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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including a photo page from Star Pharmacy Group plus full pages from:

- PharmXchange
- Gluco Beans
- The Iron Company

## Access Haleon

PHARMACISTS can now access exclusive offers on all of Haleon's key brands, through the PharmXchange platform.

The system provides a one-stop-shop connecting community pharmacies with suppliers, and operates in tandem with point-of-sale systems, cutting administrative tasks and freeing up pharmacy staff to spend more time focused on servicing the needs of patients.

For more information see page five.

# SHPA's best days lie ahead: Simpson

TASMANIAN leadership of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) will continue with Tom Simpson, elected to succeed Peter Fowler, as the organisation's new National President.

Simpson said that Fowler had been a strong and steady hand at the wheel during his term as SHPA President.

"From a new strategic plan to pandemic preparedness in only 12 months, Peter placed connectedness and collegiality at the centre of his Presidency, and SHPA is emerging stronger and more assured as a result of his leadership," Simpson said.

"Peter has helped define the character of the SHPA member, who is committed to evidence-based practice on their professional journey, supported by innovative programs and national networks of like-minded practitioners."

Simpson said SHPA's best days lie ahead, and committed to ensuring

Australia's future workforce pipeline is fit for the task of complex, interconnected care.

"Hospital-based or hospital-informed training creates practitioners whose native habitat is multidisciplinary, collaborative care, surrounded by specialists and generalists from all healthcare professions," he said.

"Entrenched nationwide over the last five years, SHPA Residencies provide the generalist and specialist knowledge to excel in emerging, onsite roles - particularly in aged care and GP practices - while ensuring greater pharmacist coverage and medicines safety in regional, rural and remote areas.

"By building broader understanding of complex clinical journeys - and formally recognising the underpinning skills and experience - we can work toward a future in which we are defined by what we can do, and the care we can provide, rather than where

we work."

Following the announcement of Simpson's appointment, Fowler said his fellow Tasmanian embodied the personal and professional attributes needed to advance pharmacy practice.

"Tom's broad skillset, creative strategy and ambition has taken hospital pharmacy practice in Tasmania to a point that was unimaginable only a handful of years ago," Fowler said.

"His exemplary work liaising with Federal and State government secretaries and ministers, professional organisations and advocacy groups has seen the state overcome barriers and ensure political and clinical support for significant expansion of pharmacy services, funding and practice scope."

Kate O'Hara was elected Vice President, Ramy Aziz was elected Treasurer and Olivia Rofe and Paul Firman were elected to the Board Executive.



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## Prescribing trials threaten healthcare

**STATE** Governments are being urged to reconsider planned pharmacist prescribing trials, with the Australian Medical Association (AMA) warning they will create a two-tier health system.

AMA President, Professor Stephen Robson, said the trials in NSW, Queensland and Victoria present a risk to patient safety and “ignored ethical concerns”.

“Responding to GP shortages with second-class policy solutions that trample over the advice of independent bodies like the Pharmacy Board of Australia and the Therapeutic Goods Administration, and bypass established national processes that exist to protect patient safety isn’t the answer,” he said.

“GPs train for 12 to 15 years to have the expertise to diagnose conditions that are being covered in some of these trials.

“You can’t replace that training and experience with a few hours



of weekly online training without putting patients at risk.

“General practitioners are highly skilled and equipped to diagnose the difference between a urinary tract infection and other serious and potentially deadly health conditions.

“They are equipped to take a full medical history of their patients and understand the full range of contraceptive options available to women.

“A second-tier health system that moves the costs of health services from the government to the patient (except for Victoria which

is proposing to cover some of the costs) isn’t the solution.

“The AMA wants to work with pharmacists to develop models where we can contribute more to the delivery of health care in safe and collaborative ways.

“Unfortunately, these models being pushed do the opposite.

“They fragment care and lead to negative health outcomes, as we have seen in Queensland.”

Robson reiterated claims that prescribing trials would increase the threat of antimicrobial resistance made by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (**PD 18 Nov**).

### Lucas' new role

**UNIVERSITY** of Technology Sydney Pharmacy Practice Senior Lecturer, Dr Cherie Lucas, has been named as the newest Associate Editor of the open access journal, *Exploratory Research in Clinical and Social Pharmacy (ERCSP)*.

Commenting on the appointment on Twitter, Lucas said she was looking forward to working with *ERCSP* and *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy* teams in her new capacity.

Lucas is also a member of the Pharmacy Council of NSW.

## Melton Pharmacy Superstore joins CDC

**PLATFORM** Alliance Group is continuing to expand its Chemist Discount Centre (CDC) brand, with Melton Pharmacy Superstore joining the network.

The Victorian pharmacy is the 40th to join the CDC group, with owner, Tony Cox, saying that the transition would allow the store to support the Melton community, by offering discounted pharmacy products with a broad spectrum of healthcare services.

“As we face increasing costs of living on almost a daily basis, CDC Melton will be helping make a difference to our community by ensuring healthcare and



wellbeing are more affordable,” he said.

“We know that when the going gets tough, discretionary spending is the first to suffer, and often it’s the patients’ healthcare that’s in the firing line.

