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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

Twomey titled

PHARMACY Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, has officially been awarded the full academic title of Professor in the Division of Tropical Health and Medicine, by James Cook University.

Twomey had previously held an adjunct professorship at the University's School of Dentistry and Medicine, a title generally reserved for on-campus use.

The University said the decision to award Twomey with the title was "a recognition of the vital contributions that you and many other colleagues have made, and continue to make to the success of James Cook University".

Pollies commit to ownership rules

FEDERAL politicians are reaffirming their commitment to maintaining the status quo when it comes to pharmacy ownership, following Woolworth's bid to acquire Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API).

Both Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, and Shadow Health Minister, Mark Butler, have written to the Pharmacy Guild of Australia to stress their support for the Pharmacy Location and Ownership Rules, and welcomed the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC's) commitment to review the proposed deal.

"The Coalition Government remains committed to the existing ownership rules, which are governed at State and Territory level, which ensure that community pharmacies continue to be owned by community pharmacists," Hunt said.

"Recent events including bushfires, floods and the COVID-19

pandemic have demonstrated the need to ensure that governments work to ensure that community pharmacy continues to be a central pillar of the healthcare ecosystem.

"In this context we welcome the necessary scrutiny, from the appropriate regulatory and competition authorities, of the proposed acquisition of API by Woolworths to ensure it does not negatively impact competitiveness in the sector.

"My office has also reconfirmed these commitments to Woolworths."

Butler told the Guild that the Australian Labor Party was pleased that the ACCC was undertaking its "rightful role in performing due diligence on this proposed acquisition".

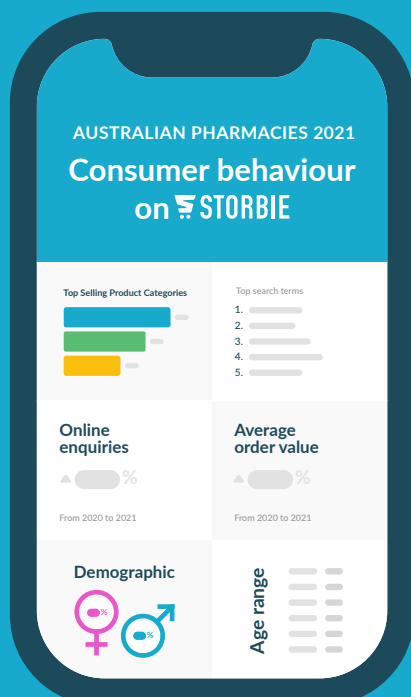
"As the crucial role of pharmacy through the pandemic has made clear, pharmacy is not and should not be seen as part of the broader retail sector akin to supermarkets, department stores and others,"



he said.

"Labor remains committed to existing rules governing pharmacy location and ownership as reflected in the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement and related legislation, including at a State level.

"This includes continued support of the long-standing bipartisan position that pharmacies be owned by pharmacists."



COMMUNITY PHARMACY AUSTRALIA 2021

Consumer behaviour on Storbie Pharmacy Websites

We've collated the data, sliced and diced it, and here's what we learned about how consumers are interacting with pharmacies online.

[Download infographic](#)

storbie.com/2021-year-in-review

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Heavyweights top NSW council poll

COMMUNITY pharmacy in NSW will have a greater voice on the Pharmacy Council of NSW, with five proprietors being elected to the regulator following last week's ballot.

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National Board Director, Caroline Diamantis, topped the poll with 919 votes, in her third electoral contest in the last 13 months, having lost out in her bid to retain her seat on the Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch Committee last Nov (*PD* 13 Nov 2020), before being elected to the PSA NSW Branch Committee (*PD* 14 May).

Diamantis's PSA colleague, and former Guild National President, John Bronger, took the second of five seats on the Council with 865 votes.

Guild NSW Branch Committee representative, Rick Samimi, who was appointed to the Council as a pharmacist practitioner member in Feb secured third place, with the



backing of 860 ballots, followed by Priceline Pharmacy Menai owner, Quinn On, who secured the support of 791 pharmacists.

