

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from **Flordis Ther-Biotic**.

## AFSPA program

THE Australian Friendly Societies Pharmacies Association (AFSPA) has updated the program for its annual conference - see [HERE](#).

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# PSA, PPA welcome NSW protections

**NEW** legislation before the NSW State Parliament that will see individuals who assault pharmacy staff face stiff penalties, is being welcomed by professional bodies.

Under the *Crimes Legislation Amendment (Assaults on Frontline Emergency and Health Workers) Bill 2022*, perpetrators of attacks on pharmacists and pharmacy assistants will face up to seven years imprisonment (**PD 11 Aug**).

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) NSW Branch President, Chelsea Felkai, said the inclusion of community pharmacy workers in the *Bill* was welcome and a recognition of "the importance of supporting frontline healthcare workers".

"Community pharmacists are too often the subject of verbal and physical assaults in our workplaces," she said.

"The *Assaults on Frontline Emergency and Health Workers Bill* would make it an offence to harass, stalk, intimidate or

obstruct the work of pharmacists and other healthcare workers.

"This is an important step in making pharmacies safer for everyone."

The legislation put before the NSW Legislative Assembly by Attorney General, Mark Speakman, has also been backed by Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA) CEO, Jill McCabe.

"PPA welcomes the introduction of new laws to protect frontline emergency health workers, including pharmacists and

pharmacy assistants," she said.

"During the pandemic they have worked tirelessly to help combat the impact of COVID-19, by administering vaccines and supplying rapid antigen tests, as well as continuing to deliver other health services.

"As frontline health professionals supporting the health and well-being of the community, pharmacists should never be subjected to physical, verbal or any other forms of abuse in the course of performing their work."

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## PA2022 offers

**ORGANISERS** of the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference 2022 (PA2022) are rolling out new registration offers to enable pharmacy assistants (PAs) to experience the event without committing to a full day or days away from their store.

The new packages were introduced in recognition of the ongoing staff shortages pharmacies are facing, while providing PAs with the opportunity to access education and professional development.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more.

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Reference: 1. Spada F et al. *Dermatol Ther* 2021;34(4):e14970. (n=100) Study sponsored by Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd.  
**EGO PHARMACEUTICALS PTY LTD**, 21-31 Malcolm Road, Braeside, 3195, Australia.  
**Australia Ph:** +61 3 9586 8800 | **Toll free** 1800 033 706. Date of Preparation: 06/22.

## Viatrix is rebranding. Many bottles will now be available in blister packs

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Click here to learn more.





## Dispensary Corner

**AUSTRALIA** is not the only country struggling to fill pharmacist positions, and a new recruitment campaign by US giant, Walgreens, may make it harder for Aussies to attract overseas-trained candidates.

In an effort to lure pharmacists to work in its stores the US chain is offering "signing bonuses" of up to \$105,000, *CNN Business* reports.

"This is one of many steps to address pharmacy staffing in some areas, in order to best meet the needs of our customers and patients," a Walgreens spokesperson said.

CNN noted that while some pharmacists will be paid bonuses worth more than the average salary of a pharmacist-in-charge in a major Australian city, the average incentive payment being offered was less than \$70,000.

## S8s top drugs in PDL incident reports

**PHARMACISTS** are being urged to watch out for common dispensing errors, by professional indemnity (PI) insurer, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL).

In a practice alert issued this week, the insurer flagged the top 10 drugs it sees in incident reports, with schedule 8 products, oxycodone, tapentadol/tramadol, methadone and methylphenidate, topping the list.

"It is no surprise that the top four drugs on our list are S8s," the PDL alert noted.

"Dispensing errors can happen with any drug but the top four are also prone to diversion, forgeries and theft.

"Another reason this group is overrepresented is that some of them are available in immediate release (IR) and sustained release (SR) presentations."

The alert reported that both oxycodone and methadone were involved in regulatory actions.

In the case of oxycodone, PDL advised pharmacists that "careful



reference to and observance of repeat intervals, reference to Real Time Prescription Monitoring and ensuring prescriptions meet all legislative requirements will minimise your chance of being the subject of an investigation".

The insurer stressed the need to keep accurate records in relation to methadone, and to keep cancelled prescriptions for the drug separate from other S8 scripts.

PDL also noted that prednisolone, drospirenone/ethinylestradiol, sertraline, semaglutide, and atropine eye drops were among the top drugs it received incident reports about, while stressing that "alarm bells should ring" when pharmacists see scripts for

carbamazepine and carbimazole, "as they can be confused and interchanged by pharmacists and dispensary technicians".

With regards to sertraline, the insurer said, "there appears to be no logical reason why sertraline is involved in a high number of error reports - perhaps the high volume of scripts and the multitude of brands available could be a contributing factor".

**CLICK HERE** to read the alert.



Dermal Therapy and Pharmacy Daily are giving away a \$50 Woolworths gift card each day this week.

Dermal Therapy Hair Restoring Serum is a new leave-on product, with breakthrough hair stimulating technology, designed to treat hair loss in women and men by nourishing the scalp and preventing hair loss, thinning, damaged and brittle hair.

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\*To view T & C's click here

## McMillan joins UTS

**PHARMACEUTICAL** Society of Australia (PSA) 2022 Pharmacist of the Year, Professor Faye McMillan, is set to join the University of Technology Sydney's (UTS's) Faculty of Health later this year (PD 01 Aug).

As Australia's first Indigenous registered pharmacist, McMillan will take on the position of Professor of Indigenous Health within the UTS School of Public Health.

McMillan will combine her teaching and research roles at UTS with her position as Deputy National Rural Health Commissioner.

## Find love and a job in Goondiwindi

**AWARD-WINNING** pharmacy owner, Lucy Walker, is evoking memories of reality TV show, *Farmer Wants A Wife*, to attract pharmacists to work at her store in Goondiwindi, Queensland.

In a post on social media titled, *'Gundy wants a Pharma(cist)'*, Walker said she was looking for the pharmacy's "next crop of pharmacists who are searching for their happily ever after".

"Many Aussie pharmerms have found their perfect match in Gundy in more ways than one - a dream job, a beautiful place to live, great friends and even

finding themselves a farmer or a wife," she said.

"In exchange for giving your heart to Goondiwindi, you will be loved by our friendly patients and beautiful community.

"We are very proud of our pharmacy, where our staff arrive as strangers and quickly become part of the family.

"You will be remunerated well and enjoy no commutes, late nights or Suns to truly live your best life."

To find out more about the role, or to "dob a pharmacist" email, [Lucy Walker Pharmacy](mailto:Lucy.Walker@pharmacy.com.au).





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Del Piano, et al. 2010, *Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology*, Vol. 44, S30-S34.; Reid, G, et al. 2003, 'Oral use of Lactobacillus rhamnosus GR-1 and L. fermentum RC-14 significantly alters vaginal flora', *FEMS Immunology & Medical Microbiology*, Vol. 35, No. 2, pp.131-134. Funded by Procter and Gamble, NSERC and Kidney Foundation of Canada; Diop, L, et al. 2008, 'Probiotic food supplement reduces stress-induced gastrointestinal symptoms in volunteers: a double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized trial', *Nutrition Research*, Vol. 28, No. 1. Sponsored by Lallemand SAS.