



Mag-Sup
High absorption magnesium

Available in 50's, 100's and 250's from Symbion, Sigma, API and CH2.

50's PBS & RPBS Listed

Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

Pharmacy only.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from:

- Willach

UK role growth

BRITISH authorities look set to expand the scope of practice for the country's pharmacies, with the UK Department of Health confirming that "over the next 18 months we will be increasing the support pharmacists can provide".

UK Health Secretary, Steve Barclay, last week raised the potential for a 'Pharmacy First' model, which would allow pharmacists to make better use of their skills and "drastically improve patients' access to general practice".

There's currently massive pressure on UK GPs, with widespread complaints from the public about being unable to even make appointments.

Monash leads pharmacology research

PHARMACOLOGY education globally is set for improvements, after a new study co-led by Monash University's Professor Paul White, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (pictured).

The research, involving 200 educators from 22 countries, has identified 25 core concepts that all students around the world who have taken a pharmacology course or unit should be able to understand and apply.

The study was conducted under the banner of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, with White saying it would have "great significance for the international pharmacology community".

"It's the first time to our knowledge that a truly international initiative has produced a consensus list of discipline-focused core concepts," he said.

"This will allow medical, pharmacy, nursing, science and other educators to focus on the



knowledge that matters for their future graduates."

The study found that in recent decades, a focus on the most critical and fundamental concepts had proven highly advantageous to students and educators in many scientific disciplines.

"However pharmacology, unlike microbiology, biochemistry or

physiology, lacks a consensus list of such core concepts," White noted.

Although pharmacology is taught across a broad range of health professional, biomedical and basic science contexts, the "enormous volume of pharmacology content is often given limited time".

Professor White said the study helped address perceived gaps in pharmacy knowledge among health professional graduates, such as the ability to link theory with practice.

The next steps include further definition of each core concept, and developing resources to help pharmacology educators globally teach and assess the concepts.

The research was also co-led by Professor Clare Gilding from the UK's University of Newcastle, along with contributions from Monash's Dr Betty Exintaris, Dr Nilushi Karunaratne and Associate Professor Jen Short.

The study and all 25 core concepts can be viewed online in the *British Journal of Pharmacology* by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Happy holidays from

minfos 

1300 887 418

help@minfos.com.au



Pfizer COVID-19 jab approved for babies

BRITAIN'S Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has authorised the use of the Pfizer/BioNTech Cominarty COVID-19 vaccine in infants and children aged six months to four years.

The decision follows a careful review of evidence, with a lower 3 microgram dose presentation for the new age group, given as three separate injections in the upper arm.

The first two jabs are to be administered three weeks apart, followed by a third dose given at least eight weeks after the second immunisation.

The MHRA said in making its decision it reviewed data from an ongoing clinical trial involving 4,526 participants, with the common expected side effects (reactogenicity) in keeping with what can be anticipated from a vaccine in this age group.

RIGHT TEMPERATURE. EVEN WHEN THE HEAT is ON.



NEW: TEMPERATURE CONTROL



available at    

Dispensary inventory management automation at its best. Both chaotic and channel enabled.

 Omnicell | Omicell.com.au



Chemist Warehouse honours excellence

CHEMIST Warehouse last week hosted its 2022 Retail Awards for Excellence, with the virtual event now an annual fixture to “celebrate and honour the outstanding work of the community pharmacists, interns and pharmacy assistants within the business”.

The ceremony saw a total of 42 state/territory awards and two national awards presented, with recipients nominated by their peers and then judged by a panel of Chemist Warehouse Retail Directors and Senior Managers.

Categories included Pharmacist of the Year, Preceptor of the Year, Intern of the Year and Pharmacy Assistant of the Year (full-time and part-time) in each state and territory, in addition to the prestigious National Pharmacist of the Year and National Pharmacy Assistant of the Year categories.



The top honour of the night, the Mario Verrocchi National Pharmacist of the Year Award was taken out by Haven Moushi from Chemist Warehouse Preston in Vic (pictured above with the

group’s Chief Operating Officer Mario Tascone and CEO & co-founder Mario Verrocchi) who was described as a “dedicated pharmacist who provides exceptional community pharmacy services [and is] a true professional, leader and mentor to her team”.

The national Pharmacy of the Year award was taken out by Chemist Warehouse Westfield Fountain Gate, with the excited team pictured at left with their newly treasured trophy.

And the Chemist Warehouse National Pharmacy Assistant of the Year award (below left) went to Vida Marie Ainsworth from Chemist Warehouse in Hay Street Perth, who “emulates the leadership qualities that inspire a generation of pharmacy assistants to better themselves”, the group said.

Her award is named after longstanding staff member Margaret Kinniburgh, who has been instrumental in evolving the Chemist Warehouse brand.

Verrocchi said “we are constantly impressed by the drive, determination, skill and exceptional care that our team possesses and the pride they take in delivering exemplary service to our customers on a daily basis”.

“The incredible work conducted by our staff has ensured all Australians have access to medicines and healthcare and we are excited to be able to honour the exceptional performers with these awards,” Verrocchi added.



Medical centre “rorted Medicare”

SOME doctors who worked at collapsed medical centre network Tristar Medical Group charged Medicare for up to 18 hours of face-to-face consultations a day - even though their clinics were only actually open for 10 hours, according to an expose in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* today.

Tristar ceased trading in May this year, with creditors owed \$23 million, the report says, alleging that “leaked billing and medical documents” show some of the GPs overstated the length of consultation and billed for some services without adequate patient documentation.

The *SMH* and *Age* reports cite several tip-offs to the Department of Health and Aged Care about Tristar’s bulk-billing business model, which saw it take 30%-50% of doctors’ incomes amid “extreme pressure to meet high targets for Medicare billing”.

