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## NEW & IMPROVED PLATFORM - LAUNCHING 16 NOVEMBER 2020

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PharmaPrograms

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## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features three pages of news, plus a front cover page from PharmaPrograms.

## PharmaPrograms platform launch

### PHARMAPROGRAMS

will unveil its new myPharmaPrograms platform that will streamline claiming for professional services and deliver financial performance visibility for pharmacy owners and managers on 16 Nov.

See the **cover page** for more details.

## MDR trading suspension

**AUSTRALIAN** Securities Exchange (ASX) listed digital medication management company, MedAdvisor (MDR) has requested a further voluntary suspension of trading its shares until 12 Nov, having last week initiated a trading halt while it raises funds for a major US acquisition (**PD** 02 Nov).

## Purveyance Retailer Marketplace



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## Preventing vector-borne diseases



**PHARMACISTS** around the world are being urged to play their part in combating vector-borne diseases, with environmental and societal changes contributing to the proliferation of these illnesses.

Launching a new publication, *Vector-borne diseases: A handbook for pharmacists*, International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) President, Dominique Jordan, said pharmacists have a key role to play in preventing the spread of diseases such as malaria and dengue, which have spread beyond tropical and subtropical areas due to climate change, deforestation and migration.

"Vector-borne diseases account for nearly one fifth of all infectious diseases and cause over 700,000 deaths every year," he said.

"In addition to their health burden, their economic impact is enormous, especially so because they disproportionately affect the world's poorest countries.

"Combating vector-borne diseases is fundamental for achieving many of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

"Most of these diseases are preventable and pharmacists are ideally placed to support

communities and patients in protecting themselves.

"We hope this handbook will be of great value to pharmacists all around the world."

The new handbook notes that pharmacists "have a special position as highly accessible healthcare professionals with a diverse skillset".

"Pharmacists are trained to counsel on appropriate medicines use, address patient concerns, educate on healthy lifestyles and disease prevention and, in many nations, administer vaccines," the authors of the handbook said.

"It is through these actions that pharmacists develop relationships

of trust with their patients, providing reliable advice to promote and encourage positive attitudes and healthy actions by patients.

"In the case of vector-borne illnesses, pharmacists can provide accurate and appropriate advice on what patients can do to protect themselves and their communities.

"They can raise awareness of these diseases and take on the role of providing support to those affected with a vector-borne illness.

"It is part of pharmacists' role to keep communities informed and safe."

**CLICK HERE** to access the handbook.

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## Vaping big tobacco's Trojan Horse

"FALSE claims" about the use of e-cigarettes as smoking cessation aids being made by 'big tobacco' lobbyists need to be called out, pharmacist-turned Federal Australian Labor Party MP, Emma McBride believes.

Speaking in the House of Representatives yesterday, McBride, backed bipartisan calls for the Government to hold firm on plans to limit access to vaporised nicotine and e-cigarettes, noting the Public Health Association of Australia had described vaping as a "Trojan Horse".

"As the only pharmacist in this place and someone trained in nicotine addiction and smoking cessation, I thought it was important to bring the debate about e-cigarettes back to where it should be and to examine some of the key facts," she said

"First, no brand of e-cigarette has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for

assisting people to quit smoking.

"Systematic evidence and quality trials have found no conclusive evidence that e-cigarettes are an effective quit aid or that they are more effective than approved, established methods for quitting smoking.

"According to National Health and Medical Research Council reports, e-cigarette use in nonsmokers is associated with future uptake of tobacco cigarette smoking, countering claims that e-cigarette use is mainly by long-term smokers to help them quit.

"The market for e-cigarettes is clearly young people and the tobacco industry's profit drivers to addict a new generation.

"Second, Australia has one of the lowest smoking rates in the world, despite what the lobbyists might tell you.

"Australian Institute of Health and Welfare data published in Jul shows daily smoking rates to be at an all-



time low of 11%.

"This has been hard fought in the face of strong opposition from big tobacco and vested interests.

"We must call out false claims by lobbyists that reductions in smoking prevalence have stalled or slowed as a means of aggressively promoting e-cigarettes as a quit method.

"Let's debunk a myth: the claim that e-cigarettes are safe or less harmful than smoke cigarettes.

"There is no scientific basis for this claim."

