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## Today's issue of PD

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

## Link offers fluoxetine sub

**SYDNEY-BASED** pharmaceutical business, Link Healthcare, has confirmed it can supply UK registered Fluoxetine 20mg capsules (Strides Pharma) to cover shortages of Prozac 20 fluoxetine 20mg and Lovan fluoxetine 20mg.

The temporary approval under Section 19A of the Therapeutic Goods Act, has been granted until 30 Apr 2021.

The product has been approved for major depression, obsessive compulsive disorder and premenstrual dysphoric disorder.

## Pharmacy's SA COVAX role uncertain

**SOUTH** Australian Health Minister, Stephen Wade, believes it is too early to tell whether or not pharmacists will play a role in administering COVID-19 vaccines (COVAX) in the State.

Wade's comments came in response to a question from Australian Labor Party Legislative Council member, Tung Ngo, who asked, "has the minister worked out a plan as to who will be administering the vaccine, and will be considering getting local pharmacists to administer some of the vaccines as well?"

"Certainly, the honourable member is correct: in the development of any vaccine program you need to consider all of the distribution opportunities, and pharmacists have certainly been playing an increasing role in terms of vaccinations," Wade said.

"In terms particularly of the COVID vaccine, I think it is too early to tell.

"Again I preface my remarks by



saying, I am a politician, not a clinician, but my understanding... is that some of the vaccines that are under development have particularly high standards in terms of storage and distribution, so, if you like, it may not be within the infrastructure of a pharmacist to deliver the cold chain requirements of a COVID-19 vaccine.

"But again, the complexities are

such that in my understanding we are not necessarily going to use one vaccine.

"It may well be that some vaccines have storage and distribution requirements that are within the scope of the pharmacy network and that brand might be deployed for a certain cohort through pharmacists, but I am wandering into the hypotheticals, so I must desist."

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## UTS report shows high cost of UTIs

**ANTIMICROBIAL** resistance to urinary tract infections (UTIs) is set to cost Australia \$1.6 billion a year by 2030, research from the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and the OUTBREAK consortium reveals.

The report, *A One Health antimicrobial resistance economic perspective*, warned that Australia could face “a grim financial reality... when antibiotics stop working for UTIs”.

“We calculate that antibiotic-resistant UTIs alone could cost Australia \$1.6 billion per year by 2030 if nothing is done to curb their rise.

“Currently, a first-line antibiotic (the medicine usually given first) called trimethoprim doesn’t work for 21% of people with a UTI based on data used in our model — although the exact percentage differs between regions, states and people.

“Our analysis reveals that even if this level of first-line antibiotic



resistance can be stabilised, UTIs will increase to \$1.1 billion per year from \$909 million (2020) in just under a decade.

“If nothing is done to control the rise of antibiotic resistance, it is conceivable it will reach 50% and costs could escalate to more than \$1.6 billion per year.

“Such a scenario is not unlikely given that trimethoprim resistance in the United Kingdom climbed 5% in just two years to 34% in 2017.

“It is no longer a first-line antibiotic for UTIs.

“Our calculations reflect an increase in the number of people with a UTI that would see their GP and then need hospitalisation, while some will even require intensive care.

“This would increase the length of hospital stay, as well as the costs of tests and treatments some of which have to be given intravenously.”

## Seqirus plans new vax factory

**VACCINE** provider, Seqirus, has unveiled plans to invest \$800 million to build a “next-generation” vaccine manufacturing site in Melbourne.

The CSL-owned business expects the new facility to be operational in 2026, producing cell-based influenza vaccines, the company’s proprietary adjuvant MF59, antivenom for Australian snakes, spiders and marine creatures, and the world’s only human vaccine for Q-Fever.

The announcement followed an agreement with the Federal Government to secure the ongoing onshore manufacture and supply of influenza pandemic vaccines, anti-venoms and Q-Fever vaccine for the next 10 years.

The facility will also make vaccines for the export market.

