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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

From all of us here at Beezwax, we'd like to wish you and your family a joyous holiday season. May this time be filled with peace, love and the spirit of Christmas!

We hope your holidays are merry and bright, full of good cheer and plenty of time to relax with loved ones.

We'd also like to thank those who have been part of our business journey this year and we look forward to chatting with those who choose to join us in the coming year.

We are truly grateful for your continued support and loyalty.

[Pharmacy Wrap](#)

Psychology Support

If you or your staff need a little extra assistance this holiday period, please don't forget that Beezwax is partnering with clinical psychologist, Carolina Farinacci. Carolina has worked with pharmacists and pharmacy staff over the past 16 years and has a wealth of knowledge in helping deal with the issues that come up in our industry.

If you would like to discuss your needs or book in a session, Carolina can be contacted on 0404 084 056 or carolinafarinacci@hotmail.com.

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Can Beezwax help you in 2023?

Are you interested in finding out what our set monthly fee would be for providing our bookkeeping and payroll services to your pharmacy?

The pandemic has definitely increased the workload on all pharmacy staff so you want to be sure your processes are the best they can be.

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, a cover wrap from **Beezwax**, plus full pages from:

- TerryWhite Chemmart
- Glucojel

Beezwax buzz

PHARMACY business specialist Beezwax has released its latest monthly video wrap, thanking the industry for its support and loyalty across the portfolio including bookkeeping, payroll, psychology support and more. See the **cover page** for info.

Jelly bean wars

THE Pharmacy Guild's Gold Cross Products has harvested social media reviews of rival products to its Glucojel range to highlight the perennial popularity of "The Original Pharmacy Jelly Bean" - see the **last page** of today's issue for all the details.

New Discount Drug Stores head named

SIGMA Healthcare this morning announced the appointment of Hugo Ortiz as the new Head of Discount Drug Stores, following an "intensive executive search".

Ortiz was formerly GM and Chief Operating Officer of Pharmacy Platform, which includes the Chemist Discount Centre and Advantage Pharmacy brands, and takes over the DDS role from Patrick Stoll who is pursuing other opportunities after 12 years with the brand. Ortiz commences his new

position on 16 Jan, saying he's excited about the "commitment and direction set by Sigma's CEO and the leadership team to fully back the brand".

"We want to take DDS back to its roots, where it will play a more significant role in the discount pharmacy segment, while still having a strong backbone in providing healthcare solutions for its customers."

DDS now comprises about 120 Australian stores, with ambitious plans to accelerate growth.

Guild constitution update

EXCLUSIVE

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has increased the terms of office for members of its National Council and Branch Committees from three to four years, under an updated Constitution which has been lodged with the Fair Work Commission.

The term extension is one of several rule changes which have been voted on and approved by the organisation's National Council, with the update also providing clarity that the next general Guild elections will be held in 2024, following delays to the start of the current election term caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other updates approved by office bearers include the removal of a range of governance requirements that are now explicitly set out in the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*.

The Guild declined to provide further detail or commentary on the changes, with a spokesperson telling *Pharmacy Daily* "we believe the reasons for the rule alterations provided on our website are self-explanatory".



Previously the most recent change to the Constitution was registered by the Fair Work Commission in early Jan 2020, with alterations relating to honorary life membership, election of National Councillors, Branch Executives and office bearer eligibility.

The Guild's website at guild.org.au confirms that a notice was lodged with the Fair Work Commission on 22 Nov setting out the particulars of the most recent alterations including the extension of terms to four years, although the revised Constitution isn't yet available on the Guild website nor that of the Commission at fwc.gov.au.

New PD Editor



THE *Pharmacy Daily* team is delighted to announce the appointment of Jayamala Gupte (pictured) as the publication's new Editor.

Commencing in the new year with extensive industry experience including former editorial roles at *AJP*, *PostScript* and *Retail Pharmacy*, Gupte takes the role recently vacated by Nicholas O'Donoghue.

Jayamala's appointment comes amid strong growth for *Pharmacy Daily*, which continues to set new records for subscriber numbers, readership and advertising engagement.

COVID-19 vaccination saved \$181 billion

NEWLY released economic modelling suggests that the COVID-19 vaccination rollout saved Australia's economy \$181 billion during the pandemic.

A peer-reviewed research paper titled *The Value of Vaccines: A Tale of Two Parts* estimates that without vaccinations the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns would have impacted Australia's Gross Domestic Product by \$395 billion, with the timely rollout of the jabs reducing the impact to \$214b.

The research was undertaken by strategic planning firm Bioelect and Victoria University's Centre of Policy Studies, with the support of Pfizer Australia.