“The timing of this new CDC opening in Melton could not be better.”

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# Star Pharmacy celebrates winners

THE Star Pharmacy Group recently held their 2022 Centre of Excellence Conference and Awards Night at scenic Adelaide Oval. Pharmacists and retail managers from South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales pharmacies reconnected after a number of years apart.

The Friday conference was followed up on the Saturday evening with the Star Pharmacy Group Awards Night.

The black-tie affair was a fun night to celebrate the achievement of their peers across a number of awards categories.

Congratulations to the award winners.

All images ©Gainsborough Studio for Star Pharmacy Group Awards Night.



**FUN** on the dancefloor.



**AWARDS**  
Night Organising  
Committee  
Aleisha  
Murphy, Jade  
Harkness, Peter  
Gardiakos, Joy  
Montgomery  
and Scott Young.



**STAN** Kontos, Intern of the Year  
winner VJ Ang, Star Discount Chemist  
Kilkenny and Peter Gardiakos.



**STAN** and Peter with Pharmacy Assistant  
of the Year winner Cristina Garcia, Star  
Discount Chemist Aitkenvale.



**STAN** and Peter with Kelly Coyle,  
accepting Retail Manager of the  
Year winner for Rebecca Galbraith,  
Star Discount Chemist Aitkenvale.



**SONIA** and David Clark with Peter  
and Evelyn Piliouras.



**STAN** and Peter with Nandita  
Anand from Pharmacy of the Year  
winner Star Discount Chemist  
Banksia Beach.



**STAN** and Peter with Pharmacist  
Manager of the Year winner Cathy  
Doan, Star Discount Chemist  
Parkholme.



**AWARDS** Night  
entertainment.

**OUTGOING** Chief Executive Officer  
David Clark receiving a gift of thanks  
from Executive Director Peter Gardiakos.



**STAN** and Peter with National  
Support Office Employee of  
the Year winner Simonne  
Cameron.



**STAN** and Peter with Ling  
Tan, accepting Preceptor of the  
Year winner for Peng Hor, Star  
Discount Chemist Pasadena.

## Book the book now!

Pre-purchase the 2023 AMH or any current resource before Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 to enter the draw to win some great rewards. These include attending a conference related to your profession, new laptop computers and future editions of AMH resources. For all competition details and T&C's please click on the link.



Click here for more info

## Dispensary Corner

WITH the festive season fast approaching, researchers from the University of Queensland and Deakin University have uncovered some interesting findings about boozed up revellers.

A study of more than 2,000 partying Queenslanders found that drinkers struggled to identify how intoxicated they were, with those close to paralytic more likely to underestimate how drunk they were than those two drinks in.

"It is of particular concern when we look at those that underestimate," one of the authors said.

"We saw those that have low blood alcohol levels are more likely to overestimate and those with high blood alcohol levels are more likely to underestimate."

Regardless of how much you've had to drink at this year's Christmas party, it might be best to leave the car at home and jump on public transport or in a taxi, to avoid having to worry about overindulging.

## Bill to limit pharmacists

LEGISLATION banning lobby groups from making donations of more than \$3,000 per electoral term, will limit pharmacists' from supporting political causes, Queensland Senator, James McGrath, says.

Introducing the *Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Banning Dirty Donations) Bill 2022*, Greens Senator Larissa Waters, said the legislation was designed to curb the influence of "dirty industries with a track record of seeking to influence decision-makers through donations", including "big pharma".

"These industries are not donating millions of dollars because they believe in the institution of strong democracy," Waters said.

"They are donating because it gets results for them."

However, McGrath described the proposed legislation as puritanical, suggesting the Greens "want to ban stuff that they don't like".

"The Greens want to stop people from giving money to political parties if they are involved in the sale, marketing or distribution of pharmaceutical products," he said.

"The Greens want to stop community pharmacists - those people who do so much for the health and wellbeing of Australians.



"They want to stop that evil industry of pharmacy from getting involved in the political process by supporting a political cause.

"We're saying to those people, 'You're not worthy of participating in Australia's democracy, because we don't like you.

"Quite frankly, you should go to a pharmacist and get some medication to stop you from writing such rubbish... this is just bonkers stuff."

Independent ACT Senator, David Pocock, voiced support for the Bill, saying the \$3,000 per person per term limit on donations would create a "fairly level playing field", having noted that four of the last five Federal elections had been won by the party with the "biggest war chest".

## HIV handbook

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) marked World Aids Day (01 Dec) with the launch of its *HIV prevention, screening and management: A handbook for pharmacists*.

The handbook aims to provide pharmacists and their teams with concise information on the variety of actions they can take to reduce the burden of HIV, FIP Practice Development Lead, Goncalo Sousa Pinto said.

"While immense progress has been made in terms of prevention, testing, treatment and quality of life for people living with HIV, the virus remains both a major global health threat and burden for individuals, health systems and societies," he said.

"Concerted efforts by all stakeholders and healthcare providers are essential to control this epidemic, but pharmacists certainly have an important role to play."

Sousa Pinto said the pharmacists can support patients to reduce transmission risk by offering advice on safer sex practice.

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Pharmacy Daily

www.pharmacydaily.com.au

Pharmacy Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

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