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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

### ACP's respiratory health training

THE Australasian College of Pharmacy and Pharmeducation are teaming up to deliver a respiratory health masterclass in Brisbane on 24 Oct.

The face-to-face pharmacist-only event will provide participants with the skills to identify sub-optimal control of chronic respiratory conditions, as well as how to show patients the correct way to use inhalers and other devices.

ACP CEO, Dr Dimitri Kopanakis, said the masterclass was designed to help pharmacists integrate current evidence and guidelines.

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## Sigma could sink Wesfarmers' API bid

PHARMACY wholesaler, Sigma Healthcare, is joining the race to acquire its rival, Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API) with a \$794.9 million bid (PD breaking news).

The move comes just over two-and-a-half years after Sigma's Board shot down a proposal from API, and could scupper retail conglomerate, Wesfarmers' \$1.55 a share cash bid for the company (PD 16 Sep).

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) this morning, API's Board voiced support for Sigma's cash plus scrip offer (worth \$1.57 per share), noting it was "reasonably capable of being valued and completed and would be likely to be – if completed substantially in accordance with its terms – more favourable to the shareholders of API as a whole than the latest proposal provided by Wesfarmers... notwithstanding that it would likely take an overall longer period of time to implement".

"On this basis, the Board

believes it is in the interests of API shareholders to progress the Sigma Indicative Proposal and allow Sigma to undertake confirmatory due diligence to facilitate a binding offer in parallel with the confirmatory due diligence being offered to Wesfarmers," the API Board said.

The Sigma offer (of \$0.35 in cash and 2.05 Sigma shares for each API share) would give API shareholders a 48.8% stake in the merged business.

The API statement also noted that the proposal was subject to a number of conditions including, the completion of satisfactory confirmatory due diligence by Sigma, regulatory approval from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission or the Australian Competition Tribunal, the Boards of both companies approving entry into the transaction and the execution of a Merger Implementation Deed, and API shareholder and Court approval.

The API Board had previously voiced support for Wesfarmers'



latest offer, having knocked back its initial indicative proposal of \$1.38 per share, in Jul (PD 29 Jul).

MEANWHILE, a spokesperson for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia said the organisation would "continue to monitor bidding for API and examine possible implications", adding it "would continue to keep members informed of any issues of interest".

"In the end, this is a commercial matter and the Boards of API and the bidding companies will of course act in the interest of their shareholders," they said.

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## Dispensary Corner

**ONCE** again the COVID-19 pandemic brings out the worst in humanity, with pharmacy workers bearing the brunt of it. The latest example of brutish behaviour occurred at a Canadian pharmacy in Quebec, where local police allege a man assaulted a nurse who administered a COVID-19 vaccination to his wife, without his "permission".

A police spokesperson told broadcaster CBC that the nurse had to be treated in hospital for injuries to her face and a possible concussion after the attack, while the suspect "ran away".

Quebec Pharmacy Owners Association President, Benoit Morin, told the broadcaster that the incident was "entirely uncalled for", adding he had never heard of someone lashing out before because their spouse had received a vaccine.

"I was very, very surprised to hear that," he said.

"When we have discussions with customers, I mean it's one-on-one with the patient. We don't need the family approval, so I don't know what happened, or where this thing comes from."



## PotY winner not 'just a pharmacist'

**NSW** South Coast pharmacist, Linda Badewitz-Dodd, is being hailed as a shining example for the profession, after being named the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Symbion Pharmacist of the Year (PotY) 2021.

PSA National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, praised Badewitz-Dodd's strong community spirit and devotion to both the profession and her community in Merimbula, which was highlighted during the 2019/2020 bushfires (*PD* 03 Jan 2020).

"Linda exemplifies the extraordinary lengths that pharmacists have gone to, to ensure the public continued to have access to healthcare when they needed it the most," he said.

"Linda puts the community first in everything she does, and I know, she will not let anything get in the way of that."

Symbion CEO, Brett Barons, also hailed Badewitz-Dodd as a worthy PotY winner.

"Symbion were very closely involved with many pharmacists impacted by the 2019 bushfires so

we saw first-hand what Linda and her community experienced during that terrible time," he said.

"It is wonderful that her service to her customers and the community spirit she clearly instils in Merimbula has been recognised with her being awarded the PotY Award.

However, accepting the honour during the PSA Viatrix Excellence Awards online event on Fri, Badewitz-Dodd said, "I'm just a pharmacist doing my thing, for my community and my customers - that's what I do and that's what a pharmacist is".

"We need, as a profession, to all step up," she said.

"We need to all be providing a service that is part of an integrated healthcare model.

"Collaborating with other health professionals and other allied health professionals is where we need to be if we want to stay in this space."

Hobart-based clinical pharmacist, Maria Berbecaru, was named as the PSA Symbion Early Career Pharmacist of the Year, for her work in the aged care space.

"Maria has established a model and measurement tools to clearly show the benefits to aged care staff, to residents, to medical



practitioners and to the community pharmacy in having an on-site resident clinical pharmacist," Freeman said.

Former PSA Victorian Branch Presidents, Valerie Constable, and the late John Ware OAM - who also served as PSA National President - were named as dual recipients of the PSA Lifetime Achievement Award for their contributions to the profession.

The 2021 PSA MIMS Intern Pharmacist of the Year Award went to former National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) President, Erin Cooper, who developed the NAPSA Intern Guide to help her peers navigate the critical year in their careers.

Queenslander, Zoe Robinson, claimed the Viatrix Pharmacy Student of the Year title.

### PBS reform could stifle competition

**CALLS** from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia to cut the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) general co-payment to \$19 could limit competition and drive patient costs up, *news.com.au* reports.

The move would see the cost of a number of medications move above the co-payment which would prohibit current discounting practices for patients wanting their script to count towards the safety net.



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