

## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today has three pages of the latest pharmacy news.

## Meds shortages

FROM today, the TGA will publish all medicine shortage notifications for reportable medicines on the Medicine Shortages Information Initiative (MSII) database on its website.

## CHP Australia Industry Update

### Involved in therapeutic goods advertising?

#### Are you across the changes to your compliance obligations and liabilities?

Since 1 July, therapeutic goods advertisers have had to manage their compliance obligations without the safety net of mandatory pre-approvals.

Mandatory pre-approvals helped protect advertisers from noncompliance through independent checks by Therapeutic Goods Advertising Code (TGAC) experts.

An estimated 60-70% of ads submitted for mandatory pre-approvals to CHP Australia's Advertising Services Office required some form of compliance amendment.

Anyone involved in creating and/or placing therapeutic goods ads can be held responsible and penalised for noncompliance.

Noncompliance risks not only significant fines and penalties, but also brand and reputational damage.

Use of an independent compliance service with TGAC experts can help minimise your risk of noncompliance.

To learn more or for expert advice on your advertising, visit [www.adcheck.com.au](http://www.adcheck.com.au)

## COVID vax must be free in pharmacy

FEDERAL funding needs to be allocated to enable pharmacist immunisers to administer COVID-19 vaccines to patients free of charge, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National Vice President, Anthony Tassone, believes.

Tassone told *Pharmacy Daily* it was imperative that "appropriate remuneration" be provided for pharmacist administered vaccines "so that it can be truly free for all Australians as promised by Prime Minister [Scott] Morrison".

"Whilst pharmacies are equipped and capable of being part of a COVID-19 vaccination program - for it to be truly free for all...there needs to be a remuneration mechanism for payment of the delivery and administration of the vaccine service by pharmacies," he said.



"Currently, patients have to pay out of pocket costs for a pharmacist to administer a vaccine to them.

"This must change and is a matter for the Federal Government."

At a state level, Tassone said the Guild had engaged with Victorian Health Minister, Jenny Mikakos, to ensure legislation is implemented

to allow pharmacists to provide COVID vaccines there.

"Those discussions are ongoing and have been constructive to date," he said.

"It would be our expectation that pharmacist immunisers in Victoria would be given authorisation to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to patients when it becomes available."

He added an estimated two million Australians received the flu vaccine through pharmacy this year.

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## Pharmacy earns political praise in Qld

**PRAISE** was lavished on pharmacists at the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch's annual dinner at Parliament House in Brisbane on Wed.

Both State Deputy Premier and Health Minister, Steven Miles, and Liberal National Party Leader, Deb Frecklington (pictured), voiced support for expanding pharmacists' scope of practice.

"Pharmacies have an incredibly important role to play in our community," Miles said.

"They are trusted. They are local. They are convenient."

"Queensland Health is glad to work closely with the Guild to take care of the community.

"From expanding vaccinations to emergency provisions, to the Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) Pharmacy Pilot, electronic prescriptions and medications substitution - community pharmacies are there for Queenslanders."

"We'll only be able to quickly and

safely vaccinate Queenslanders against COVID-19 with the assistance of the community pharmacy network."

Frecklington told guests at the event that pharmacists were valued health professionals who should be empowered to do more for patients in the state.

"There's a need and desire for community pharmacists to do even more as primary healthcare providers," she said.

"Thank you to all community pharmacists who continue to step up and make life easier for Queenslanders."

Queensland Guild Branch President, Trent Twomey, thanked the State Government for enacting legislation to support pharmacists in their response to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Somewhat conspicuously, statements from the event that have been released to the media made no reference to the controversial pharmacy-based



COVID-19 testing trial announced last month (PD 12 Aug).

Meanwhile, the Guild acknowledged the efforts of Branch Strategy and Policy Manager, Tim Roberts, for his role in the launch of the UTI Pharmacy Pilot, and Branch Business Support Pharmacist, Elizabeth Whitehead for coordinating the expansion of the Guild Corporate Vaccination Program.

## AZ's COVID vax trial resumes

**CLINICAL** trials of the University of Oxford's COVID-19 vaccine have resumed in the UK, less than a week after sponsor, AstraZeneca (AZ), paused the program due to an unexplained illness (PD 09 Sep).

