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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a Fact Sheet from Flordis.

Probiotic support

INTEGRATIVE medicine specialist, Flordis, is providing pharmacists with a checklist to help them provide the right Ther-Biotic probiotics for their customers' individual needs. See **page three** for more.

Connect today

EARLYBIRD registration for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Pharmacy Connect conference in Sydney on 01 to 03 Sep, will close at midnight tonight.

The event is offering delegates a COVID-19 refund guarantee.

CLICK HERE to register.

ELS to show locums its appreciation

PHARMACISTS who complete an Emergency Locum Service (ELS) assignment will receive a Certification of Appreciation authorised by the Department of Health and Aged Care.

Raven's Recruitment General Manager, Heidi Dariz, said the group, which is the contracted service provider for the Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement ELS, had worked with the Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) to recognise pharmacists who provide emergency support to rural and remote pharmacies.

"The ELS provides important support to pharmacies in rural and remote Australia in circumstances where a pharmacist experiences a personal emergency and is unable to work," she said.

"We feel it's appropriate to recognise those that drop everything at short notice, take themselves out of their comfort zone and travel to outback areas to provide important locum support.

Raven's recruitment
PROUDLY PRESENTS THIS
Certificate of Appreciation
TO
Pharmacist Name
AHPR Registration No. PHA0000123456
For your contribution to the 7CPA Emergency Locum Service program, in [Month],[Year].

Heidi Dariz
General Manager
Raven's Recruitment Pty Ltd

Alan Nguyen
Pharmacy Programs Administrator
Australian Healthcare Associates Pty Ltd

7CPA
Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care
Pharmacy Programs Administrator

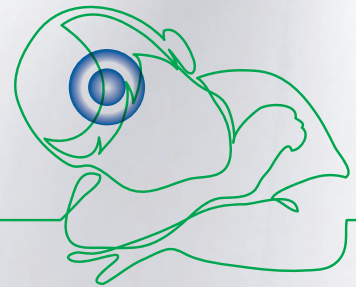
"While pharmacists offering their time to support the service are well remunerated, one of the biggest rewards is walking into a pharmacy that would otherwise close helping ensure it remains open so it can continue to serve its local community.

"Working in a different location, seeing smiles on the faces of customers who are able to continue to access pharmacy services is at the heart of the program."

Dariz added that the program offered pharmacists the opportunity to experience working in different parts of the country, noting it "can be highly rewarding".

"We feel that doing an ELS placement is something more pharmacists should consider, even just once in their career," she said.

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Dispensary Corner

IOWA-BASED pharmacy technician, Misty Coenen, is suing Walmart after being fired for failing a drug test.

Coenen received her marching orders in Nov 2021, after spending seven years working at the pharmacy group's store in Clarke County, the *Iowa Capital Dispatch* reported.

Court documents revealed that Coenen's mobile phone was seized by local authorities in Jul 2021 after she was charged with violating a no-contact order.

In Oct 2021 Walmart District Manager, Nancy Laymon, summoned Coenen to a meeting with Walmart Global Investigator, John Oldfather, during which it emerged that she was suspected of drug use, based on a text message exchange she had with an unnamed person four months earlier.

Coenen was subsequently ordered to provide a urine test, however, she claims that the sample she gave was not split into two samples in line with standard drug testing protocols.

She was fired a few weeks later, with Walmart reporting that she had tested positive for "drugs of some kind".

Coenen lawsuit claims that Walmart's drug testing policy did not comply with State legislation, saying there was no rational basis for the test, and the failure to split the sample denied her the right to have a second test reviewed at a laboratory of her choosing.

COVAX patch beats jab

INITIAL research suggests a COVID-19 vaccine (COVAX) patch may provide better protection against variants of the virus than needle-based shots.

A University of Queensland (UQ) study tested the Hexapro SARS-CoV-2 spike vaccine using Brisbane-based biotech firm, Vaxxas's high-density microarray patch technology, with the results showing the patch was significantly more effective against new COVID variants.

UQ School of Chemistry and Molecular Biology Research Officer, Dr Chris McMillan, said the patch delivered the vaccine into the layers of the skin "which are rich in immune cells".

"We found that vaccination via a patch was approximately 11-times more effective at combatting the Omicron variant when compared with the same vaccine administered via a needle," he said.

"So far, every vaccine type we have tested through the patch, including subunit, DNA, inactivated virus and conjugate produces superior immune responses compared to traditional needle vaccination methods."

McMillan's colleague, UQ School



of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences Advance Research Fellow, Dr David Muller, said the patch technology offered "a new - and more effective - weapon... at a time where new variants are mutating at a rapid rate".

"The patches are not only more effective against emerging variants but are also far easier to administer than needle-based vaccines," he said.

"But, it is important to stress that existing vaccines are still an effective way of combatting serious illness and disease from this virus and it is not the time to drop our guard."

PSA sets out its purpose

PHARMACEUTICAL Society of Australia (PSA) National President, Dr Fei Sim, has set out the organisation's purpose during a Branch Committee Strategy day in Sydney this morning.

Launching the organisation's purpose statement, Sim stressed the organisation wants "every Australian to have access to the best healthcare, and to enhance the lives of Australians through safe, quality and effective use of medicines".

"We promote a culture of respect and open collaboration between members, elected officials and staff," the PSA's purpose statement says.

"We will continue to reflect on our contribution and our engagement with each other.

"We are stronger when we work together."

Sim will open the PSA's annual conference, PSA22, tomorrow, with Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, scheduled to address the event's first session.

Strapit cops fine

STRAPIT Medical and Sports Supplies Pty Ltd, has been issued infringement notices totalling \$26,640 over alleged advertising breaches.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration reported that the company advertised face mask products on its website that had been removed from the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

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Checklist: What to look for when recommending probiotics to your patients

STEP 1: Strain

- Does the product only contain strain-specific probiotics?**
 Did you know? Certain probiotic strains are more effective for certain conditions than others, even within the same Genus. The strain refers to a specific genetic variant with particular characteristics that may not appear in other members of the same species.
- Are the probiotics supported by robust clinical research?**
 What to look for in a robust clinical study:
 - ✓ Do the results support the primary objective of the trial?
 - ✓ Was the study performed on the specific probiotic strains, rather than the Genus or Species?
 - ✓ Was it double-blind, placebo controlled and studied on humans?
 - ✓ Was there a significant population size and positive outcome?

STEP 2: Formulation

- Does the formula contain any 'filler' strains lacking evidence relevant to product claims?**
- Are any active ingredients included in the clinical research but missing in the final product?**

STEP 3: Dose & Delivery

- Are the strains provided in the same CFU count as studied in the research?**
- Does the product mode of delivery match what was used in the research?**
 For example, probiotics researched as a vaginal suppository may not deliver the same therapeutic benefit when taken as an oral supplement.



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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.