

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from TerryWhite Chemmart.

May date for APP

AUSTRALIAN Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP) will shift from its traditional Mar date to May in 2021, to allow more time for COVID-19 restrictions to be lifted.

Announcing the event will take place between 20 and 23 May at the Gold Coast Convention Centre, APP Chairman, Kos Sclavos, said that the organising committee is currently developing a COVIDSafe Plan in conjunction with the conference venues, suppliers and the Queensland Government to guarantee the safety of attendees.

"While social distancing and other government restrictions will entail some changes to the traditional format of APP, our number one priority is the safety and well-being of our delegates, speakers, sponsors and exhibitors," he said.

Who gives a fax? Sigma goes digital

PHARMACEUTICAL wholesaler, Sigma Healthcare, is continuing its moves to streamline its ordering process, with a number of digital solutions "on the cusp of being released".

Speaking at software and technology company, SAP's virtual Sapphire Now conference, Sigma's Head of e-commerce, Luke Shaw, outlined how technology has improved the company's ordering system, *iTnews* reported.

Shaw told delegates that Sigma has transformed its wholesale ordering platform, which has been developed using SAP's commerce cloud and Qualtrics products.

"Not so long ago our pharmacies were ordering from us via fax - and that's within the last 12 months," he said.

"So this technology [is] a huge leap forward."

Shaw said the company launched an ordering platform project in 2018, which found its technology was not compatible with its customer-focused objectives.

"Our legacy systems were antiquated and very fixed, and so we partnered with SAP to provide a new wholesale ordering platform, and ultimately that's what we



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thought we needed to deliver a better service," he said.

"The SAP commerce cloud platform enabled personalisation [of pricing, promotions and offers] for our stores.

"The Qualtrics technology gives amazing analytical capability to a simple business user to be able to understand and plot and make decisions on what's going to happen next."

The new systems also made it easier for pharmacists to order stock, allowed them to get "out on the shop floor and help patients, which is obviously what they want to do as well."

The SAP systems have also enabled Sigma to improve its customer communications.

"We're able to not just blanket email the entire customer base but use that technology to clearly deliver information and help keep them up to date in what's happening and what is best practice," Shaw said.

He added that the COVID-19 pandemic had accelerated Sigma's moves to deliver online.

"We've had three or four initiatives that were ticking along [but] what was due to be released later this year is right on the cusp of being released now," he said.



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Positive COVID test closes pharmacy

PHARMACY owners are urged to familiarise themselves with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's guidance for managing suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases.

The advice comes after a Victorian pharmacy was forced to close over the weekend after a staff member tested positive for COVID-19.

The *Northern Star Weekly* reported the Quality Pharmacy at the Pacific Epping Shopping Centre, has been closed for cleaning after the positive case was confirmed on Sat.

Centre management informed other retailers in the area that the individual worked at the pharmacy on 22 and 23 Jun.

Victorian Guild Branch President, Anthony Tassone, told **Pharmacy Daily** that pharmacists were continuing to "turn up and provide guidance and advice to the



community during a very nervous time", as the state has seen a sharp increase in COVID cases in recent days.

Tassone advised Guild members to use resources developed by the Victorian Branch, outlining the steps they should take in the event of a staff member being diagnosed with the virus.

The guidelines recommend closing the store, displaying the Guild's 'Important closure notice',

contacting the Guild, banner group and relevant authorities, cleaning the pharmacy in line with state guidelines, before preparing to reopen.

The Guild also advises pharmacy owners to ensure their dangerous drug safe is locked, local medical centres are informed of the closure and staff are informed of changes.

Contact the Guild for more information by email: covid-19@guild.org.au.

FIP Congress goes virtual

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) will fill the void of the organisation's postponed World Congress by hosting an online event this Sep.

The organisation announced plans for FIP Virtual 2020, an online conference focused on "living and learning through the COVID-19 pandemic".

The event will include a virtual poster gallery, alongside sessions focused on "Lessons learned and changes for the future", "Developing evidence during a pandemic" and stories from pharmacists on the frontline of the crisis.

Sessions will take place from 14 to 25 Sep.

CLICK HERE for further details, including registration fees.

Vax records are being kept: Guild

ALL vaccines administered by pharmacists across Australia are being appropriately recorded, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Vice President, Trent Twomey, says.

Responding to the NCIRS *Review of pharmacist vaccination reporting to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)*

report that there was significant under-reporting of vaccines administered by pharmacists (**PD** 16 Jun), Twomey confirmed "every pharmacy in Australia has provided the immunisation date

to Services Australia", during an interview with *7 News* last night.

"Services Australia is sitting on a backlog of data, but rest assured if you've seen your community pharmacist this year to receive your [influenza] vaccine it will appear on your register," he said.

Meanwhile, Royal Australian College of General Practice Queensland Chair, Dr Bruce Willet, told the broadcaster the pharmacy was "a less appropriate environment" for immunisation.