## Prof Sansom reflects on 2020

### COMMONWEALTH

Department of Health Special Advisor and pharmacist, Emeritus Professor, Lloyd Sansom, is set to look back on the lessons of 2020, in an online event on Wed 25 Nov.

During the Reflections on 2020: In Conversation with Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom AO webinar, the former University of South Australia School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences Head, will discuss leadership, pharmacy, professionalism and the future.

Sansom will consider what can be learnt from the experiences of 2020, and how pharmacists have met those challenges, and the role the profession can play in future disasters from floods and bushfires to pandemics.

**CLICK HERE** to register for the free webinar.

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## Dispensary Corner

**IT APPEARS** that not everyone is happy about the ongoing success of clinical trials for the various COVID-19 vaccines which are under development.

There was a major sell-off of gun manufacturers on the US stock market overnight after the release of promising preliminary data from Pfizer's vaccine trial, which found it was 90% effective.

Investors who had been banking on increased unrest were also discouraged by the clear result in the US election.

Smith & Wesson fell more than 9% in trading, similar to rival Sturm Ruger & Co, while ammunition retailer Vista Outdoor slumped 12%.

**THERE** was also some good news for residents of Washington state in the US - it's now possible to compost dead bodies there, as an alternative to burial or cremation.

The state's first legal corpse composting company, with a website appropriately named [recompose.life](http://recompose.life), is now taking bookings under a new law which allows bodies to be placed in a receptacle along with other organic material to speed up the decomposition process.

The site promises customers the opportunity to "become soil when you die," providing an end-of-life option that strengthens the environment rather than depleting it.

Each person who chooses the new option saves one metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub> from entering the atmosphere.

## Guild plots new event

**AFTER** close to 12 months without an in-person conference, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia is set to host a new 'invite only' event in Brisbane in Feb 2021.

Former Guild National President, Kos Sclavos, said the three-day Pharmacy Groups Symposium will be limited to 180 attendees and will take place from 08-10 Feb at the Sofitel Brisbane Central.

The event is set to cover aspects of the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement, electronic prescriptions and issues around pharmacy rentals.

"From a strategic point of view, the Pharmacy Groups Symposium is a key event for the Guild," he said.

"Pharmacy brands/banner groups play an important role in the viability of community pharmacy, and we want to ensure we are working hand-in-hand with our pharmacy groups as we implement the new agreement.

"With the pharmacy industry's major conference - APP - a few months later in May 2021, there will



be a number of announcements and this symposium event will allow the industry to be aligned.

"Due to the confidential nature of the topics discussed, the event will operate under 'Chatham House Rule' principles and media will not be allowed to attend.

"For this reason we are unable to offer a virtual registration for the event.

"We are confident that by Feb 2021 you will be able to travel to Queensland and return to your home state/territory without quarantine."

**CLICK HERE** for more.



## Guild Update

### Opportunity analysis

As part of the 2020-21 membership, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia is providing members with access to an Opportunity Analysis.

The Opportunity Analysis tool provides a customised report using the pharmacy's data to highlight areas of opportunity income. It is linked to key professional service areas including 7CPA-funded programs, fixed third-party income, prescription and medication programs and screening and testing services.

Data from pharmacies that have already completed the Opportunity Analysis tool shows that, on average, pharmacies are missing out on an additional \$30,000-\$35,000 from professional services annually.

The Opportunity Analysis tool uses a pharmacy's data to provide a customised report which highlights income opportunities linked to key service areas including 6CPA funded programs, fixed third-party income, prescription and medication programs and screening and testing services.

To learn more about the Opportunity Analysis Tool, watch the [video](#) here, or to access [your OA here](#).



## Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away both a NS 8 Heel Balm 250ml and NS 8 Deo Foot and Shoe Spray 100ml worth RRP\$37.90

### Get your feet summer-ready!

Give your feet some love with soft, smooth heels and odour-free feet and footwear. NS 8 Heel Balm is not greasy, so you don't need socks and natural exfoliants gradually remove dry, thickened skin, so you don't need foot files. Deo Foot and Shoe Spray is a natural treatment with a light, fresh fragrance. Recommended by podiatrists and diabetes friendly. Australian owned and made.



Q: Which health care profession recommends NS 8 Heel Balm?

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