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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus a full page from TerryWhite Chemmart.

TWC promises

TERRYWHITE Chemmart is today highlighting its "Performance Promise" demonstrating the group's confidence in its ability to grow pharmacy gross profits. See **page three** for details.

Ravens podcast

THE first episode of Season Five of Ravens Recruitment's *Your Pharmacy Career Podcast* is now live, featuring 2021 University of Queensland graduate Samantha King, currently interning with Qld Health Metro South.

The podcast is available on all platforms or by **CLICKING HERE**.

Guild flags PA training in Brisbane

JOBSEEKERS in Queensland's Brisbane and Logan regions are being offered the opportunity to kick-start a career in community pharmacy with a fully subsidised pharmacy assistant (PA) training program.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch President, Chris Owen, said graduates of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work Fundamentals of Community Pharmacy course would earn

a SIR20116 Certificate II in Community Pharmacy.

"This is a fantastic initiative on offer by the Queensland Government that has been very popular right across the state with over 100 course graduates in the past year," he said.

The seven-week course, including 10 days of vocational placement, will begin on 22 Aug.

For more information on the program see guild.org.au/cws.

Consider data when giving CAM advice

PHARMACISTS should adopt an evidence-based focus when discussing the use of complementary and alternative medicines (CAMs) with patients, Australian Medication Safety Services, Principal Consultant, Dr Chris Alderman, believes.

In an editorial in the American Society of Consultant Pharmacy's *The Senior Care Pharmacist*, Alderman - who is the publication's Editor-in-Chief - said CAMs "present a range of unique challenges for health care practitioners, including pharmacists who provide care for older people".

Alderman noted that while "many pharmacists receive little or no training that would provide them with an insight into the nature of CAMs, the message that consumers send about these products is unmistakable", with US patients spending more than US\$27 billion on them annually.

"This is unsettling for health care workers because we invest

considerable time and professional energy in working toward guiding consumers toward safer use of conventional medicines," he said.

"In some cases, pharmacists may have adopted a philosophy essentially based on the adage, 'if you can't beat them, join them'."

Alderman noted that as overseers and custodians of therapeutic goods provided for sale to the public, pharmacists have a responsibility to exercise reasonable caution in the way they formulate recommendations for the use of various products.

"To make a recommendation for an older person to add extra medication to what may already be a complex treatment regimen, pharmacists need to exercise good professional judgment," he said.

"Though there is money to be made by selling supplements to a willing public, it is important that pharmacists should be circumspect in their interpretation of data pertaining to specific products.



"If the data do not convincingly point to a favourable risk-benefit ratio, pharmacists should not make a recommendation for consumers to use a product," Alderman added.

"If the data are insufficient, faulty, or unavailable, common sense dictates that health care professionals should forebear from endorsing a product, and, arguably, should decline to hold that product in stock at all.

"In no way disrespecting the potential benefits of CAMs, it is nevertheless advisable to expect the same evidence for safety and efficacy should apply to all products proposed for therapeutic use."

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Dispensary Corner

PHARMACISTS step aside - if patients want sensible and well-considered medicines advice, US Fox News host, Tucker Carlson, is the person to turn to, it seems.

Following the release of a review which suggested that research based on the serotonin hypothesis had not produced convincing evidence of the biochemical basis to depression, Carlson questioned why selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRIs) were still being prescribed.

In a diatribe about the review conducted by researchers at the University of London, Carlson latched onto a side effect of the medications to support his argument that patients should abandon treatment.

"If it steals your sex drive, maybe it's stealing your soul," he suggested.

Dispensary Corner would like to point out that the review made no mention of the possibility that SSRIs could be responsible for stealing patients' souls, but it's a unique hypothesis.

Pharmacy is health "bedrock"

TIES between the Federal Government and the community pharmacy sector are "the bedrock of Australia's health system", Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Mark Butler, believes.

Speaking alongside Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, in a video posted online last night (pictured) to commemorate the opening of Federal Parliament this week under the newly elected Government, Butler praised the role community pharmacists have played in delivering health services to patients throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Thank you to all the pharmacists out there, and community pharmacies, for the extraordinary work you've done over the last two-and-a-half years," he said.

"Outside of the hospital system you have been the most accessible health service for your patients... and it has not gone unrecognised," the new Minister said.

"It's great to meet with Trent and other officers of the Guild in our first week of Parliament.

"I know that the Guild has been such an important partner for



Australian Governments over the decades, particularly for the last three decades during the life of the Community Pharmacy Agreements.

"So as the Minister for Health and Aged Care, I really look forward to continuing that constructive relationship, which has really been the bedrock of Australia's health system."

Butler's video with the Guild leader came ahead of his address to the opening session of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) annual conference in Sydney this morning.

Pharmacist-turned-politician, Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, and Rural and Regional Health, Emma McBride, is also slated to speak at the PSA event today.

CWH to stock Locako range

AUSTRALIAN-OWNED low-carb keto brand, Locako, is set to roll out its range of vitamins, meal replacement shakes and collagen brownie balls, through Chemist Warehouse (CWH) next month.

The move will see CWH stores become the first pharmacies to stock Locako products, five years after the company first launched its collagen snack bars and coffee creamers.

Earlier this month Locako announced plans to launch its products into the UK market through health food giant Holland and Barrett, in Sep.



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