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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news plus the **MIMS October update**.

Guild welcomes new Qld CHO

QUEENSLAND Pharmacy Guild Branch President, Chris Owen, has welcomed the appointment of Dr Krispin Hajkowicz as the state's new Chief Health Officer.

Hajkowicz, who was most recently Director of Infectious Disease at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, will replace Dr Jeannette Young who becomes Queensland Governor on 01 Nov.

Owen said the appointment meant Qld would "continue to benefit from having excellent leadership advising the state into the next stages of the COVID-19 pandemic".

Wesfarmers tightens grip on API

THE takeover battle for Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API) ratcheted to a new level this morning, with confirmation that suitor Wesfarmers has formally acquired a 19.3% stake in the firm.

The purchase followed a previous agreement with API major shareholder Washington H. Soul Pattinson and Company Limited (WHSP), entered into just before Wesfarmers announced its plans for the company (**PD** 12 Jul).

After being initially rebuffed, Wesfarmers has since increased its offer (**PD** 16 Sep), and then rival wholesaler Sigma Healthcare Limited entered the API fray with its own bid (**TD** 27 Sep).

Today Wesfarmers has significantly upped the ante, saying it "remains committed to pursuing its proposal to acquire 100 per cent of the shares in API by way of a scheme of arrangement for cash consideration of \$1.55 per share".

Wesfarmers is progressing with



due diligence investigations in support of its proposal.

The exercise of the option for the 19.3% stake was priced at \$1.38 per share, with Wesfarmers required to make further payments to WHSP such that it receives total consideration per share equivalent to that paid under any successful Wesfarmers acquisition of API.

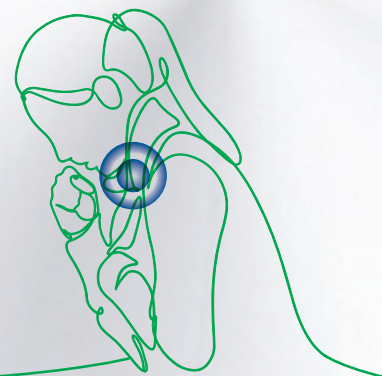
Wesfarmers noted Sigma's proposed bid for API, saying it is "of the view that the Wesfarmers proposal is superior to the Sigma

proposal and is in the best interest of API shareholders".

The company confirmed that given its new status as a major shareholder in API, it would not be voting its 19.3% stake in favour of the Sigma bid.

"Wesfarmers continues to see opportunities to invest in and strengthen the competitive position of API and its community pharmacy partners," said Wesfarmers MD Rob Scott in a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange.

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www.apohealth.com.au

SHPA seeks ACT hospital pharmacist boost

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has welcomed \$500 million in healthcare investment in the newly released 2021/22 ACT budget, including an expansion of Canberra Hospital (**pictured**) which SHPA says must in turn see the deployment of additional hospital pharmacists.

Territory Chief Minister Andrew Barr announced additional funding to boost the hospital's Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Department "to meet the capacity and needs of Canberrans during the COVID-19 pandemic".

SHPA CEO Kristin Michaels said commensurate funding for hospital pharmacy was required "to ensure excellent patient services keep up with expanded buildings, beds and infrastructure".

"Growing hospital services must mean more hospital pharmacists, if we are to ensure medicines use and medicines supply is undertaken safely for acutely unwell Canberrans," she said.



"Today, hospital pharmacists are key to the access to and supply of critical medicines from the National Medical Stockpile, remdesivir and sotrovimab, to treat hospitalised COVID-19 patients."

Michaels also noted the key role pharmacists had already played in the rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations in the ACT, with almost 50% of doses delivered through Territory-run clinics where hospital pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are integral to operations.

"Their expertise will remain crucial as essential COVID-19 health initiatives continue, with the ongoing vaccination program complemented by the Health Emergency Control Centre, quarantine and compliance activities, and hospital and testing services," she said.

"We will see this across the country: the unique expertise of the hospital pharmacy profession will play an indispensable role as Australia meets the challenge of living with COVID-19."

