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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news plus a full page from TerryWhite Chemmart.

Service focused

TERRYWHITE Chemmart is highlighting its focus on providing hands-on support to franchisees to deliver health services - including vaccinations - to their customers.

See **page four** for more.

Pharmacies urged to join COVAX push

AUSTRALIAN community pharmacies that have yet to join the national COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) rollout are being urged to register to participate to demonstrate the sector's capacity.

Speaking during a webinar on Wed night, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, noted 3,730 pharmacies have registered with the Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) to date, with a further 40 waiting to be on-boarded.

"I'd love to hit that 4,000



[pharmacies participating] mark by the end of the calendar year," he said.

"The reason for that isn't just to round it out nicely... we really do, as a profession, need to have the broadest level of access as we move into the booster program."

Twomey noted that community pharmacies have administered more than 1.3 million doses of COVAX to date.

"That's a combination of AstraZeneca - nearly 930,000 doses - and Moderna - at just a tick over 4,000," he said.

"The Guild's modelling had that

we will most definitely hit at least one million vaccines of each of these two variants.

"So keep up the good work."

MEANWHILE, Twomey also highlighted the successful launch of the Far North Queensland COVID-19 School Vaccination Program.

He added that pharmacies can access federal funding to provide similar COVAX outreach services.

However, he noted that all jurisdictions, excluding Tasmania had implemented legislation to authorise pharmacies to conduct such services.

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Pharmacy key to tackling vax hesitancy

PHARMACISTS have a crucial role to play in supporting patients to overcome vaccine hesitancy and avail of immunisation services, International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) President, Dominique Jordan, believes.

Addressing the issue of hesitancy in FIP's *Building vaccine confidence and communicating vaccine value: A toolkit for pharmacists*, Jordan noted that vaccine hesitancy is one of the "top 10 threats to global health".

"This publication will address

common reasons why patients are hesitant to receive vaccines, essential vaccine knowledge that pharmacists should possess, communication approaches pharmacists can take to address a hesitant patient and strategies for developing successful pharmacy-led immunisation campaigns," he said.

"This will support the profession in ways to tackle vaccine hesitancy through understanding the factors that impact hesitancy, and support the increased uptake."



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Sigma prepares for home RAT rush

SIGMA Healthcare has announced that community pharmacies can now place orders for at-home COVID-19 rapid antigen test kits (RATs).

In a statement issued this morning, the wholesaler said manufacturing of its preferred nasal swab test, Right Sign RAT, was underway, and would be "one of the first to market with at-home testing kits from 01 Nov".

Sigma's Chief Pharmacist, Brinley Hosking, said the kit was approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) last week, and had a proven accuracy rate of 97%.

"We're really pleased to be able to offer pre-orders to our network of Sigma customers for Rapid Antigen Testing Kits this week, with the aim for stock to reach our customers as soon as possible," Hosking said.

"As part of our advanced approach to offering at-home testing kits, our COVID Working

Group has been working across the network so that teams on the ground are as prepared as possible to inform their customers about the testing kits.

"The tests themselves are very easy to use and come with an instruction sheet and video to assist people in using them correctly at home.

"Our community pharmacists have already played a huge role in the fight against COVID-19, and the arrival of rapid antigen testing serves as another important milestone for pharmacy in supporting Australians with greater protection and peace of mind as states and territories continue to ease restrictions."

MEANWHILE, speaking in the House of Representatives yesterday, Australian Labor Party MP, Susan Templeman, called on the Federal Government to take steps to support the use of at-home RATs.



"While self-testing kits are allowed from 01 Nov, they're not on Medicare and there's no information or education campaign happening about how these kits can help build confidence in people, with a pretty reliable result to say whether or not they're COVID positive," she said.

"They show up a high viral load, they're as easy as a pregnancy test and they should be made available to people either free or subsidised."

"The Morrison Government needs to step up and lead so that we can effectively use this tool to help us get out and stay out of lockdowns."

