

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

Moderna opens mRNA vax site

MONASH University's Technology Precinct will be the home of Moderna's new mRNA vaccination production facility.

The plant will produce up to 100 million doses of COVID-19, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus vaccines a year.

The decision to build the facility at Monash University was confirmed by Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese this morning, as part of a 10-year deal signed by Moderna and the Federal and Victorian governments.

Albanese said the COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted the importance of having domestic vaccine manufacturing capabilities.

No to pharmacist prescribing: RACGP

THE Royal Australian College of General Practitioners is continuing its campaign against calls for pharmacists to be authorised to prescribe COVID-19 antiviral medications for eligible patients.

In a statement issued on Fri, RACGP President, Dr Karen Price, said over-the-counter consultations and prescribing by pharmacists were not the answer to getting the drugs into patients' hands when they need them.

"We need pharmacists to concentrate on their own job of stocking and dispensing safely and let the GPs get on with doctoring, because lives can be saved," she said.

"Pharmacies already have an important role to play so that's where their focus should be right now."

"At the end of the day, pharmacists do not have the appropriate skill-set to interpret a life history, including a sexual

AUTHORITIES in Western Australia are being urged to change regulations to allow pharmacists to help ease pressure on the State's stretched health system.

In an opinion piece in *The West Australian*, Pharmacy Guild of Australia WA Branch President, Andrew Ngeow, said pharmacists were ready, willing and able to work to their full scope of practice to bolster access to primary healthcare.

"A part (but not the entirety) of the problem, is that WA has fewer GPs per capita than any other State or Territory, except for NSW," Ngeow said.

"The lack of GP availability can result in people either delaying getting the treatment they need or using hospital emergency services as a default, low-cost medical service.

"Either delayed treatment or placing unnecessary pressure on the public health services are not good outcomes.

"We've recently had a month with a record high of more than

history, or the diagnostics of liver and kidney function.

"Nor can they order urgent tests if needed.

"Prescribing these medications is not simply taking them from a box on a shelf and handing them to a patient.

"This should be a job for GPs."

Price also rejected Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey's assertion that the current GP shortage was a significant factor in delaying access to prescriptions for antiviral medications.

"Clear messaging is needed for patients," she said.

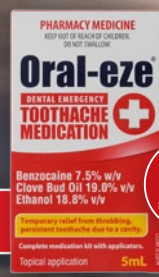
"The Pharmacy Guild, which is the body representing pharmacy business owners, needs to stop muddying the message on access for patients.

"This is not a time to create a false narrative around accessibility to advance the Pharmacy Guild's commercial interests."

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"We need more health hubs, such as can occur in community pharmacies, working to their scope, and this needs to occur sooner, not next year or sometime later than that.

"The system is struggling in 2022 and it will continue to struggle unless real change occurs.

"Professions like mine are restricted in our ability to deliver health care not because we are not capable, or trained, or have a lack of desire but simply due to the regulatory framework we are practicing in.

"And meanwhile, it is the most vulnerable of West Australians who are paying the price.

"In WA community pharmacies did not commence influenza vaccinations until 2015.

"In the last 18 months alone, WA community pharmacies have administered over 1.2 million COVID-19 vaccinations and over 500,000 influenza vaccinations.



"The positive impact that WA community pharmacies have had in keeping their patients safe from vaccine-preventable diseases is undeniable.

"Community pharmacy is an accessible, tertiary-trained workforce with skills and knowledge that are being under-utilised.

"At a time when there is a significant current and predicted workforce shortage, this would not only increase access to treatment for patients, but it would also free up time in GPs' schedules to allow them to treat more complex cases."

SHPA sets out calendar for elections

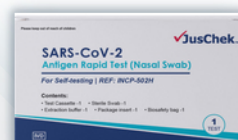
HOSPITAL pharmacists are being invited to put their names forward to stand in the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) Specialty Practice Leadership Committee elections.