MA receives tick

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has granted interim authorisation for Medicines Australia (MA) and the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) to "implement a coordinated strategy in relation to the supply of essential medicines and related supplies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic".

A current authorisation for the anti-competitive conduct expired on 30 Sep, with the ACCC providing an interim renewal on the condition that the MA/GBMA Working Group provide monthly reports of any discussions, which will be published on the ACCC website.

Submissions in relation to a final decision are being sought by the ACCC, with a deadline of 22 Oct and a proposed final determination in Feb next year.

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Rego renewal CPD requirements relaxed

THE Pharmacy Board of Australia will not take action against pharmacists who have not been able to complete their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) obligations for the 2020/21 registration period "due to the exceptional circumstances of COVID-19".

In an update about registration renewals yesterday, the Board noted that it still expects practitioners to make reasonable efforts to complete required CPD.

"However, we understand that some pharmacists may have had trouble fully meeting CPD, particularly any face-to-face requirements, due to the impacts of COVID-19," the Board said.

Pharmacists who have not completed their CPD should declare on their renewal of general

registration that they have not met the required standard.

"Given the importance of CPD and the increasing availability of flexible and COVID-safe CPD options, you will be expected to fully meet CPD requirements in future and when renewing in 2022.

"If you have not met the CPD requirements due to the impacts of COVID-19, you should update your CPD plan to explain how you will address any resulting learning needs, such as any face-to-face or interactive requirements, in the next registration period.

"The Board expects you to access any such training requirements as soon as you are able, e.g. by scheduling face-to-face requirements when available," the Pharmacy Board update said.

Pharmacists now have until 30

Nov to renew their general or non-practising registration, with emails giving access to an online renewal facility heading to inboxes now.

Changes for 2021 include questions asking if pharmacists identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, as part of cultural safety initiatives.

Renewal can now only be undertaken online, with AHPRA saying more than 99% of health practitioners already use the web-based platform.

Renewal fees can be paid by credit or debit card, and BPay facilities are no longer available.

Pharmacists renewing will also be asked to declare that if they are advertising health services, any promotional activities comply with the requirements prescribed in the National Law.

"This is part of a risk-based approach to enforcing the National Law's advertising requirements and compliance by registered health practitioners who advertise their services," with proactive advertising audits already in progress.

Online renewal for pharmacist registration for the current period is now live at ahpra.gov.au.



Dispensary Corner

PHARMACISTS need to be very careful of what they "like" on social media, based on the experience of a Dublin practitioner who is facing allegations of professional misconduct in a case brought by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI).

Pharmacist Janet Dillon claims to be the victim of a politically motivated "show trial to brand me an anti-vaxxer", according to a report in *The Independent*, with claims she shared a video from an anti-HPV vaccination group and then "liked" a comment using her personal Facebook account.

In a hearing this week counsel for the PSI said liking the comment from an online user who said they wouldn't be giving the vaccine to her daughter was "infamous or disgraceful in a professional respect".

Dillon didn't attend the enquiry, but in a written statement claimed an earlier offer not to publicly comment on vaccine policies had been rejected because the Society "wanted a political show trial with the opportunity to publicly humiliate me through the mass media and virtue-signal on behalf of the PSI its unquestioning obedience to State vaccine policy".

She said she was unable to be at the hearing because she couldn't get a locum, and her barrister was also not available to attend until Jan next year.

The case continues, with further testimony next week.

A REALLY SERIOUS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

What we believe is a genuine business opportunity for WA's doctors or even pharmacists that would significantly enhance earning capacity.

It would involve a commitment to spending a small proportion of the working week performing cosmetic injections in your own WA Health Department compliant skin care clinic. The clinic alone will make you a substantial profit and add to that the potential to easily double that return with a professional injecting service. Or a lot more income depending on the time committed to the clinic.

Interested? Then please read on:

The clinic is the number one ranked skin care franchise in Australia and has been operating for over 22 years in the same location by the incumbent owners. This financial year turnover will be in excess of \$1.5m. With a massive client base the chance to build a highly successful cosmetic injecting service awaits. We currently offer an injecting service using a contract nurse but hardly scratch the surface of the clinic's potential. This business would work particularly well if the practitioner has a partner that could oversee/manage the day-to-day clinic operations or perhaps leave it under the current management structure.

