

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news plus full pages from:

- Keyromar
- APP 2020

Durable comfort

THAI footwear brand, Keyromar, is highlighting its range of durable and supportive footwear on page four of today's *Pharmacy Daily*.

Monash top Aussie pharmacy school

MONASH University's Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is Australia's top place to study pharmacy, the 2020 QS World University Rankings reveals.

The faculty is now ranked at number two in the world, behind the University of Oxford, up from three in 2019.

The ranking system assessed universities across five broad fields: employer reputation, citation, staff H-indexes, academic reputation and use of quantitative and qualitative analysis.



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Since QS introduced the subject rankings in 2011, Monash's Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences faculty has consistently been among the top 10 globally, faculty Dean, Professor Arthur Christopoulos said.

"The elevated ranking to number two in the world for pharmacy and pharmacology reflects the faculty's continuous drive to be at the forefront of research, practice and education on the world stage," he said.

"This would not be possible without the dedication of our talented staff and students and the generosity of our collaborators in the pharmacy profession and in

biomedical research and education.

"By drawing upon our combined energy and expertise, we make progress every day on our faculty's mission to make healthcare better on a global scale."

The University of Sydney was Australia's second-highest ranked pharmacy school at 24, followed by the University of Queensland (31), the University of Melbourne (49), and the University of NSW which was ranked between 51st and 100th in the international league table.

New Zealand's University of Auckland was the top pharmacy school across the ditch, with a global ranking of 27.

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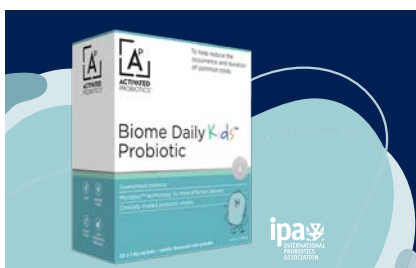
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Meds shortages not linked to COVID-19

PATIENTS are being warned that panic buying of prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medicines as concerns about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) grow, could exacerbate existing medicines shortages.

In a statement released last night, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, George Tambassis, stressed stockpiling medicines was unnecessary, adding it could have unintended patient safety consequences.

“The Guild is not aware of any medicine which is currently unavailable or in short supply in Australia specifically because of COVID-19,” he said.

“Medication shortages and out of stocks have been part of the pharmacy landscape for the last couple of years threatening continuity of supply for patients and requiring numerous brand substitution changes for some patients, but these issues predated and are entirely unrelated to coronavirus.

“Paradoxically, if panic buying does take hold for medicines and other products, shortages may well arise – and we certainly hope this can be avoided.”

The Guild also reminded pharmacists of their professional and legal responsibilities to ensure appropriate and safe supply of prescription medicines, and dispensing multiple repeats without good reason was inadvisable and outside the



guidelines published by the Pharmacy Board of Australia.

The Guild noted that in some jurisdictions pharmacists are required to check with the prescribing doctor before issuing multiple repeat supplies of a medicine at the same time.

The statement noted the Board’s guidelines say, “when not directed by the prescriber, the simultaneous supply of multiple quantities of a particular medicine (i.e. the supply of multiple repeats at once) may be contrary to the Quality Use of Medicines principles outlined in the National Medicines Policy”.

“It does not promote regular review of therapy and effective provision of medicine information by pharmacists, which may assist in minimising medication misadventure,” the guidelines state.

“It may also be contrary to state or territory legislation.”

RACGP hits out at Guild

PHARMACISTS’ calls to be empowered to dispense commonly used medicines without a prescription in an effort to ease pressure on health services are “yet another example of the pharmacy sector trying to place financial gains ahead of patient care and safety”, according to the Royal Australian College of General Practice (RACGP).

Responding to the call expand pharmacists’ scope of practice in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) (*PD* yesterday), RACGP President, Dr Harry Nespolon, accused the Pharmacy Guild of Australia of attempting to profit from fears related to the virus, that could cause “tremendous harm”.

“This is a cynical ploy from the Guild to exploit COVID-19 to achieve long sought-after changes that will hand greater power to retail pharmacies,” he said.

“Ensuring a patient’s continuity of care with their GP is vital.

