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## Cognitive Health Through the Ages: Research Insights & Clinical Conversations

**DATE:** Wednesday 6th April 2022 **TIME:** 6 – 7:15 pm AEST

- Explore cognitive changes throughout the lifespan
- Research insights into treatments for cognitive decline
- Clinical discussion examining the role of PUFAs for neurodiversity
- Interactive live Q&A session with guest presenters



### **Research Insights: Risk factors for cognitive decline and the potential for interventions**

Deep dive into the evidence for preventing cognitive impairment and dementia, including the role of lifestyle and interventions such as CDRI 08, *Bacopa monnieri*. Presented by Matthew Pase, Associate Professor of Neurology at Monash University, & Associate Professor of Epidemiology at Harvard University. Dr Pase's core initiatives include elucidating risk factors for the development of dementia and identifying strategies to reduce this growing health crisis.



### **Clinical conversations: Practical applications for PUFAs in neurodiversity**

An exploration of the role of polyunsaturated fatty acids in the treatment of neurodiverse children. Presented by Gerald Quigley, Integrated Pharmacist, and Master Herbalist, Gerald will share his unique expertise and experience on the integration of PUFAs in complex patient management.

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## Pharmacy's winter wins

**COMMUNITY** pharmacies across all States and Territories "bar one" will be eligible to administer free influenza vaccines to eligible patients through the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

Federal Health Minister, Greg Hunt, told delegates at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP) that Queensland was the only jurisdiction where pharmacists will not have access to NIP-funded flu shots from 04 Apr.

The announcement came as Hunt revealed plans for the rollout of a winter dose of COVID-19 vaccines for select groups will commence on the same date.

"We have seen pharmacists stay at their posts in the most difficult times, and I just want to thank them," Hunt said.

"There are some significant next stages as we normalise in Australia, as we move through the process of returning to normal after two years of COVID-19 measures.

"I've now received advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisations (ATAGI)... and they have recommended that there should be a winter dose or second booster, for particular groups of people.

"These are adults 65 years and older, Indigenous Australians 50 years and older, aged care and disability residents, and people aged 16 years and older who are severely immunocompromised.

"That dosing regime will start in our pharmacies, general practices, our State and Commonwealth clinics and Indigenous medical clinics from 04 Apr.

"It's for a window from four to six months after you've had your first booster, and that's based on medical advice."

Hunt added that the Federal Government from 01 Jul Continued Dispensing will be made permanent, allowing pharmacists to provide patients with full Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme supplies of prescription medicines to patients without a script in emergency circumstances (**PD** breaking news).

### Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features four pages of news, plus a **cover wrap** from **Flordis** and pages from:

- Willach
- Sigma Healthcare

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## Owners urged to pull up their socks

**PHARMACY** owners need to ensure they are playing an active role in their stores as the profession seeks to extend the service it provides to patients.

Responding to questions about pharmacy's workforce capacity to take on new services, at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP), Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey (pictured), said owners needed to innovate before expanding their healthcare offering.

"You can't just keep bolting extra things on to a system," he said.

"I've said this before, we have to work with banner groups, we have to work with marketers, to redesign workflows and that's before you can commission a new thing, you have decommission an older thing that can be automated by systems, that can be taken over by your technical staff.

"That could be using better software or indeed having a physical robot in your pharmacy.

"All of those efficiencies have to happen at the same time.

"If we keep just pouring more in on someone who is already stretched that's when not only are we going to have a fatigued workforce, but it's going to create an unsafe work environment.

"The final comment I'll make on that is... pharmacy owners have to step up - and our National Council has been talking about this a lot.

"The reason we have pharmacist-owned pharmacies in Australia is not because of you - it's because it's in the interest of the public.

"And I think it's about time that some pharmacy owners in Australia pull up their socks and play a more active role in the daily operation of their pharmacies."

Twomey noted that Pharmacy Board of Australia workforce data showed that there has never been more pharmacists registered in the country, yet pharmacies are experiencing staff shortages.

"It's due to a variety of things -



ballooning payrolls of State and Territory health systems," he said.

"But the other thing is there might be more head count than ever, but there's not more full-time equivalents than ever.

"[What] we're seeing is a generational issue, it's a feminisation issue, it's a whole raft of things - [and] it's not just pharmacy that's experiencing this, it's medicine and dentistry as well."

## Cognitive health

**INTEGRATIVE** medicine specialist, Floridis, will host a webinar exploring cognitive health and the role of PUFAs for neurodiversity on 06 Apr. See **cover page** for more.

## Vax destination

**SIGMA** Healthcare's Amcal banner's is rolling out its Your Vaccination Destination program across its pharmacies.

The group aims to provide Australian health consumers with a suite of vaccination services in one convenient patient-centric solution.

The program will support its pharmacies to become the destination of choice for all Australians' vaccination needs all year round.

Amcal has also introduced a new online booking tool, so patients can book a jab easily. See **page six** for more.

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1. Spada F et al. Dermatol Ther 2021;34(4):e14970. (n=100) Study sponsored by Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd.  
2. Consumer satisfaction survey on people with mild or moderate eczema. n=48. Participants confirmed condition status through a declaration. Survey conducted by Beauty Heaven on behalf of Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd. 2021





## Tas COVAX move

**MOVES** to authorise community pharmacists to administer COVID-19 vaccinations (COVAX) to children aged five to 11 years, are being welcomed by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) (**PD** breaking news).

PSA Tasmanian Branch President, David Peachey, said the decision would enable pharmacists to play a key role in protecting children.

"We are delighted that the state will now be brought in line with the rest of the nation, improving access to vaccination for families residing in regional parts of the state," he said.

