

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

Intellipharm role

AUSTRALIAN pharmacy industry business intelligence supplier Intellipharm has announced the promotion of Leon Hooper to the role of Senior Commercial Operations Manager.

Hooper joined the company in Apr 2021 as Business Development Manager, after former roles with Ramsay Health Care and TerryWhite Chemmart.

He will play a key role in Intellipharm's plans to "streamline, enhance and integrate our data, ecommerce and loyalty solutions to help our clients drive their business forward both online and in-store," said Intellipharm CEO Kosta Conomos.

Bring back Home Medicines Service

MOVES to improve access to COVID-19 antiviral medications in Tasmania are being welcomed, but pharmacy bodies believe the Federal Government should restore funding for the Home Medicines Service.

Tasmanian Premier, Jeremy Rockliff, announced the State Government was expanding access to the medications yesterday, with funding for GPs to "pre-emptively review their patients and flag those eligible to prescribe antiviral medications should they become COVID-positive".

Under the scheme GPs will be able to send pre-assessed scripts to pharmacies once an eligible patient reports a positive COVID-19 test, and arrange for them to be delivered.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Tasmanian Branch President, Helen O'Byrne, called for pharmacists to be included in the screening process, "to ensure all medications the patient is currently on are taken into account".



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"We welcome any initiative that improves speed of access for our patients and increases immediacy of the uptake of COVID-19 antivirals amongst vulnerable populations in Tasmania," she said.

"However, despite the cessation of Commonwealth funding for delivery services all community pharmacies are continuing to do what they can to support their patients in delivering medication and counselling on the correct way to take the meds.

"This is a considerable cost burden on the pharmacy.

"We would very much welcome a State government initiative providing funding for delivery services to ensure our businesses are not out of pocket in providing important services."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Tasmanian Branch President, David Peachey, said steps needed to be taken "to ensure that COVID-positive patients are not coming into the pharmacy with their script".



"PSA has repeatedly called on the Federal Government to restore funding to the COVID-19 Home Medicines Service," he said.

"Governments need to ensure that sick patients are able to access these medicines from home, even if they don't have family or friends to help.

"We also need to ensure that eligible patients have access to antiviral medicine when they haven't been pre-approved.

"This could include pharmacist initiation, where pharmacists could consult with patients and doctors and prescribe the antivirals directly.

"COVID-19 diagnosis and eligibility for the antivirals is clear."

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Unis need management focus: study

MODIFYING pharmacy schools' recruitment programs to attract business-minded candidates could be key to ensuring future generations of community pharmacists will integrate effective business management into the profession, researchers believe.

A review of the required business management skills for community pharmacy, published in *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching and Learning*, by researchers from the University of Tasmania, James Cook University and the University of Queensland, found that pharmacy stakeholders reported that human skills such as communication, leadership and teamwork, were needed for people working in the community pharmacy setting.

The review found that 17 of the 36 skills identified as being needed for business management in community pharmacy by both stakeholders and students, were categorised as "human" as opposed

to "conceptual" or "technical".

"The community pharmacist profession and tertiary education program needs to improve training and reinforcement of business management skills within the field," the authors said.

"All community pharmacists, whether a dispensing pharmacist, owner, or manager, will have managerial elements within their roles.

"The duty of the pharmacist will dictate the emphasis placed on each component of the business framework; nevertheless, all skills/apertitudes identified will be to some extent required by every community pharmacist.

"The profession requires early career community pharmacists to be competent in the ability to perform management skills of the human and technical domain and this knowledge needs to be integrated into the tertiary education curriculum.



"The findings of this study are significant for the community pharmacist profession, the undergraduate pharmacy curriculum, the university recruitment of students, and future research in the pharmacy management field.

"The community pharmacy profession could consider introducing business management training modules that include the skills/apertitudes identified in this study's managerial framework."

Ruston confirms Connect date

FEDERAL Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care, Senator Anne Ruston, is set to address Pharmacy Connect in Sydney next month.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, said the announcement that Ruston will speak at the event highlighted the vital place community pharmacy has in national health policy.

"Senator Ruston is keen to engage with the community pharmacy sector to attain a deep understanding of the issues impacting the sector and the opportunities which community pharmacy can provide the health sector," Twomey said.

Pharmacy Connect will take place from 01 to 03 Sep at the Hilton Sydney.

