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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus a full page from **UTS**.

UTS certificate

UNIVERSITY of Technology, Sydney (UTS) is now offering professional development for registered pharmacists wishing to pursue a career in advanced practice.

The UTS Graduate Certificate in Advanced Practice is delivered in a flexible mode of study to suit working pharmacists, with the aim of preparing graduates with comprehensive specialised knowledge relevant to working in aged care, team care and general practice settings.

The qualification will help pharmacists "take their place as the medication expert in the healthcare team" - see **page 5**.

Guild elections to focus on NSW

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Branch Committee elections are set to begin tomorrow, with NSW the only jurisdiction where every seat is being contested.

The NSW election has seen the branch's 12-seat committee split into a dozen regions for the first time - a move that is believed to have current committee members standing against each other in at least one constituency.

As previously reported, current Guild National President, George Tambassis, has elected not to run for the Victorian Branch Committee, with Megan Kazantzis, one of three new faces who will join the committee, without a contest (**PD 29 Sep**).

A Declaration of Results for uncontested offices issued by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has revealed all incumbent branch presidents barring NSW's David Heffernan, who is running to represent the state's South Coast,



and Northern Territory Branch President, Terry Battalis, who did not renominate, will remain on their respective committees.

The Northern Territory Branch Committee is set to see the most significant change with Adrian Marshall and Peter Hatswell the only current members to stand again, with Lyn Frangos, Alexis Innes, Marcus Leong, Travis Lindsay and Darryl Stewart replacing Battalis, and Vice Presidents, Adam Bennett and Shelley Forester, and committee

members Brad Coleman and Mark George, in an uncontested process.

The ACT Branch will see one change, with Rebecca Young joining the Committee, and Ben Jackson leaving.

The AEC also revealed four changes will occur on the Tasmanian Branch Committee, with Harvey Cuthill, Martin Quinn, Terry Travers and Paul Reid being replaced by Scott Chambers, Melissa Johnson, Jason Martin and Brad Turner.

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Pharmacy faculty offers new monitor

MEDICAL tattoos could provide a new way of delivering real-time health monitoring, researchers from the University of Montreal's Faculty of Pharmacy believe.

Presenting their research at the International Pharmaceutical Federation's (FIP) Seventh Pharmaceutical Sciences World Congress yesterday, the team from the University of Montreal said the "tattoos" placed into the skin using microneedles, can deliver an agent which provides a fluorescent signal that could be measured using a portable detector for point-of-care or home-based monitoring of health conditions.

The researchers told the Congress they had developed dissolving microneedles, formulated an agent compatible for delivery using the microneedles, and could measure the rate of lymphatic drainage, an indicator of lymphoedema.

PhD student at the University's



Laboratory of Pharmaceutical Micro and Nanotechnology, Sam Babity, said further investigation with agents that react with physiological analytes in the skin, such as reactive oxygen species, which is an indicator of inflammation, was ongoing.

"The skin - the largest organ in the human body - carries a great deal of health-related information,

and microneedles could help us to access this," he said.

Babity and his colleague, Davide Brambilla, noted microneedles offer painless delivery and sampling to and from the dermal layer, and can be used to embed specifically designed diagnostic agents in the dermal layer to allow real-time monitoring of various health parameters.

Aussie C-19 tick

AUSTRALIA'S response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been "remarkably successful," according to a paper published in this week's *Medical Journal of Australia*.

The authors compared the local outcome - even considering Victoria's second wave of infections - with that in other parts of the world, noting that the Australian rate of coronavirus deaths of 33 per million population, is "15 to 20 times lower than that observed in countries across Europe and the Americas".

The study found that if a similar disease trajectory had been experienced here there would have been more than 16,000 additional deaths.

The difference was attributed to extensive testing and contact tracing, quarantine and shutdowns to control community transmission.

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Dispensary Corner

ONE small step...

NASA is currently testing a newly designed space toilet, which is the first time ablutions in orbit have been updated in several decades.

The US\$23 million titanium dunny is set to make its debut on the International Space Station but will eventually be located on the moon.

The new design is more suited to women than previously, and will also "help astronauts position themselves better for number two," according to Project Manager, Melissa McKinley, from the Johnson Space Center.

POLICE in the US state of Louisiana are searching for a gigantic chipmunk which allegedly robbed a pharmacy at gunpoint.

Surveillance video showed the armed suspect (**pictured**) wearing a chipmunk onesie running from the carpark of the Medicine Chest pharmacy after forcing a staff member to fill a bag with an "undisclosed amount of narcotic medication," according to the local *Acadiana* news channel.

The sheriff told reporters the large rodent at least had some compassion, after initially taking the victim's mobile phone but then giving back the SIM card after she told him she had pictures of her grandchildren on the device.



Tambassis a true leader

OUTGOING Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, George Tambassis, is being hailed as a "true leader and innovator" following confirmation that he is not standing in the organisation's 2020 elections (**PD** 29 Sep).

Tambassis' predecessors, as Guild National President, John Bronger (1994-2005) and Kos Sclavos (2005-2013) praised the incumbent's "outstanding contributions to the profession" in a joint statement with Queensland Branch President and National Vice President, Trent Twomey.

"George is a true leader and innovator with the ability to visualise the future for our industry, shown through his signing of both the Sixth and Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreements," Sclavos said.

Twomey noted Tambassis "has worked tirelessly to serve and support" pharmacy owners through the COVID-19 pandemic, pushing for pharmacists to be empowered "to work to their full scope to better serve the community".

"He has strived toward achieving the Guild's vision of embedding community pharmacy as a trusted and key element in Australia's primary healthcare infrastructure," Twomey said.