"It is imperative that all Tasmanian children can access COVAX from pharmacists, Australia's most accessible healthcare workforce, in order to keep themselves, their families and the community safe."

## Hunt to embed pharmacies in RACFs

**FEDERAL** Health Minister, Greg Hunt, has announced \$345 million will be made available to embed pharmacies in residential aged care facilities (RACFs) from 01 Jan 2023.

Speaking at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP) on Fri, Hunt said pharmacies "will play a fundamental role in dispensing medicines and being embedded within our RACFs to protect our oldest, most vulnerable and frail Australians".

"\$345 million [will be available] commencing on 01 Jan 2023 over the next four years to support pharmacy involvement [in aged care]," he said.

"Over the next six months we'll work on a period of co-design with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and other elements across our health system to design and implement that system of embedded pharmacists within aged care.

"[That] \$345 million contribution will make a difference to saving lives, protecting lives and improving

lives in aged care."

Pharmaceutical Society of Australia National President, Associate Professor Chris Freeman, described the funding as "a win for those residents" noting it would give them "greater access to medicines experts".

"PSA has been advocating for funding to improve medicine safety in residential aged care facilities since 2018, following the establishment of the Royal Commission into Aged Care – and now, almost four years later, the Government has taken action," Freeman said.

"The Royal Commission into Aged Care detailed well-known issues like the overuse of psychotropic medicines, and since then, troubling data on medication misadventure has continued to emerge.

"Since the Royal Commission was established, PSA has been working closely with all governments to implement recommendations



outlined in our *Medicine safety: aged care* report from 2020, and it is incredibly pleasing to see that our advice has been heeded.

"With more than 19,000 Australians in residential aged care prescribed antipsychotics with no indication, the level of chemical restraint must be addressed. We also know that the more medicines someone is prescribed, the more likely it is to cause harm.

"The evidence is clear - pharmacists need to be an embedded part of the aged care equation if medication misadventure is to be minimised and rectified."

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## Dispensary Corner

**JUGGLING** increasing workloads while nurturing a social life has been a challenge over the last two years, especially for those on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For Alabama-based pharmacist, Zach Wood, it has been impossible, but his local community is hoping to change that, with readers of local news publication, the *Hoover Sun*, naming him the area's Most Eligible Bachelor.

In an effort to play match-maker for the 38-year-old, the paper reported key selling points to woo potential partners, noting he "has never been married or engaged... in fact, he's never gotten too serious in a relationship, preferring more low-key, casual dating relationship up to this point".

The publication has also given Wood a US\$150 gift certificate for a local restaurant to go on "a dinner date with the woman of his choice", and pledged to provide all the single ladies of Hoover with more about Wood, including "his idea of a good date and what he's seeking in a woman", as well as revealing his hobbies and interests.



## Job interview guarantee

**UKRAINIAN** pharmacists fleeing the war-torn nation are guaranteed to get an interview with British supermarket, ASDA, if they choose to go to the UK.

The company has more than 1,500 job vacancies across its stores, warehouses and distribution network, including pharmacy positions, the *Pharmaceutical Journal* reported.

ASDA's Chief People Officer, Hayley Tatum, said that successful candidates would be provided with specialist support in their new roles.

"We want to support those Ukrainian refugees who come to the UK by helping them find employment, as this will give them the stability and security needed to help build a new life for themselves," she said.

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) released advice earlier this month advising that Ukrainian pharmacists seeking employment opportunities in the



UK could take on a variety of roles that do not require registration, while they can also participate in the year-long Overseas Pharmacists Assessment Programme and sit the GPhC's registration assessment, if they wish to practice.

"We would encourage any Ukrainian pharmacy professionals who want to register with us to contact us directly so we can give them advice and support," the GPhC said.

"Our registration team will be as flexible as possible to support Ukrainian pharmacy professionals by talking through individual circumstances, including financial difficulties, obtaining documents or other challenges."

## Patient death sees Irish PotY censured

**FORMER** Irish Pharmacist of the Year (PotY) winner, Audrey Kingston, has been censured for failing to warn a patient of potential risks associated with mixing her prescribed medications.

Kingston received the professional honour on 18 May 2019, two days after her patient, Alice Parnell, died having taken a combination of warfarin and clarithromycin, which a fitness-to-practice hearing was told may have caused an adverse event, possibly leading to her hospitalisation a week after her husband picked up the



prescription for her.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland noted that Kingston should have warned Parnell's husband that the patient should have got a blood test within three days of taking the antibiotic, but failed to do so, *The Irish Times* reported.



## Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is

**Luke Edmunds,** Pharmacy Owner at TerryWhite Chemmart Armadale and Harvest Lakes WA, and Rhonda White Leadership Award Nominee for 2021.



### It's all or nothing

**I OFTEN** hear of pharmacy owners cherry picking the services that their brand or banner group provides.

For me though, a huge part of the success and growth of my pharmacy in Armadale has been embracing all aspects of the TerryWhite Chemmart brand.

This all or nothing approach has transformed my business. For example, setting goals with my TWC BDM through our Joint Partner Plan has helped my team achieve 94% store compliance and as a result, our customers now appreciate a stronger range and higher standards when they visit.

Our entire team was also extremely proud to be recently acknowledged in the exclusive 100% catalogue execution list so now we have a stronger promotional offer for our customers which has helped grow our destination category sales by more than 29% over the last 6 months.

I consider the TerryWhite Chemmart support team as a true extension of my team – their expertise and experience are an invaluable asset, and we leverage it at every opportunity to grow our business.

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