Teenage myocarditis mild, self-resolving

A STUDY of 33 adolescent patients who presented at Victoria's Monash Children's Hospital with myocarditis following COVID-19 vaccination suffered only "mild, self-resolving" symptoms, according to a report in the *Medical Journal of Australia* last month.

The teenagers attended within four weeks of receiving either a first or second dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine between Aug and Dec last year.

Paediatric cardiologist, Dr Suraj Varma, said none of the patients required intensive care treatment, suffered congestive heart failure or required significant interventions, with all improving after a week of high dose ibuprofen and bed rest.

Follow-up tests found no long term impact on heart function, with the authors concluding that COVID-19 mRNA vaccine-associated myocarditis has a mild, self-resolving clinical course.

Guild takes 18% stake in MedAdvisor

MEDTECH firm, MedAdvisor, has confirmed that the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Guild Group now holds an 18% stake in the company.

The announcement to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) yesterday, confirmed the Guild had topped up its position in the company from the 13% holding granted in consideration for MedAdvisor's acquisition of its GuildLink business (PD 25 Jul), with a \$4.8 million



purchase of 34,886,640 ordinary shares through an Institutional Entitlement Offer, which closed last month (PD 27 Jul).

Guild Group now hold more than 92 million MedAdvisor shares.



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Dispensary Corner

WITH many pharmacies now offering sleep services, perhaps there's an opportunity to promote this new professional service by actually bringing in some mattresses.

If so they'd be following in the steps of New York-based bed maker Casper, which has begun advertising for professionals to literally sleep on the job.

So-called "Casper Sleepers" will be required to "snooze in our stores and in unexpected settings out in the world" according to a job description on the company's website.

The ideal candidate will have "exceptional sleeping ability" and an "ability to sleep through anything," Casper said.

"On the rare occasion you're not sleeping, applicants will also be required to share your experience with others by creating TikTok-style content to be posted across Casper social media channels" - for more information **CLICK HERE**.

LGBTI training wanted

DEMAND for training modules to educate pharmacists about how they can better support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) patients, is growing, research from the University of Canberra reveals.

The study, published in *Exploratory Research in Clinical and Social Pharmacy*, found there was a "confidence gap" between pharmacists who had fewer hours of education and experience interacting with LGBTI patients, and those who had more training.

The authors noted that pharmacists who disclosed their personal LGBTI status had higher levels of confidence in communicating with and providing care for patients from the LGBTI community.

The researchers found that eight of 10 pharmacists who were interviewed as part of the study reported that LGBTI healthcare was "very brushed over" during the university training, with very little discussion of the health needs of the population beyond lectures relating to antiretrovirals.

"Most of what I've learned has been kind of reading on my own time from other sources," one pharmacist said.

The study's participants noted that the most common LGBTI-related health services provided through their pharmacies were dispensing and managing antiretroviral medicines and gender affirming hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

"Confidence in providing counselling for patients undergoing HRT was lower than in providing care for HIV and sexually transmitted infections or mental illness," the author said.

"The lack of guidance in professional resources for gender-affirming hormone therapy was identified as a barrier to effective counselling.

"Pharmacist participants described wanting future training modules to cover gender-affirming hormone therapy, communication skills, and sexual health for LGBTI people, and to be applicable to all roles throughout the community pharmacy."



Guild Update

Scope of practice workshop

THE move towards pharmacists working to their full scope of practice is gaining momentum and signals the future for the profession.

Pharmacy Connect, being held at the Sydney Hilton from 1-3 September looks at how Australian pharmacy practice is on a journey to full scope of patient care services.

A special pre-conference workshop will provide an overview of where we are on this journey and outline the role each of us will play in achieving this.

The workshop will commence with a presentation by former Canadian Independent Prescribing Pharmacist, Sara Kemp, who will cover:

- What is full scope of practice?
- What is happening in other countries around the world in relation to full scope of practice
- The benefits of full scope

The workshop will then continue with a panel discussion, followed by an audience Q&A.

- When: 2.00pm – 5.30pm, Thursday 1 September
 - Where: Level 4, Hilton Sydney
 - Cost: \$55 inc GST (includes afternoon tea)
- Registration details are available [here](#).

Committee roles

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration will host an online webinar for prospective members of its seven statutory advisory committees, which are now seeking applications in the lead-up to the expiry of the terms of appointments of 46 existing members (**PD 08 Aug**).

The session at 5pm AEST on Wed 24 Aug will provide first-hand details of the roles from past and current members, detailing expectations and how the process works - **CLICK HERE**.



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