“We don’t just hand out medicines, we talk to our patients about preventative care, provide a check-up and carefully record their medical history.”

“To take just one example, allowing pharmacists to prescribe antibiotics for urinary tract infections is a recipe for disaster because one of the greatest challenges our healthcare system faces is antimicrobial resistance caused by the misuse and over-use of antibiotics.

“We are already seeing increasing resistance to antibiotics in urinary



tract infections, so handing pharmacists these prescription powers is bad news for public health and safety.”

Nespolon suggested that if pharmacists were keen to support the community in the event of a pandemic, they should support changes that would allow double dispensing.

“This would enable people to access two-month supplies of commonly prescribed medicines,” he said.

“Unwell patients do not want to have to visit a pharmacy, where they will be surrounded by other unwell patients, more often than is absolutely necessary. “

A Guild spokesperson said the proposals made by National Vice President, Trent Twomey, “just make sense”, stressing “this is not an intrusion into doctor territory, but a legitimate recognition that pharmacists in comparable countries are able to do more within their existing training”.

“Australian patients should benefit from the expertise of pharmacists to take pressure off a stressed health system,” the spokesperson said.

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Dispensary Corner

PHARMACISTS by and large are a very community focused lot, and often go above and beyond to support their patients.

This dedication to the community they serve can frequently take them out of their comfort zone.

For South Carolina pharmacist, Jarrod Tippins, efforts to support his community will see him take the stage at Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology Center on the Florence-Darlington Technical College campus later this month to compete in a fundraising dance event for the school.

Tippins said prior to being roped into taking part in the dance-off, he was adamant he had two left feet, but has embraced the challenge ahead of the 26 Mar competition, where he is set to jive with early childhood education teacher, Hannah Yarborough, to the iconic Kenny Loggins hit "Footloose".

Speaking to *SC Now*, Tippins said his biggest fear was "that I forget my moves...I hope I don't skip what comes next".

He added that his colleagues behind the dispensary and throughout the pharmacy have been "very supportive", and have been asking patients for donations in the lead up to the event.

While initially reticent to take part, Tippins is now aiming to win "I don't like to tell people I'm competitive, deep down, who doesn't like to win".

TWC raises 10k for OCA



TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) raised more than \$10,000 for Ovarian Cancer Australia (OCA) on the first day of its annual three-day Masterclass, which kicked off on Tue in Melbourne.

After a day of education, the 500 delegates gathered on the rooftop of Melbourne's Crown Hotel for a special fundraising gala evening, hosted by OCA Ambassador, Nicky Buckley.

"Ovarian Cancer is an insidious disease with the five year survival rate sitting at 46%...[it] is severely underfunded compared to other,

less deadly cancers," TWC CEO, Duncan Phillips said.

"These types of events, as well as our long-term partnership [with OCA], is critical to helping both raise awareness and much needed funds for women suffering from ovarian cancer."

The Masterclass program wraps up today with the announcement of the 2020 TWC Pharmacist of the Year.

Pictured: Ovarian Cancer Australia Ambassador, Nicky Buckley, and TWC Masterclass delegates at the fundraising gala.

Travel Specials

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* travel feature. Each week we highlight a couple of great travel deals for the pharmacy industry, brought to you by *Travel & Cruise Weekly*.

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Dragoman deals

FROM the Amazonian rainforest to the ancient Incan ruins, Dragoman Overland is inviting travellers to explore South and Central America with 15% off its overland adventures.

The offer is available until 31 Mar, for departures by 31 Dec - book directly with the Australian-based team on 1800 951 060 or agents@dragoman.com.au.

Rocky-solid savings

ROCKY Mountaineer is offering two free perks worth up to \$550 in value per couple, for guests who book a qualifying 2020 package of five days or more.

Guests can extend their adventure with an extra night in Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary or the Rockies at the beginning or end of their journey, and also receive a free transfer.

The offer can be applied to the 12-day Grand Rail Circle journey. Book before 27 Mar - **CLICK HERE** for more information.

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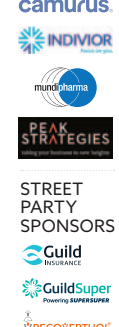
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