Guild Victorian Branch President and National Vice President, Anthony Tassone, told **Pharmacy Daily** that Tambassis "has been an inspirational, unconditionally committed and accomplished leader of the Guild and community pharmacy more broadly".



"Despite the many responsibilities, challenges and pressures that have come with the role – he has always maintained his own personable, down-to-earth and approachable nature that has helped make him not only a strong advocate and respected leader but also first and foremost an extremely passionate pharmacist," Tassone said.

"It has been an absolute honour and privilege to work with George over the years at close quarters whom I have learned a lot from and I know others would have also.

"Throughout his presidency, he has always found a way to bring a strong sense of unity and togetherness in the leadership and management of the Guild which has helped us all as a team best represent and advocate for our members.

"He has stared down significant risks and threats to our industry and our patients having successfully overseen the negotiation of two community pharmacy agreements that have helped progress and transform community pharmacy as a true primary health care provider."



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is

Gerard Stevens,
Managing
Director,
Webstercare.



A noble profession

MAYBE it was the pandemic? Whatever it was, this year's World Pharmacist Day (25 September every year) seemed to activate Australian pharmacists more than ever to celebrate their profession.

Through various media it buoyed me to read numerous accounts of pharmacists shining a light on their achievements. It filled me with pride to watch videos of pharmacists in their working environments, enthusiastically asserting their vital professional role.

I am a pharmacist and proud of it! Despite my role as founder and 'Chief Inventor' of the Webster-pak®, I continue to maintain the currency of my professional registration. I wouldn't be me if I wasn't a pharmacist!

Pharmacists are unsung heroes of the health care system. Known as the community's medication experts, they are also the backbone of healthcare in many different settings, especially when people rely on medications to maintain and optimise their health.

The pandemic has helped to reinforce this crucial role. Access to health services, even general practitioners, has been restricted and supported by the emergence of video consultations. But pharmacies have remained open and accessible throughout.

The community recognises and appreciates this. While I can appreciate professional humility, sometimes it's important not to hide your light under a bushel. Let's maintain this pride in our noble profession.

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Opioid warnings

THE UK Medicines and Healthcare Products regulatory Agency (MHRA) has mandated that additional warnings be added to patient information leaflets for opioids.

The new statements will reinforce that the medicines can cause addiction and that there can be withdrawal symptoms if people stop taking them suddenly, the MHRA said.

Win with Bayeco

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Bayeco are giving away a Bayeco Green Tea Multi action Serum worth RRP \$49.95.



This serum gives your skin instant hydration boost so that it feels and looks soft, silky and smooth. Supercharge glowing skin with Genecare OSMS, a natural active derived from silver beet. It locks in moisture and prevents water loss to plump and soften skin to give a youthful glowing look. For more click here.

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Monash pharmacy at ICUR

PHARMACY students from Victoria's Monash University took to a global stage last week, after being chosen to present their research at the 2020 International Conference for Undergraduate Research (ICUR).

The gathering was conducted online this year, as part of an ongoing collaboration between Monash University and the UK's University of Warwick which was established in 2013.

The 2020 ICUR included 13 institutions across the globe, with Monash and Warwick joined by participating universities in Barcelona, New York, Leeds, Brussels, Nanyang, British Columbia, South Africa, Paris, Slovenia and Nebraska.

This year's Monash participants are in their fourth year of the Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)/ Master of Pharmacy course, and took part in video-linked sessions or digital poster sessions.

Each ICUR spoken presentation hosted four students, each delivering a presentation on their research, followed by a five minute question time for each presenter.

Participants joined the conference virtually through a specially developed ICUR app, with Monash's Associate Professor Kirstie Galbraith, Director of Experiential



Development and Graduate Education, saying the gathering is a "fantastic opportunity for students - it provides a rigorous yet supportive forum for them to engage in global research, dialogue, discuss ideas and receive feedback from their peers.

"On behalf of the faculty I would like to congratulate the talented students who have been selected to present their work at this year's ICUR - despite the challenges 2020 has presented across the globe, these students have risen to the challenge," Galbraith said.

The Monash presentations included research on learning strategies in pharmacy, challenges relating to COVID-19 curriculum changes, a systematic review comparing yoga and physical exercise, and "unexpected reactions of N-benzimidazolyl-2-thiourea with orthoesters".

'Next generation' DAA software launch

US-LISTED Omnicell has announced the Australian debut of SureMed X, described as "the next generation in cloud-based dosage administration aid (DAA) software".

The new solution has been developed by Omnicell's Australian technology team, with

a closed loop workflow which tracks each DAA through the process of profile changes with pharmacist authorisation, screen guided packing, checking and delivery confirmation.

The platform also supports 7CPA claiming - for more information see omnicell.com.au.

Guild Update

Celebrating carers

NATIONAL Carers Week this year is 11-17 October, providing an opportunity to recognise the 2.65 million Australians who provide care and support to a family member or friend with disability, mental health condition, chronic condition, terminal illness, an alcohol or other drug issue, or who are frail aged.

Anyone at any time can become a carer and National Carers Week is an opportunity to raise community awareness among all Australians about the diversity of carers and their caring roles.

It also is a time to celebrate and acknowledge the role of unpaid carers, and to thank the invisible army of carers across Australia who have played a major role in flattening the curve of COVID-19 infections by sheltering at home and keeping vulnerable Australians safe.

National Carers Week is an initiative of Carers Australia, funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services, and coordinated with the assistance and participation of the State and Territory Carers Associations. For more details go to the National Carers Week website www.carersweek.com.au.



Move your pharmacy career in a new direction

UTS now offers professional development for registered pharmacists pursuing a career in advanced practice with the Graduate Certificate in Advanced Pharmacy Practice.

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