The nomination process will open on 21 Sep, and close on 22 Nov, with voting commencing on 07 Dec.

In a post on LinkedIn the SHPA said the election provided members with "an unparalleled opportunity to join a dynamic and supportive committee... and influence pharmacy practice" in specific specialty committees, and inform policy and education initiatives.

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Dispensary Corner

WITH Britain once again feeling the heat this week, pharmacist, Parvinder Sagoo, is urging sun worshippers to play it safe and apply sunscreen regularly.

However, for those who missed the 'Slip-Slop-Slap' memo, Sagoo told *The Mirror* that some fridge staples may help provide relief from sunburn.

Sagoo recommended applying honey to affected areas for about 30 minutes, noting it is "crammed with antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties," making it an ideal aftersun lotion substitute.

For those looking for a slightly less sticky alternative, the British pharmacist suggested applying cucumber to the skin to soothe burn areas.

"The vegetable can be sliced or blended before being placed on the skin, but you can achieve an extra cooling effect by freezing them first," he said.

Greek yoghurt, was also listed as another food to cover sunburnt areas, with Sagoo noting it would "both soothe and cool" the skin.

For those wanting to avoid having to expose their raw skin to the pain of a shower to wash off food-based ointments, Sagoo said eating carrots and blueberries can also help provide relief from severe sunburn.

Accountant's sentence not enough

PERTH-BASED pharmacy owner, Diana Quan, believes she will never recover from the impact of her accountant stealing millions of dollars from the business.

Speaking after former family friend and bookkeeper, Moe Moe Myint Kelly, was sentenced to four years and eight months behind bars for swindling \$2 millions from the Busy Bee Pharmacy in Northbridge, between 2011 and 2018.

Perth District Court heard that Kelly was hired to look after the store's books in 2009, but in 2010 when the business was struggling she agreed to work without pay until things improved.

However, the 65-year-old accountant began diverting cash from the daily takings into her personal accounts.

The Court was told that Kelly's bank statements showed that she would pilfer sums ranging from

\$1,000 to \$15,000, and her activity was only discovered after "a minor error" in 2018 led to an audit of the store's books.

A total of 400 instances of theft were discovered, with prosecutors reporting that between 2011 and 2015 Kelly lost close to \$1.2 million gambling at Crown Casino.

Sentencing Kelly, Judge David MacLean order that she must serve a non-parole period of two years and eight months.

Judge MacLean rejected suggestions that Kelly had shown remorse for her actions, saying, "you have a ringside seat to their suffering and notwithstanding that ringside seat, you decided to continue on in this very serious course of criminal conduct".

"They were going backwards because you were stealing so ruthlessly from them," he said.

Quan said Kelly's jail term was not



enough.

"She took 10 years of my life," she said.

"It's been an emotional toll.

"It's brought up a lot of emotions.

"It was a hard time for us and it continues to be a hard time, we'll never recover from this, we're just a small family business and we work really, really hard."

Snow Business conference returns

PHARMACISTS from across Australia hit the slopes of Victoria's Mount Buller, for the return of Medici Capital's Pharmacy Snow Business Conference, over the weekend, after a two-year hiatus.

Led by Medici Capital Managing Director, Frank Sirianni, the event focused on pharmacy management, valuation, financial analysis, and business sales, while proving delegates with the opportunity to get out in the snow.

"Ultimately business

ownership and management is about taking and managing calculated risks," Sirianni said.

"Understanding the opportunities that lay ahead and assessing a plan of attack... just like skiing.

"The skill sets required to manage a pharmacy and ski are extra-ordinarily similar."

With the event now in its 30th year, Sirianni thanked "all the pharmacists and sponsors who have supported" the conference over the years, noting that they had "made the event what it is".

RLAP petition gains support

CLOSE to 150 people have signed a petition calling for the eligibility criteria for accessing the Rural Locum Assistance Program (RLAP) to be extended.

