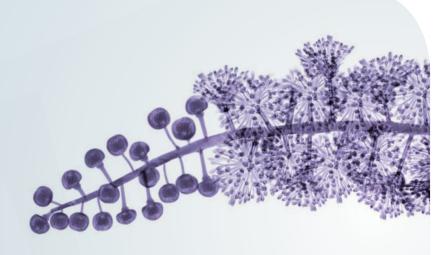


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Tue 22nd Sep 2020



Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, a front cover page from Flordis, plus a full page from Eze Allergy.

Treating PMS

INTEGRATIVE medicine specialist, Flordis, is offering pharmacists a range of "clinically researched" products to treat the symptoms of PMS and menopause.

See **cover wrap** for more.

Sneeze Eze

WITH hay fever season upon us, Eze Allergy is offering 12 hours relief from symptoms including sneezing, runny, itchy and blocked nose, with one spray.

For more see **page four**.

ASL entirely optional for patients

PATIENTS will retain control over who can see medications on their Active Script List (ASL) when the next phase of electronic-prescriptions is rolled out, Fred IT Group e-health General Manager, David Freemantle says.

Responding to patient privacy concerns flagged by Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Expert Committee of Practice Technology and Management Chair, Dr Rob Hosking, Freemantle told *Pharmacy Daily* the ASL will be "entirely optional for patients".

Hosking expressed concerns that the ASL would allow pharmacists to see all scripts including ones that patients may have had dispensed at another pharmacy.

However, Freemantle said provisions have been made to ensure patients retain control over who has access to the ASL.

"As part of the sign up process, patients are given clear terms and

conditions that cover privacy and disclosure of data," he said.

"Patients are also required to actively consent to have an ASL created and shared with their chosen health professionals.

"If they opt in to the ASL, patients can then choose which prescribers and pharmacies they want to share their ASL content with.

"Vendors are also providing the ability for prescribers and pharmacists, on the request of their patients, to stop individual items being sent to the ASL.

"Privacy and security are front of mind in all aspects of the design, which is being developed by more than 40 participating industry organisations and overseen by the Federal Department of Health and the Australian Digital Health Agency."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National President, Dr Chris Freeman, also backed the introduction of the ASL model for



e-scripts in addition to the token system, which has been rolled out in recent months.

"PSA supports electronic prescribing through both the token and active script list models," he said.

"The rollout of the active script list is vital with token based prescribing to enable choice, control and flexibility to patients.

"Pharmacists have demonstrated they are progressive in clinical practice through digital adoption and PSA is working with the government on pharmacy workflow and consenting arrangements."



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FIP launches Development Goals

DEVELOPMENT goals set out by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) are set to deliver a road map for the future of pharmacy around the globe for the next decade.

Launching the new FIP Development Goals last night. FIP President, Dominique Jordan, described the document as a GPS for the pharmacy profession.

Featuring 21 goals covering areas including sustainability in pharmacy, antimicrobial stewardship, leadership development, equity and equality and people-centred care, FIP's goals aim to provide a systematic and integrated framework to guide development globally, regionally and locally across science, practice and workforce development.

"[This] GPS has to guide all of us on our journey to the future," he said.

"This GPS should also unify under the same goals all the pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, educators and regulators in what they have to do.

"They will contribute to delivering universal health coverage for the benefits of our health systems and our populations.



"It's the beginning of a journey, and I'm so happy to see so many pharmacists want to be part of this journey.

"This is exactly the role of FIP... all together we have to shape the pharmacy of tomorrow, and with these goals we have a starting point that everybody will have a role to play in delivering."

The new goals build on the FIP Pharmaceutical Workforce Development Goals, launched in Nov 2016, FIP CEO, Dr Catherine Duggan said.

"We believe it is imperative to bring science, practice, workforce and education together into one transformative framework for our members and the wider profession to clearly set out goals for the development [of pharmacy] over the next decade," she said.

"We believe we cannot have pharmaceutical care without a pharmaceutical workforce, and we can have no pharmaceutical care without a scientific foundation for the decade ahead."

Speaking at the launch of the FIP Development Goals, former Pharmacy Guild of Australia National Vice President, Paul Sinclair, said they would support national pharmacy organisations to "transform pharmacy practice and services based on their needs and priorities", over the coming years.

New PSA Fellows

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has marked World Pharmacists' Week (18 to 25 Sep) with the announcement of three new Fellows, for their contribution to the profession.

PSA Western Australian Branch President, Dr Tim Fei Sim, and NSW duo, Luke Kelly and Patricia Payne, were recognised as Fellows, "having achieved a significant advancement in the practice of pharmacy over an extended period of time".