The rollout was also estimated to have contributed to "large positive effects" for tourism exports (\$28 billion), education exports (\$26 billion), employment (142,000 jobs) and Government finances (\$259 billion).

The paper was published in *Vaccines* on 30 Nov - see doi.org.

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Dispensary Corner



IT'S said by some that breakfast is the most important meal of the day - but perhaps not when it involves the ingestion of ridiculously sweet cereal full of artificial colours and flavours.

An art collective in New York called MSCHF has taken the concept to extremes by releasing "The Big Fruit Loop" - a gigantic (and very much unauthorised) version of Kellogg's popular Froot Loops which so many families enjoy as a holiday treat.

The Big Fruit Loop (pictured) contains 930 calories and weighs about 250g, according to MSCHF co-founder Daniel Greenberg, with a special website promoting the item as "part of an extremely unbalanced breakfast" at bigfruitloop.com.

Greenberg said MSCHF had worked hard to reverse engineer its creation to match the taste and texture of the original Kellogg's cereal, admitting "it was not easy".

The Big Fruit Loop went on sale overnight for US\$19.99, but sadly for Australian Sam Toucan aficionados the limited supply of the items has already sold out.



A very Choice celebration



SYMBION'S Pharmacy Choice and healthSAVE pharmacies recently hosted their first face-to-face awards ceremony in two years, celebrating the top achievers in the group's 5STEP Incentive Program.

The scheme scores and rewards member pharmacies on their commitment to five areas of pharmacy excellence, with winners making the most of the moment at the Next Hotel in Melbourne.

Categories included Best Newcomer, Most Improved and Most Engaged, with opportunities for pharmacies of any size to excel and be rewarded.

The Pharmacy of the Year award went to Coober Pedy Pharmacy, operated by pharmacist Hassan Hashmi, with the owners Irfan and Sofia Hashmi also recognised as their pharmacies took out five awards in total, including Top Tier and High Achiever.

The family's commitment to the healthcare needs of regional Australia has been widely recognised within their local community, with Irfan Hashmi noting that Coober Pedy Pharmacy had been with Pharmacy Choice since it was established in 2007.

Cameron Macklin, GM of Pharmacy Choice, healthSAVE and Merchandise, congratulated all of the award recipients.

"It's great to see our members continuing to excel and providing the very best support to their local communities," he said.

Pictured celebrating their victories are, from left: Symbion SA/NT Key Account Manager Irene Sardelis; Coober Pedy Pharmacy's Shiromiya Victor, Elsie Carboni and Hassan Hashmi; Risdon Pharmacy's Sobia Hashmi; Orroroo Pharmacy's Maria Slann; and Irfan Hashmi from Risdon Pharmacy.

More UK SSPs

THE British Department of Health has issued five more Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for penicillin, as the country's antibiotic crisis continues amid a surge in strep A and scarlet fever.

The updates allow pharmacists to supply alternative formulations or products if they cannot fulfil specific penicillin prescriptions.

GP Update

GP concerns

MORE than half (53%) of Australians cite cost concerns for GP medical appointments and are going less often, given the realities of the decline of bulk billing practices.

The bi-annual Australian Healthcare Index report conducted by Healthengine and the Australian Patients Association finds a declining trend in Australia's healthcare rating over four reports down from 7.8 to 7.1/10 since March 2021, and revealed the top three challenges for Australian healthcare:

- GP, nurse and healthcare worker shortages (47%)
- Emergency Department wait times (42%)
- Increasing out-of-pocket costs to see a GP (33%)

Over the past year, Australia's GP Net Promoter Score has dropped 16%, with this result tied to how costs and wait times are affecting patients.

Cost concerns are prevalent for one in four (26%) survey respondents, with 88% of those now paying more.

Of the 88% paying more, 19% pay up to \$10 more, 24% pay \$11-\$20 more and 45% pay \$20+ more for a visit.

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5.

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Rebecca Wall	(WA)	0477 538 865
Gary Flynn	(SA/NT)	0488 223 155



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SOME BRANDS THINK MONEY TALKS...

Michelle Martin
Please bring back the other ones!!
These are inedible 🤢

Neil Clarke
They are foul! **Glucojel Jelly Beans** all the way

Michelle Martin
They are disgusting bring back the old ones

Christine Davis
Glucogel taste heaps better than these tried them the other day and they are horrible.

Wendy Thompson
Tried them. Sorry not a fan 😞

Michelle Martin
They are terrible. As a diabetic that buys jelly beans all the time they are awful 🤢

Janet King
These are awful. Was told they were the same jelly beans but with new package, misleading much!

Vanessa Joyce
They are awful!!! Bring back the Glucogels

Chris Jones
Tom Murphy WHAT!!!!?? They got rid of my jellybeans??? 😞😞😞 the world really is ending 😞😞😞

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