In a statement issued over the weekend, AZ said the global Phase III trials of the vaccine had been temporarily stopped to allow independent committees and international regulators to review safety data.

"The UK committee has concluded its investigations and recommended to the Medicines Health Regulatory Authority that trials in the UK are safe to resume," AZ said.

The company added it would be guided by health authorities across the globe as to when other clinical trials of the vaccine can resume.



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## Dispensary Corner

**THE** lengths to which some people will descend for money were highlighted last week in a bizarre case where a Slovenian woman was found guilty of deliberately sawing off her own hand as part of an elaborate insurance fraud scheme.

Julija Adlesic, 22, was found to have taken out five insurance policies in the year before her bizarre injury, according to a *BBC* report.

Adlesic and her boyfriend were arrested after she presented at a Ljubljana emergency department with her arm severed above the wrist.

Initially she had claimed to have cut off the limb while trimming branches, but prosecutors later accused the conspirators of using a circular saw to do the grisly deed.

A court hearing found that the woman and her boyfriend had intentionally left the severed hand behind rather than bringing it with them to the hospital, to ensure that her disability was permanent and boost any payout.

However, emergency workers recovered the hand in time to have it successfully reattached.

Testimony during the court proceedings found Adlesic had hoped to receive more than €1 million in payouts, including a €500,000 lump sum and ongoing monthly instalments.

The conviction will see her spend two years in prison, while her boyfriend, who had researched artificial hands online in the days before the injury, was sentenced to three years.

## Aslani FIP Vice President

**UNIVERSITY** of Sydney School of Pharmacy Professor of Medicines Use Optimisation, Parisa Aslani (pictured), has been elected as one of three new Vice Presidents of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP).

Aslani's appointment followed the opening of FIP Virtual 2020 last night, which also saw Monash University's Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Dean, Professor Bill Charman, named as the winner of the Kamal K Midha Award for Exceptional Leadership.

Charman was also one of eight pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists to be made an FIP Fellow during the opening ceremony.

Responding to a Twitter post announcing her appointment as a FIP Vice President, alongside India's Manjiri Sandeep Gharat and Japan's Hiroshi Suzuki, Aslani said, "[I'm] looking forward to my new role and continued work with FIP and all Vice Presidents".

**MEANWHILE**, FIP President, Dominique Jordan, called on pharmacy organisations around the



world to continue to embrace the power of sharing and solidarity, and act as "one pharmacy" to ensure the profession emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic "bigger and better".

In his opening address Jordan said the profession needed to think ahead and use the positive recognition pharmacy has received for its efforts throughout the COVID crisis to engage with governments to enhance pharmacy practice.

He added issues around misinformation, medicines shortages and counterfeit drugs have been exacerbated during the pandemic, stressing pharmacists would need to protect the public from misuse of medicines.



## Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Judy Cheung-Wood, Inventor, Founder, Managing Director, SkinB5**



### Finding your mojo through creativity!

We humans are creative beings even though you may think you are completely lacking in this department. Throughout your day, even in isolation, you can create opportunities to express your creativity to keep your spirit and spark alive. Here are some simple ideas:

- Make some delicious and healthy **superfood bliss balls**, garnish them with organic dark chocolate, desiccated coconut, or cacao powder - document your process in a series of photos and videos and share it with friends and family. I am sure they will be delighted to see your creations!
  - Experiment with new trends, such as the edible face masks! Check out our recent **Instagram Reels** on how I created my version of an edible face mask with simple ingredients from my kitchen.
  - Start a longer-term project such as volunteering, virtual social groups to support each other, workout groups, meditation groups, these are great ways to connect with others and work together towards a common goal.
- Remember to involve your family and friends and have some shared fun and get creative together.

## Win With John Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and John Plunkett's are giving away a SuperBright Exfoliating Skin Brightener Serum worth RRP \$29.95



Overnight micro-cellular exfoliation containing salon strength glycolic acid (25%) in a buffered solution for easy at-home treatment. Reduces fine lines and surface discolouration, revealing brighter, clearer new skin without visible peeling. Lactokine protects against potential inflammation and Aloe Vera soothes and hydrates. For more information click [HERE](#).

**Q: What is the percentage of Glycolic Acid in Exfoliating Skin Brightener Serum?**

To win be the first to send the correct answer to [comp@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:comp@pharmacydaily.com.au)