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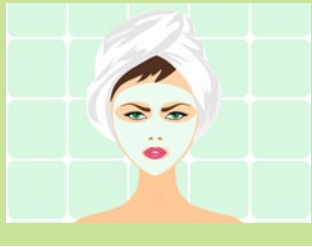
Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news plus a cover page from TerryWhite Chemmart.

TWC exclusives

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) is rolling out exclusive brands to help its network partners attract new customers.

The new ranges include, Face of Many skincare products, Tempo vitamin supplements and the 100% Australian made Willa + Ro luxury bodycare range.

See **cover page** for more.



Push to extend intern's vax status

REPRESENTATIVES of pharmacy organisations are united in calling on the Victorian Government to implement legislation authorising trained pharmacy students and interns to administer vaccines on a permanent basis.

With Public Health Emergency Orders (PHEOs) allowing Victorian student and intern immunisers to administer COVID-19 and influenza vaccines set to expire in the coming months, representatives of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) are urging newly appointed State Health Minister, Mary-Anne Thomas, to retain their vaccination services indefinitely.

Guild Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, told *Pharmacy Daily* that changes to the legislation, rather than an extension of the PHEOs, would strengthen the profession's workforce.

"The Guild believes that rather than having temporary emergency orders extended, it should be made

permanent, and be part of the ongoing framework of our primary healthcare system to further bolster our immuniser workforce," he said.

"It will be something we will raise with the newly appointed Victorian Health Minister, when we have the opportunity to meet, along with a review of the overall scope of vaccines Victorian pharmacist immunisers can administer along with the age of patients they can give them to."

PSA Victorian Branch Manager, Jarrod McMaugh, also backed the implementation of legislation authorising appropriately trained pharmacy students and interns to continue administering vaccines beyond the expiry dates of the current PHEOs.

McMaugh also called for changes to pharmacist immuniser training requirements in Victoria.

"Currently, if you're training was conducted outside of Victoria it's not recognised," he said.



"Any nationally recognised vaccination training program should be recognised in Victoria."

He said that such changes would ensure the State's immunisation workforce is "used more effectively".

McMaugh added that pharmacist immunisers should be authorised to administer a full range of vaccines, with funding made available to pay for the administration of National Immunisation Program shots, as well as covering the vaccines.

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UTAS to offer 'fast-tracked' BPharm

PLANS to roll out a 'fast-tracked' version of the University of Tasmania's (UTAS) Bachelor of Pharmacy degree (BPharm) on two regional campuses, could ease workforce shortages, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Tasmanian Branch President, Helen O'Byrne, believes.

O'Byrne said the program, which will be offered at the university's Launceston and Cradle Coast (Burnie) campuses, would mean students would no longer have to relocate to Hobart to study pharmacy.

"This is a great option for young people from the Launceston and North West Coast regions who want to study pharmacy, to pursue their chosen career without needing to move to Hobart", she said.

"Ease of access is a major issue for young people and their families when considering university course options.

"Having a course available close

to home makes the choice so much easier for students and their parents, particularly when the cost of accommodation and living expenses does not have to be factored in.

"As pharmacy owners we are actually aware of the current difficulty in finding pharmacist staff.

"Making the degree accessible closer to home for students, will help to fill the shortage in the pharmacist workforce across Australia in the future.

"It's an exciting time to be in pharmacy – there are so many more opportunities for pharmacists to be practising at their full scope in many varied settings, including community pharmacy, hospitals, aged care and policy roles."

O'Byrne, who owns a pharmacy in Launceston, said community pharmacies in the city would support students in gaining experience in the sector.



"Our Launceston pharmacy community would be very interested in supporting students with part-time jobs," she said.

"We know that this 'on the job' experience is invaluable to students' learning, and they may even decide to stay on for their intern year and beyond."

The fact-tracked program will be run over trimesters, rather than mirroring the four-year BPharm course provided in Hobart, effectively doing away with the lengthy 'summer break'.

Blooms diabetes testing service

BLOOMS The Chemist is urging patients with diabetes or at risk of developing the condition to seek support to manage their health.

Ahead of National Diabetes Awareness Week (10 to 16 Jul), the group is offering free blood glucose screening services.

Blooms The Chemist pharmacist and diabetes care expert, Claire Ross, said regular health checks can help identify early warning signs, and prevent diabetes-related issues, such as kidney failure, blindness and limb amputations.

"With 1.4 million people in Australia living with diabetes, it's important for people at higher risk to monitor their blood glucose levels," she said.

"While this test will not confirm if you have diabetes, a high blood glucose reading may signal that there may be an issue."

Walgreens ditches plan to sell Boots

US PHARMACY chain, Walgreens Boots Alliance, will retain its ownership of British pharmacy giant, Boots, due to uncertainty in the global financial market.

The decision to abandon plans to sell Boots came less than a month after reports that Indian Billionaire, Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries, and US venture capital firm, Apollo Global Management were set to make a binding offer to buy the pharmacy group.

However, Reuters reported that economic uncertainty combined with rising inflation



and interest rates, had made financing the deal challenging.

While the deal has been put on ice, investment firm, Evercore, said it viewed "a potential future sale as still likely within the next few years if the macro environment becomes more stable".

Roe v Wade ruling fuels ECP demand

PHARMACIES in the US are reporting a significant increase in demand for emergency contraceptive pills (ECP) following last week's Supreme Court ruling on a woman's right to have an abortion.

Online pharmacy, Wisp, told *CBS News* that it had seen a 3,000% spike in sales of ECP since last Fri's decision to overturn the 1973 *Roe v Wade* ruling.

Wisp CEO, Ahmad Bani, said demand for emergency contraception has been on the rise over the past two months, following the leak of a draft of the Court's ruling.