The petition was started in the wake of reports that a Tasmanian pharmacy was forced to close last week as the owner was unable to access the program.

Supporters of the petition said the change was needed for rural communities to survive.

CLICK HERE for the petition.

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Registration cancelled over S8 abuse

NSW-BASED pharmacist, Mohammed Hallani, has been barred from seeking to renew his professional registration for at least 18 months, after being found guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct by the Civil and Administrative Tribunal NSW.

The Health Care Complaints Commission alleged that while employed as an intern pharmacist at TerryWhite Chemmart Penrith, Hallani accessed Schedule 8 medications from the pharmacy for his personal use in 2019.

Following the termination of his employment a complaint was sent to the Pharmaceutical Regulatory Unit (PRU) of NSW Health, claiming Hallani had misappropriated hydromorphone oral tablets, morphine injections, methadone oral syrup and hydromorphone injections, during his time at the pharmacy.

"CCTV footage is alleged to have disclosed the practitioner 'suspiciously accessing the S8 safe

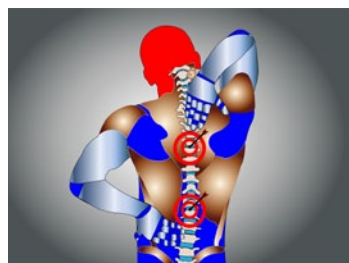
unsupervised and taking items,'" the Tribunal noted.

"Between 19 and 29 Aug 2019 the PRU discovered that the practitioner had presented prescriptions purported to be prescriptions signed by his father, Dr Hisham Hallani, a cardiologist.

"Investigations by the PRU, including contact with Dr Hallani, revealed the prescriptions to have been forged by the practitioner."

The Tribunal heard that the pharmacist suffered a fractured vertebra when he was in his second year of university, which resulted him being bed-bound for six months, and led to him being provided pain management, which "began conservatively, but escalated due to his excruciating pain", eventually developing an opioid dependence.

The 29-year-old pharmacist also presented a forged report from a radiologist to a number of GPs to obtain prescriptions for endone, which resulted in Hallani being



referred to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

The Tribunal noted that Hallani did not dispute any of the complaints made against him and "stated that he is remorseful for his actions".

"He also explained that whilst he had always wanted to work as a health provider that he did not see himself resuming his profession as a pharmacist at the present time as he did not trust himself to fulfil that role," the Tribunal reported.

Hallani's registration has been cancelled for a minimum period of 18 months.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Amit Saha, MPS Group Technical Manager, LaCorium Health.**



Lysine in Cold Sore treatment

COLD sores are tiny blisters that appear either in the mouth or on the lips. Normally HSV-1 virus causes cold sores, and it comprises five stages - tingling, blistering, weeping, crusting and healing.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology, more than 50% of people aged 14 -49 carry the virus.

While typically antiviral medications are prescribed to help treat, there are many alternative approaches that work very well to combat all five stages of cold sores. As an alternative lysine is commonly used for the treatment & prevention of cold sores. Lysine is essential for many functions, however, people looking to use lysine to help treat cold sores will probably need to take a supplement to boost their lysine intake or use topically as soon as symptom onset. Lysine may help to slow down or prevent the growth of HSV-1. HSV-1 requires arginine to grow, and lysine helps prevent the body from absorbing arginine, making it difficult for HSV-1 to grow and reproduce.

Dermal Therapy's Cold Sore Lysine+ gel is a new and innovative approach. Combining lysine, anti-viral lemon balm and propolis extract, it is the first clear gel in the Australian market for combating all five stages of cold sore.

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Aged care course

PHARMACISTS are being invited to enrol in the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's new Residential Aged Care Pharmacist Foundation Training Program.

The course provides the knowledge and skills required to "lead the way in medicine safety in order to optimise patient health outcomes".

The program features five online modules, video lectures on clinical care, optional quality use of medicines modules and numerous support tools and resources.

CLICK HERE to enrol.