Job ad change

IT’S now illegal to advertise a position with below award or agreement rates of pay, after the recent passing of the *Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Bill 2022* in Federal Parliament.

Professional Pharmacists Australia noted the provisions, which mean an employer can be fined and action can be brought by a union or Fair Work Ombudsman.

The provisions aim to reduce worker exploitation, promote a culture of compliance with workplace laws, and encourage employers to consider their obligations before hiring staff.

The union group will brief members on an overview of the major changes that are likely to impact them in a webinar on 19 Dec from 12.30pm AEDST - **REGISTER HERE.**

Book the book now!

Pre-purchase the 2023 AMH or any current resource before Dec 31st 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

A SUPPOSED medical emergency aboard a flight in Europe last week forced an aircraft to land in Barcelona - but it was all apparently a pretext to allow some of the passengers to illegally enter Spain without authorisation.

Low-cost airline Pegasus was operating a flight between Morocco and Turkey, when a pregnant woman claimed she was experiencing urgent labour pains and was about to give birth imminently.

There were 228 passengers on board the flight from Casablanca to Istanbul, and the pilot requested an emergency landing at El Prat Airport.

When the aircraft hit the ground medical staff entered to evacuate the woman from the plane, and at the same time 27 other passengers exited the aircraft and "tried to flee".

13 of them were stopped by police, while the other 14 remain at large - while the woman who was thought to be in labour was detained on charges of public disorder after doctors determined that, although she was genuinely pregnant, she was not about to have a baby any time soon.

Apparently it's the second such recent incident, with another flight on the same route disrupted in November 2021 after one of the passengers appeared to be going into a diabetic coma.

That traveller was also found to be fine when admitted to hospital, with a manhunt to chase 24 passengers who fled.

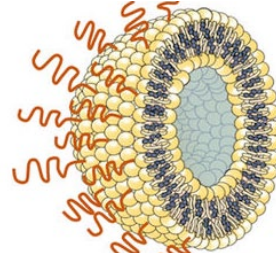
Safer drug delivery method

RESEARCHERS in Japan have showcased a study confirming the potential for a "biocompatible polymer" to deliver vaccines and drugs with reduced risk of anaphylaxis, in a report published in the journal *Science and Technology of Advanced Materials*.

The report notes that until now the polymer of choice for encasing and delivering vaccines has been polyethylene glycol (PEG), which has been used to surround some COVID-19 vaccines carried within tiny spherical packages known as liposomes.

However some recipients have suffered an allergic reaction to PEG, with the alternative polymer being a form of fatty biomolecule called a lipid, which is conjugated to 2-methacryloyloxyethyl phosphorylcholine (MPC) polymer.

"This new substance spontaneously binds to the outside of liposome particles when mixed with them in water...crucially, the polymer is not recognised by the antibodies that the body can generate in response to PEG, and tests suggest it does not stimulate



any other antibodies that could cause an allergic reaction," the researchers noted.

"This should allow coated liposomes containing a vaccine to be retained in the body for a longer time without being cleared by the immune system, in addition to avoiding anaphylaxis," said team leader Yuyi Teramura from Japan's National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology. "All the indications suggest that our technology should be suitable for delivering vaccines into patients who develop anaphylaxis in response to PEG," he said.

The polymer must now undergo thorough testing in various real vaccine applications, prior to eventual clinical trials in humans.

Mayne adds women's health products

ASX-LISTED Mayne Pharma Group Limited has signed an exclusive licence agreement with US-based TherapeuticsMD for three branded women's health products and a portfolio of prenatal vitamins in the USA.

The US\$140 million deal "significantly enhances Mayne Pharma's position in the US women's health market," the company said.

The additions include Annovera (segesterone acetate/ethinyl estradiol), Imvexxy (estradiol); and Bijuva (estradiol and

progesterone) capsules which are "the first and only FDA-approved bio-identical hormone therapy in a single, oral daily capsule for the treatment of hot flushes" experienced during menopause.

Mayne Pharma said it would also exclusively licence the BocaGreen MD and vitaMedMD lines of prenatal vitamins, and expand its existing women's health sales team and add additional sales representatives into new territories not already covered for its Nexstellis oral contraceptive product.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to **Pharmacy Daily's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Kavita Nadan, Co-founder, Jobs in Pharmacy**



Staff shortages beyond the silly season

I'VE previously talked about making sure you're not caught out this holiday period, with the next few weeks heralding peak season for many community pharmacies. Whether that means extended operating hours, more staff on deck, stock management or integrating your in-store and online experience, it's all happening right now.

But what happens when the tinsel's packed away and things have calmed down? We know that lots of employees work through the December chaos and have (well-deserved) leave planned for the first few months of 2023. In fact, our data shows pharmacies are looking to fill more shifts in January than they are in December.

So, while we can continue to expect last-minute shifts and roster changes (COVID cases are trending up week on week in every state and territory), I encourage you to turn your focus to January and February. Staff taking planned leave is a good thing; it gives you plenty of time to plan around it.

For a complete pharmacy talent marketplace - from students to dispensary technicians - check out **Jobs in Pharmacy**, our online jobs platform to find the right people for your pharmacy ecosystem.

Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

CONSIS.C

The latest in pharmacy robotic automation

The CONSIS C uses state-of-the-art technology in all areas of operations, from the user and control software to the mechanical and electronic components.

The sophisticated design maximises storage capacity, the dual lane feeder system speeds up loading, whilst inbuilt sensors and cameras offer peace of mind with advanced diagnostic support.



Cost savings



German made and engineered






Instant asset write-off*

A solution for every dispensary

find out more

 **Willach** | Pharmacy Solutions

 willach.com.au
 Tel: (03) 9429 8222
 info@willach.com.au

* To find out if your business is eligible for the instant asset write-off, consult your financial adviser.