TerryWhite Chemmart Orange proprietor, Kate Gray, claimed the final seat, with 593 votes, ahead of Discount Drug Store Picton Managing Director, Nadim Assaf, who earned 567 ballots.

Results from the NSW Electoral

Commission showed there was voter turnout was just under 18%.

Of the five pharmacist members who were on the Council prior to the election, Samimi was the only one to be returned, with Dr Erica Sainsbury and Mike Anderson not contesting the election.

However, Majella Hill and Marina Holt missed out by 52 and 63 votes respectively.

TGA flags vaping safety concerns

DANGEROUS and prohibited ingredients were found in two-thirds of nicotine vaping products seized from three Canberra-based businesses in Oct, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) revealed.

The operation targeting prohibited sales of nicotine vaping products, conducted by the TGA and ACT Health, confiscated "a large number" of devices, with two out of every three not labelled as containing nicotine.

Tests on the devices found two-thirds contained one or more of eight ingredients that have been prohibited by law in nicotine vaping products, as they pose known health risks when inhaled.

The TGA noted that further information on the businesses involved cannot be made public at this stage.

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Travel & Cruise Weekly

Moderna booster gets TGA approval

COMMUNITY pharmacies are set to roll out Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine (Spikevax) as a booster in the coming weeks, once the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) grants final approval for its use.

The use of the Moderna shot as a booster moved a step closer yesterday, after the Therapeutic Goods Administration provisionally approved it.

Under the TGA approval individuals aged 18 years and older will be eligible to receive a Moderna booster dose at least six months after receiving the second dose of the primary vaccine series.

The TGA noted that the primary series can be of any of the COVID-19 vaccines registered in Australia, however it noted that "data on the use of Spikevax as a booster with other COVID-19 vaccines is more limited".

Welcoming the TGA's decision, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, said it would give patients an additional option when it came to getting a COVID-19 booster.

"The reality is, as the only healthcare professionals with access to Moderna until recently,



the vast majority of Moderna COVID-19 vaccines administered was done so by a community pharmacist," he said.

"Once approved by ATAGI, eligible Australians can return to their community pharmacist for their Moderna booster.

"Already, community pharmacists have been participating in the Pfizer booster program, and we are eager to expand our booster program to include Moderna as well.

"As Australia heads towards the holiday season, with borders reopening and people travelling, it is so important those who are yet to be vaccinated, get vaccinated, and those who need a booster get their booster to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

"Vaccination is the single most effective way to protect yourself and your family over the Christmas period, and you can receive your vaccine in a community pharmacy, near where you live."

Speaking during last night's Guild Update webinar, Twomey noted that more than 1,800 pharmacies were already participating in the Pfizer-BioNTech booster program, a number he said was increasing by 100 to 150 stores a week.

With the festive period just over two weeks away, Twomey also advised pharmacy owners to ensure they have orders for COVID-19 vaccine stock in by close of business on Fri 17 Dec, if they want to receive supplies before 07 Jan 2022.



Dispensary Corner

OFF-LABEL use of medical products can be controversial, particularly when they are being used for conditions that seem a long way from their traditional uses.

One example of such an unusual use of a treatment appeared in US-based publication, *The Spokesman-Review*, when a woman outlined her unorthodox application of Vicks VapoRub.

Writing to the publication's healthcare agony aunts, the woman explained that at 13 weeks pregnant she had suffered a bout of constipation, followed by a sudden free-flowing release, which led to a "super uncomfortable hemorrhoid".

The woman explained that two over-the-counter treatments failed to deliver any relief, but when her father suggested the decongestant rub could soothe her behind, she was pleasantly surprised by its effects.

Responding to the commentary, the paper's health experts noted that while some people found the ointment provided hemorrhoid relief, "others, however, have complained that it produces a feeling of spontaneous combustion in the nether region".

"One reader described his butt discomfort in this way: 'Mayday, tail on fire,'" they said.

"As a result of such comments, we have discouraged the use of Vicks on that area of the anatomy."

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Wizard, APOD partnership

WIZARD Pharmacy and Australian Partners of Defence (APOD) have announced their partnership which will see APOD members save 5% on their pharmacy essentials when they shop in-store and online.

The discount will not be available for Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme prescriptions.