Nurse unfit to practice over drug use

A NURSE who has been suspended since Jul 2017 has been ruled to be "unfit" to practice by an NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The Tribunal heard that Michael Wood, had convictions relating to supply of prohibited drugs, possession of equipment to administer prohibited substances and firearms offences between Aug 2016 and Jul 2018.

The Tribunal found Wood's offending stemmed from his dependence on



methamphetamine, with the convictions showing he was "a substantial risk to the health of members of the public."

Wood has been barred from seeking registration for at least four more years.



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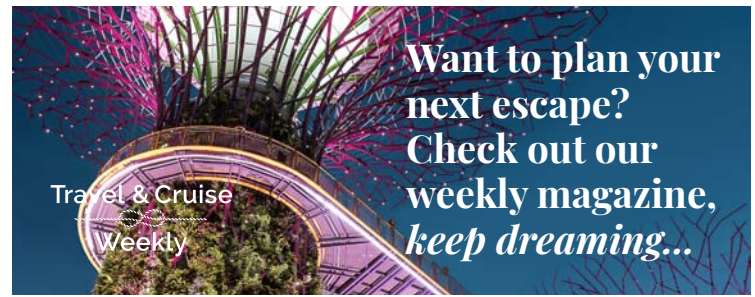
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Dispensary Corner

COVID-19 quarantine and lockdown is tough on everyone - but spare a thought for a Florida man who has been isolated for more than three months with just 200 parrots for company.

But rather than coronavirus, Majid 'Magic' Esmaeli is "trapped" by a court order which has landlocked him on his five acre Zaksee Florida Bird Sanctuary in the city of Tampa.

He recently sent an email to the *Tampa Bay Times* with a simple subject line: "SOS".

"I am prisoner in my own property with over 200 parrots. No way to get in or out," he said.

The court order means none of his staff or volunteers are able to help, meaning he's been caring solo for the birds.

"I get up before the sun and all day I am cleaning, fixing cages, feeding parrots until night."

Food supplies are not able to be brought in either, so he's been getting by eating bananas and bamboo shoots that he grows on the property.

Esmaeli is battling a judgement which has blocked the only access to the sanctuary, traversing a neighbouring property which is now blocked by two locked gates.

A video he posted appealing for help was accompanied by a cacophony of shrieks and squawks from his feathery friends, with Esmaeli saying "It's like living near the airport, you get used to the sound".

His 'Magic' nickname apparently comes from an uncanny ability to safely handle aggressive birds.

UK Govt faces litigation

FAMILY members of a frontline pharmacist who died after contracting COVID-19 are pursuing legal action against the British Government over its handling of the pandemic.

The son of London-based pharmacy owner, Navin Shantilal Talati, told *The Pharmaceutical Journal* that he wanted "transparency, clarification of the facts and accountability, not just for me, but for the tens of thousands of people who have lost loved ones".

Lawyer, Sunil Abeyewickreme, said Government ministers and health authorities failed "to comply with their duties under Article 2 of the Human Rights Act 1998 that have resulted in a large number of avoidable deaths, including a number of healthcare professionals that have lost their lives".

Abeyewickreme told *The Pharmaceutical Journal* that an "unsatisfactory response" of a pre-action letter had left Minesh Talati with no option but to pursue the



Government through the courts.

"It is being alleged that the secretary of state did not do all that could be reasonably expected of him to avoid a real and immediate risk to life from COVID-19, despite the knowledge that the government had at the time," Abeyewickreme said.

The Department of Health and Social Care told the publication that it was not able to comment on the potential litigation.

Unlicensed hand sani producers fined

SYDNEY-BASED business, Australian Chemical Research, has been handed a \$25,200 fine relating to two infringement notices linked to its production of hand sanitiser.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) reported that the items were not included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG), and which were neither an exempt good nor a good that is excluded from the operation of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

"The company allegedly claimed the hand sanitiser kills

99.99% of germs, viruses and bacteria on hands, including the flu virus, the common cold virus and HIV," the TGA said.

"The label also stated that the active ingredients of the hand sanitiser included 80% iso-propanol.

"However, the product contained a large percentage of n-propanol, which is a less effective and potentially hazardous alcohol. Australian Chemical Research was not licenced to manufacture therapeutic goods, and did not have approval to do so."

No more Nardil

NARDIL (phenelzine) tablets are no longer being supplied in Australia, with the Therapeutic Goods Administration advising patients taking the medication for major depression to seek immediate advice from their psychiatrist or other prescriber.

There are no alternative brands available, with a statement providing more information on the issue now available at tga.gov.au.

Guild Update

Interactive pharmacist development webinar

GUILD members are reminded advised of an innovative and interactive webinar event focussed on pharmacy businesses and pharmacy careers, being offered by Guild Learning and Development this Wednesday and Thursday night, July 1 and 2.

Our industry experts will work with participants to design an action plan tailored to you, which you can take away and apply to your business and career. Webinar sessions include: leadership, how to implement professional services, business growth, digital 101, patient experience and innovation. It's free for Guild Members, interns and pharmacy students.

Click [HERE](#) to download an Event Outline.

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