Other pharmacy chains, including CVS and Rite Aid, have been forced to limit customers to three boxes per transaction, in an effort to ensure equitable access to the medication since the Court handed down its decision.



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PDL RTPM alert

PHARMACISTS are being urged to be mindful of their responsibilities when dispensing medicines with the support of real-time prescription monitoring (RTPM) systems.

Professional indemnity insurer, Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL), has issued a practice alert reminding pharmacists that RTPM systems are decision-making tools designed to alert them to "potential high-risk situations".

However, PDL stressed the pop-up warnings were a guide and "pharmacists must use their own clinical judgement" when dispensing.

PDL advised pharmacists to conduct a risk assessment before dispensing, and document high-risk interactions, including their reasoning for making decisions.

TWC Masterclass gets underway

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) is hosting its eighth TWC Masterclass training event on the Gold Coast this week, returning to a face-to-face format after going online last year.

The three-day conference got underway on Mon, providing delegates with a pathway to meet their annual CPD accreditation requirements.

The event's program included training across a range of topics including menstrual health, nocturnal enuresis, prostate cancer, diabetes and other chronic conditions, TWC Chief Pharmacist, Brenton Hart (**pictured**), said.

"Every year we aim to deliver quality content that will enable our pharmacist network to practice to the fullest of their scope and embed themselves as healthcare leaders in their respective communities," he said.

"This year I am particularly excited to welcome health coaches Shivaun Conn and Sharon Curtain

(from Accredited Health Coaching Australia) who will coach the team to incorporate principles of Lifestyle Medicine to bring new approaches to primary healthcare and instigate long-term, sustainable behaviour change in patients."

TWC has also announced the launches of the Sanofi Diabetes Thrive Program as part of the expansion of the network's Care Clinic offering.

"We are excited to partner with Sanofi to be the first pharmacy group to deliver the Thrive diabetes training program," Hart said.

"The Thrive program is accredited with the Australian Pharmacy Council and the Australian Diabetes Educators Association and involves four 60-minute modules designed to help pharmacists offer person-centred support for people living with diabetes.

"This program is just one of many we will be rolling out throughout the year and would not be possible without the support of our loyal



supplier partners like Sanofi."

MEANWHILE, TWC also revealed that the group raised \$10,000 for Ovarian Cancer Australia (OCA) during its gala event on Mon evening.

TWC Executive General Manager, Nick Munroe, said the network was "extremely proud to be able to support the great work OCA is doing... to both raise awareness and much needed funds for women suffering from ovarian cancer".

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Dispensary Corner

HEALTH regulators are used to issuing recalls, but usually they relate to tainted medications or faulty medical devices.

However Health Canada this week issued a somewhat more unusual notice, involving a major recall of umbrellas sold through big-box retailer Costco.

The issue follows multiple reports of cases where the large patio umbrellas have spontaneously burst into flames, potentially causing injury.

Apparently the SunVilla 10 foot Solar LED Market Umbrellas are fitted with LED lights on the inside arms, with the flame issue related to overheating lithium batteries.

“Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled umbrella,” a formal Health Canada notice advised, urging users to remove the solar panel from the top and store it away from combustible material.

Costco confirmed it had sold 32,702 units of the affected product in Canada and over 220,000 in the USA between Jan 2021 and May 2022.

PSotY finalists named

EIGHT aspiring pharmacists are set to put their skills and knowledge to the test at the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia’s (PSA’s) annual conference next month to compete for the Viatris Pharmacy Student of the Year (PSotY) title.

The finalists include the winners of the state and territory competitions, with James Cook University’s Renee Buckland taking the wildcard slot.

The national final will see the students face a real-life clinical situation, where a patient will present with signs and symptoms or a specific product request.

The finalists will demonstrate their clinical knowledge and communication skills to identify the best course of action, tailoring their response to deliver the most appropriate advice, before a judging panel.

Incoming PSA National President, Dr Fei Sim, said the PSotY program was designed to encourage students to draw on their training and emotional intelligence to show their pharmacy skills.

“The PSotY awards are an opportunity for pharmacy students to practice and develop their skills in the kinds of real-world situations you would experience as a practising pharmacist,” she said.



“I congratulate all the students who’ve participated in the competition this year for their hard work.

“It’s exciting to see such talented students entering our profession and dedicating their lives to the health and wellbeing of their communities.”

The finalists are:

- Eden Brennen, University of Canberra, ACT.
- Chloe Woodward, University of Newcastle, NSW.
- Rheanna Norris, University of Queensland, Qld.
- Irene Stergos, Charles Darwin University, SA/NT.
- Haylee Shaw, University of Tasmania, Tas.
- Hannah Barakat, La Trobe University, Vic.
- Melissa Cato, University of Western Australia, WA.
- Renee Buckland, James Cook University, Qld.

New AHPRA code

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (AHPRA) has noted that its revised Code of Conduct which applies to registered health practitioners in 12 professions - including pharmacists - has gone into effect today.

The revised Code outlines what the public can expect when they see a registered health practitioner, with AHPRA CEO Martin Fletcher saying the update reflected “changes in public expectations and professional practice”.

A key change is the inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and cultural safety, highlighting the key role health workers play in achieving equity in health outcomes for First Nations peoples, Fletcher said.

Other updates include greater clarity on clinical governance responsibilities for those in leadership roles, and more guidance for practitioners and employers to resolve disagreements within the workplace.

Resources including a summary in multiple languages are available at ahpra.gov.au.



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EDITORIAL
 Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper
 Editor – Nicholas O'Donoghue
 Contributors – Adam Bishop, Myles Stedman, Janie Medbury
info@pharmacydaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING
 Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi
advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER
 Jenny Piper
accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
 Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
 PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
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