Announcing the new Fellows, PSA National President, Dr Chris Freeman, said "all three of these pharmacists have displayed a significant contribution to the profession and are worthy of being elevated to the status of Fellow of the PSA".

In 2019, seven PSA members, Tim Perry, Professor Rebekah Moles, Phil Dibben, Karen Carter, Dr Claire O'Reilly, Bill Suen and PSA National Vice President, Michelle Lynch, were named as PSA Fellows at PSA19 Conference in Sydney.





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Dispensary Corner

SHADY Spring, West Virginia, pharmacist, Natalie Cochran, has proven herself to be somewhat shady herself, falling foul of the law.

The 39-year-old shady lady pleaded guilty to multiple charges of money laundering and wire fraud yesterday.

A US District Court heard Cochran and her late husband had conned friends and family into investing in two companies, Tactical Solutions Group and Technology Management Solutions between Jun 2017 and Aug 2019, claiming they were involved in government contracts - which it transpired they were not.

Cochran faces up to 11 years behind bars for her role in the deception, and has agreed to pay US\$2.6 million in restitution to the victims of the fraud.

She will also forfeit items she purchased with her ill-gotten gains, including a 1965 Shelby Cobra, a number of other vehicles, jewellery and \$45,000 from her business' bank account.

US Attorney, Mike Stuart, described the plea as "a great deal for the taxpayers", noting he would not have agreed to it if it had not delivered significant restitution for the victims.

"Eleven years and three months is a pretty sizable period of time," he said.

"Then you look at the waiving of her right of appeal, you look at the forfeiture accounts, then the \$2.6 million restitution, it's pretty significant. We drove a hard bargain."

Trust science on vaping

FEDERAL Government policymakers need to embrace science over ideology when it comes to delivering access to smoke-free alternatives to cigarettes, tobacco giant Philip Morris International (PMI) claims.

Launching its 'In Support of the Primacy of Science' white paper, PMI criticised the Government's moves to ban the importation of electronic cigarettes containing vaporiser nicotine from 01 Jun 2021 (*PD* 29 Jun).

"This is despite numerous studies showing that scientifically substantiated smoke-free products that do not generate smoke, while not risk-free, are a much better alternative for adult smokers who do not quit cigarettes," the company said.

"The Australian Government's stance on smoke-free products is increasingly at odds with other countries, including the UK, US, New Zealand and in the European Union, where smoke-free alternatives like e-cigarettes and heated tobacco devices are regulated and legal.



"While the best thing a smoker can do is quit tobacco and nicotine altogether, the reality is that many adult smokers in Australia will continue to smoke cigarettes - one of the most harmful ways to consume nicotine - unless the Government rethinks its tobacco control policy.

"It's time for the policymakers, regulators and health authorities to look at the science and support common sense, science-based regulations for smoke-free alternatives that can help smokers leave cigarettes behind."

R Guild Update

World Pharmacists Day

IN THE lead up to World Pharmacists Day this Friday 25 Sep, the World Pharmacy Council (WPC) will release a report on the role of community pharmacies during the COVID-19 crisis, the incredible service that has been provided to patients, and the steps that need to be taken to deal even more effectively with future pandemics.

The report will draw on the pharmacy experience in the eight WPC countries – Australia, New Zealand, the USA, the UK, Ireland, Denmark, Spain and Portugal. It promises to be a valuable advocacy resource in highlighting the importance of maintaining a viable, well-distributed, highly accessible network of community pharmacies, with staff enabled to operate at their full scope of professional expertise.

The demands on community pharmacy staff and resources have been immense during this time - changing workflows, patient education demands, logistical and supply chain disruptions, massive spikes in demand, PPE, accelerated uptake of new technologies - all of this and more had to be dealt with safely and professionally, in a high stress workplace.

Throughout the crisis, there has been growing recognition of pharmacy's role in public health, in the management of chronic conditions and common ailments, as local health hubs and triage points, and as an essential pillar of a collaborative, frontline primary health care workforce.

Arronis nominated as a 'Pharmacy Hero'

UNWAVERING commitment and dedication to her local community during the COVID-19 pandemic has seen Discount Drug Stores' Illawong Pharmacy Manager, Connie Arronis, be nominated as the 2020 Community Pharmacy Hero.

Arronis's efforts have also seen her honoured in *News Corp's* 'Thanks a Million' campaign (*PD* 10 Aug).

"I'm so grateful for all the kind words and recognition and as an essential worker, I'm honoured to look after my community," she said.

Discount Drug Stores Head, Patrick Stoll, said the whole company was proud of the recognition Arronis has received.

"Connie is an excellent example of how pharmacists provide care for their community on a daily basis and I congratulate her on this much-deserved nomination and recognition," he said.

"We are extremely proud of Connie, and all of our pharmacists and their teams."

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EDITORIAL



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