MDR extends Walmart deal

AUSTRALIAN medication management platform, MedAdvisor (MDR) has announced its US subsidiary, Adheris, has executed an enhanced agreement with pharmacy chain, Walmart.

Under the new deal, MDR will provide its full suite of medication adherence solutions to Walmart customers, across digital, in-store and direct mail platforms, while the pharmacy group will participate in "dynamic engagement" adding further scale to the MDR US network.

MDR CEO, Robert Read, said "Through our collaboration with Walmart, we are excited to expand our opportunity to help patients become more adherent and, as a result, have better health outcomes."



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NOMINATE NOW

NT's Hutson joins PATY Hall of Fame

NORTHERN Territory-based pharmacy assistant (PA), Ashleigh Hutson (**pictured**), was named as the 2021 Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic PA of the Year, last night.

Hutson, from Bardens Amcal Pharmacy in Darwin, became the second successive Territorian to claim the title after yesterday's national workshop - which was conducted online due to COVID-19 restrictions - following Benjamin King's win in 2020.

Congratulating Hutson, Guild National President, Trent Twomey, said that she "should be very proud of this achievement".

"Ashleigh was chosen amongst a very competitive field of candidates, and there were many talented applicants this year for PATY from across Australia," he said.

"This year's award is also significant as it is being awarded against the backdrop of COVID-19, which has seen outstanding efforts within pharmacy across Australia -

to win this award within this context is even more extraordinary."

As the PATY winner, Hutson has secured a \$5,000 cash prize, alongside a customised training package, and registration, flights and accommodation to attend both the 2022 Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference and next year's PA National Conference.

Hutson described winning the title as a significant milestone in her career.

"This is amazing. I can't tell you how proud I am to have won this," she said.

"It's been amazing meeting all of you [state finalists]."

"I am so passionate about this career, it's just an honour to be awarded this title."

MEANWHILE, Queensland-based PA, Donna Williamson, from Redland Bay Discount Drug Store was named as the 2021 National Glucojel Super Star Award winner during last night's online presentation.

The Super Star title recognises



outstanding customer service amongst the top PATY state finalists.

After two COVID-19-induced cancellations of the PA National Conference in 2020 and 2021, the Guild has announced that next year's event will take place in-person on 28 and 29 Oct 2022, in Brisbane.

Guild Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen, has previously said the organisation was looking forward to hosting a "bigger and better" event in 2022.



Dispensary Corner

WITH COVID-19 shaking up the lives of people around the world, one US-based pharmacist has used his professional skills to land a second job.

Attracted to the profession by compounding, Virginian, James Gibson, decided to get away from workplace stresses during lockdowns to become a licenced bartender and mixologist.

With bars up and running again in his hometown of Tazewell, Gibson has taken advantage of his new accreditation to work at Coaltown Taps, where he has introduced a series of new cocktails to the menu.

Bar owner, Blake Ray, described Gibson as "a pharmacist by trade, mixologist by passion", noting his new drinks were a hit with locals.

"I am so thrilled to offer our clients another option for robust flavours and look forward to the creations that James develops on our signature cocktail list," Ray said.



Win with Cheeki

Cheeki and Pharmacy Daily are this week giving away a 350 mL insulated coffee mug each day.

Cheeki's insulated coffee mugs are 100% leakproof, easy to clean and keep coffee seriously hot for up to 8 hours which makes them ideal for the coffee lovers who like to sip on-the-go.

[Click here for more information.](#)



Is the Cheeki Coffee mug a winner of the 2020 Australian Non-Toxic Awards?

To win, be the first person to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Sigma names GC

SIGMA Healthcare has appointed Kara McGowan as its new Company Secretary and General Council (GC).

The appointment, which came into effect yesterday will see McGowan, succeed Peter Patterson, who has been Acting Company Secretary since 01 Jul.

McGowan brings more than a decade's worth of experience as a company secretary to the role, and Bachelor of Law, Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Business and Business Economics qualifications.

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