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## UTS celebrates pharmacy innovators

**THE** 2021 University of Technology Sydney (UTS) AstraZeneca Innovative Pharmacist of the Year Award is being shared by the 2022 NSW Premier's Woman of the Year, Anna Barwick (**PD** 10 Mar), and University of Western Australia Senior Lecturer, Dr Sandra Salter.

Announcing the joint winners of the Award, UTS Pharmacy Industry Advisory Board Chair, Warwick Plunkett, said the judging panel had "not been able to split two outstanding, but quite different nominations".

Accepting the honour at the UTS Pharmacy Gala Dinner in Sydney last night, for her role in establishing a pharmacy vaccine safety surveillance program in WA (**PD** 10 Jun 2021), Salter urged other pharmacists to embrace the opportunity to innovate.

Salter told delegates that the idea for the program came to her in 2019, while she was driving to collect her daughter from hockey

practice after hearing the then State Health Minister announce that pharmacists in WA would be authorised to administer flu vaccines to children aged 10 years and older.

Salter said the decision, combined with a trial allowing pharmacists to administer National Immunisation Program flu vaccines to patients over 65 years, crystallised the need for a vaccine safety surveillance system for pharmacy.

"I would like to say to all of you, to see the opportunity... [and] go out and grab it with two hands," she said.

Co-winner, Barwick, whose PharmOnline service has delivered pharmacist-led telehealth support to patients across the country, urged pharmacists to get behind innovative solutions to strengthen the profession's capacity to support patients.

"It is critical that we embrace and



support the new," she said.

"Each of you can help us by sharing our innovations and our names with your patients and colleagues, [because] the connections you share may make a huge difference."

**Pictured**, 2021 UTS/AstraZeneca Innovative Pharmacists of the Year, PharmOnline founder, Anna Barwick, with University of Western Australia Senior Lecturer, Dr Sandra Salter.

### Today's issue of *PD*

*Pharmacy Daily* today features two pages of news plus a full page from **Wizard Pharmacy**.

### Delivering results

**PHARMACY** owners looking to secure better returns for their store can access support through Wizard Pharmacy's Business Platform.

See **page three** for more.

### TGA backs vax

**THE** Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has granted a provisional determination for Moderna's bivalent COVID-19 vaccine.

The move will allow the firm to apply for provisional registration for Spikevax Bivalent Zero/Omicron, for active immunisation to prevent COVID-19.

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### Dispensary Corner

**TEXAN** woman, Rosemary Andrews, has been indicted on charges relating to thefts from an adult novelty store and a CVS pharmacy in the city of Port Arthur.

Local publication, *The News*, reported that the 30-year-old and another female accomplice removed a number of items from their packaging and concealed them before leaving Cindie's adult retail outlet on 18 Dec 2021, without paying.

The duo then made their way to a local pharmacy where they pilfered more than US\$169-worth of products.

Andrews and her sidekick were busted a short time later when a description of the vehicle the pair were in was sent to police, who stopped them.



## Pharmacy can do more

**BARRIERS** need to be broken to enable Australian pharmacists to play a greater role in the health system, AstraZeneca (AZ) Australia and New Zealand BioPharmaceutical Business Unit Director, Martin Haigh, believes.

Speaking at University of Technology Sydney's Pharmacy Gala Dinner last night, Haigh - a UK-trained pharmacist - said the COVID-19 pandemic had shown the value of pharmacists.

"To me personally, and for what we do at AZ, the role that the pharmacist plays in the healthcare system is ever evolving, and there is so much more that can be done," he said.

"We've been proud to continue to support pharmacy in many ways and continue to work with a number of innovative programs where pharmacists are really playing a pivotal role in the healthcare ecosystem.

"I want to see more and more of that happening, but in Australia we still have too many barriers with a traditional medical view of the world, and I think there is so much more that can be done [by pharmacists to support the healthcare system]."



Haigh noted that the pandemic has raised the profile of pharmaceutical companies, making AZ a "household name" for people around the world.

"When I used to say I work for AZ I would get a very blank face, now people have one of two reactions - either a very positive one, or perhaps a slightly negative one," he said.

"Certainly we are now a household name, and pharmacy was a household name way before that and continues to be".

"But I think during the pandemic, what we've seen is the role that pharmacy plays in healthcare crises such as this, and I think it will be a catalyst for further change."

### Paxlovid listing

**Pfizer's** oral COVID-19 combination treatment, Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) will be available to eligible patients on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) from 01 May.

Under the PBS listing the medication can be prescribed to patients aged 65 years and older who have two or more risk factors for developing severe disease (or one risk factor for those aged over 75 years), for patients who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander aged 50 years and over with two risk factors, and moderately to severely immunocompromised patients.

Paxlovid was granted provisional approval by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) earlier this year (**PD** 20 Jan), along with MSD's Lagevrio (molnupiravir), which has been listed on the PBS since Mar (**PD** 01 Mar).

The treatments provide a second line defence against COVID-19, with vaccination deemed the most effective way to help prevent transmission.

**CLICK HERE** for more.

### Evidence backs pharmacy vaccination

**PHARMACISTS** are playing a critical role in boosting vaccination rates in jurisdictions where they are authorised to administer doses, a report for the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) reveals.

The research released last night found the "evidence of pharmacists' impact on improving vaccination coverage globally is growing".

"The COVID-19 pandemic has provided further affirmation of the accessibility and availability of pharmacists as frontline providers of people-centred care," the report said.

"Beyond the pandemic, efforts to support and expand pharmacy-based vaccination services must continue as a necessary route to achieving universal health coverage."



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