was important in this complex area.

"Recent regulatory changes in Australia reflect recommendations made in our landmark 2018 *Reducing Opioid-related Harm* report, and SHPA is vocal in support of educating doctors and non-medical prescribers regarding appropriate opioid prescribing for patients pre-operatively, during admission and at discharge," he said.

Win with BioSilk

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily & BioSilk are giving away a bottle of their Silk Therapy worth RRP \$32

BioSilk Silk Therapy Original is a weightless leave-in silk replenishing and reconstructing treatment that helps repair, smooth and protect all hair types. Winner of the USA New Beauty 2018 Awards this amazing product fills voids in the hair cuticle to create smooth hair, controls frizz and provides incredible shine. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about BioSilk.

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Q: Which award did Silk Therapy win?

To win send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Judy Cheung-Wood, Inventor, Founder & MD, SkinB5.**



Supporting local

DID you know, June 21st was World Localization Day? This new movement, with COVID-19 as a backdrop, is fast gaining momentum supported by global celebrities like Russell Brand and Dalai Lama. In Australia, it is palpable that consumers are actively seeking to support home grown brands because the pandemic has brought to everyone's front of mind that we as a country need to be more self-sufficient. The way to achieve this is to strengthen our local economic activities, meaning we need to produce and consume more locally. Of course, we will always be part of the global community and overseas export markets are still very important to us, but the recent global lockdown has exposed how fragile these opportunities can be to world-wide disruptions that before COVID-19, we cannot even imagine possible.

SkinB5 as a non-corporate, ground-up, independent brand that is 100% Australian Developed, Made and Owned, has always been focused on operating with integrity to make a positive contribution to our customers' lives and the world. Supporting fellow Australian businesses has always been a priority so we partner with ethical local businesses to deliver our products to consumers. Modern consumers are increasingly choosing local brands who show they care about their wellbeing.