More specific information about the clinic business can be found at: <https://www.seekbusiness.com.au/business-listing/view/557610>

Asking \$230,000 plus stock which is priced well under the market valuation for this industry.

Email gary@ellaexpress.com.au in strict confidence for further information.



FIP digital health

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has released a Statement of Policy on Digital Health, noting that "the pharmacy profession has an extensive history of embracing digital technologies across all levels of pharmaceutical care services".

FIP is urging governments across the globe to engage with pharmacists in the digital transformation of healthcare delivery - see fip.org.

New Products

- **Lemborexant (Dayvigo)** is a competitive antagonist of both orexin receptors, OX1R and OX2R, with a higher affinity for OX2R. The orexin neuropeptide signalling system is a central promoter of wakefulness. Blocking the binding of wake-promoting neuropeptides orexin A and orexin B to receptors OX1R and OX2R is thought to suppress wake drive. Dayvigo is indicated for the treatment of insomnia, characterised by difficulties with sleep onset and/or sleep maintenance in accordance with latest Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) criteria. It is contraindicated in patients with narcolepsy. Dayvigo tablets contain lemborexant 5 mg or 10 mg and are available in a pack size of 28.
- **Sotrovimab (Xevudy)** is an engineered human IgG1 monoclonal antibody (mAb) that binds to a highly conserved epitope on the spike protein receptor binding domain of SARS-CoV-2 with high affinity (dissociation constant $K_d = 31$ ng/mL). The Fc domain of sotrovimab includes M428L and N434S amino acid substitutions (LS modification) that extends antibody elimination half-life, but does not impact wild-type Fc-mediated effector functions when compared with the original mAb with LS modification (S309+LS) in cell culture. Xevudy has provisional approval for the treatment of adults and adolescents ≥ 12 years weighing ≥ 40 kg with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) who do not require initiation of oxygen due to COVID-19 and who are at increased risk of progression to hospitalisation or death. Xevudy concentrate for infusion contains sotrovimab 500 mg/8 mL and is available in pack size of 1 vial.

New Presentation

- **Pertussis vaccine-acellular combined with diphtheria and tetanus toxoids (adsorbed) (Adacel)** is now available as a suspension for injection containing pertussis toxoid 2.5 mcg, pertussis filamentous haemagglutinin 5 mcg, pertussis fimbriae (types 2 and 3) 5 mcg, pertussis pertactin 3 mcg, diphtheria toxoid ≥ 2 IU (2 LfU), tetanus toxoid ≥ 20 IU (5 LfU) in a pack size of 1 or 10 prefilled syringes.

New Indications

- **Dupilumab (rch) (Dupixent)** is now indicated for the treatment of severe atopic dermatitis in children 6-11 years of old who are candidates for chronic systemic therapy. It is not intended for episodic use. Dupixent is also now indicated as an add-on maintenance treatment in adults with inadequately controlled chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyposis.
- **Elasomeran (Spikevax COVID-19 Vaccine)** now has provisional approval for the active immunisation of individuals ≥ 12 years to prevent COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2.
- **Triptorelin (embonate) (Diphereline)** is now indicated for the treatment of children ≥ 2 years with central precocious puberty (22.5 mg 6 month formulation only).

New Contraindications

- **Fluticasone propionate/salmeterol (xinafoate) (Pavtide, Seretide Accuhaler)** and **salmeterol (xinafoate) (Serevent Accuhaler)** are now contraindicated in patients with severe milk protein allergy.
- **Naproxen (Phebra Naproxen Suspension)** is now contraindicated during the third trimester of pregnancy.
- **Obeticholic acid (Ocaliva)** is now contraindicated in patients with decompensated cirrhosis (e.g. Child-Pugh Class B or C) or a prior decompensation event.
- **Triptorelin (embonate) (Diphereline)** is now contraindicated in pregnancy and during lactation.

*This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month.
Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.*