**LIVE Webinar 7.30pm AEDT, Thursday, Dec 3**

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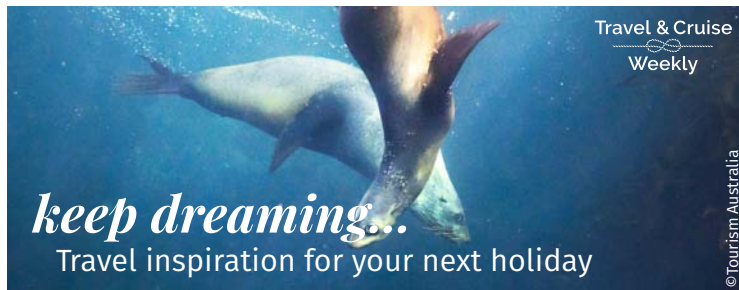
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## Dispensary Corner

**"THEY** also serve, who stand and wait".

The words of the famous John Milton poem have been backed up by authorities in Germany, who have launched a new TV commercial in praise of the country's coronavirus couch potatoes.

The ad depicts an elderly man who recalls his "service to the nation...in the winter of 2020 when the whole country's eyes were on us.

"I had just turned 22 and was studying engineering when the second wave hit...at this age you want to party, study, get to know people, go for drinks with friends," he continues.

"Yet fate had different plans for us, an invisible danger threatened everything we believed in," the narrator adds.

He said with the fate of the country in young peoples' hands "we mustered all our courage and did what was expected of us, the only right thing.

"We did nothing. Absolutely nothing. Being as lazy as raccoons, day and nights we stayed on our asses at home and fought against the spread of the coronavirus.

"Our sofa was the front line and our patience was our weapon," he concludes, adding "this is how we became heroes".



## Corum eyes growth

**PHARMACY** software provider, Corum Group, is aiming to recapture its status as the biggest player in the market with its dispense and retail solutions.

Addressing the company's annual general meeting this morning, CEO, Julian Sallabank, told investors that 2020 had seen Corum focus on "getting the business match-fit for future growth".

Sallabank said the company had streamlined its cost base throughout the year alongside a "thorough review of all software products".

"Dispense and Point of Sale (POS) systems are core systems of a pharmacy, they cannot operate without them," he said.

"In the dispense area we have completed the development of Corum Clear Dispense (CCD) together with integrations with all major applications.

"We will now have two solutions for dispense - LOTS and CCD - and firstly we aim to quickly transfer our users off the legacy AWD product to our newer systems resulting in cost savings.

"Our POS product LOTS POS is scheduled for a seamless upgrade to Corum Clear Retail during this

year and together with our dispense solutions will provide, we believe, a market leading offering to the independent pharmacist."

Sallabank told investors that a refresh of the Board and "wider associates" had given the group "a network of relationships at the decision-maker levels of the large [pharmacy] groups which we believe was lacking previously".

"Corum is a major player in the pharmacy software system market," he said.

"We used to be the largest and we want our market share back".

Sallabank added that the acquisition of PharmX was "a major milestone" for the business, noting that opportunities exist in the expansion of the platform's functionality and increasing the range of direct suppliers available through the platform.

The Corum CEO also used the AGM to acknowledge the efforts of pharmacists throughout 2020.

"It has often been stated that this group of hard-working Australians is the forgotten frontline - that certainly isn't the case as far as everyone at Corum is concerned," he said.

## Organisers promise COVIDsafe APP

**ORGANISERS** of the 2021 Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP) are celebrating the Queensland State Government's move to ease COVID-19 restrictions on events.

With APP scheduled to take place at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre (GCCEC) from 20 to 23 May 2021, event Convenor and former Pharmacy Guild of Australia

National President, Kos Sclavos, said the easing of restrictions from 4pm (AEST) today would allow seated venues to increase capacity to 100%.

"The safety of our attendees is always our number one priority, and we'll continue to keep a close tab on any COVID-19 developments," he said.

"The GCCEC has a site specific COVIDsafe Plan, with is approved from the Gold Coast Health Unit."

## Guild Update

### State of the pharmacy industry report

**THE** Pharmacy Guild's Health Economics Group pulls together a regular State of the Pharmacy Industry Report.

The third report in the series is now available for Guild members on the Guild [website](#).

It is a comprehensive report that covers areas including dispensing volumes, consumption trends, retail turnover trends and program services.

The report also contains significant and useful information on electronic prescriptions, and pharmacist vaccinations, as well as COVID-19 pharmacy consumption.

In addition, it updates the numbers on continued dispensing, emergency supply and program services.

It's a great piece of work with very informative and clear data which is an invaluable tool for all pharmacy owners

This is a Member-only resource and for details of membership click [here](#).

