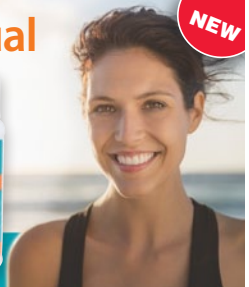


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Today's issue of PD

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

TWC congrats

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) is today formally congratulating Terri Bakker from TWC Rosny Park for her recent award win as the Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year (PD 31 Oct). See page four for details.

MedSafetyWeek

HEALTH professionals across the globe are being invited to participate in a worldwide Medicines Safety Week taking place 07-13 Nov, with 81 countries getting together to encourage reporting of side effects from medicines.

Pharmacies deliver half of COVID vax

ALMOST 50% of all COVID-19 vaccinations in Australia are now being provided through community pharmacies, with a total of more than nine million doses having been administered since they were brought into the rollout in Jul 2021.

New data released by the Department of Health shows the impact pharmacy has had on ensuring the success of the vaccination program, with the percentage of vaccinations being delivered by community pharmacies having risen steadily.

"In August last year, soon after community pharmacies were given the green light to provide the vaccines, the number of Australians receiving their COVID-19 vaccination in a community pharmacy was about 8%," said Trent Twomey, Pharmacy Guild National President.

"Fast forward to late October this year and the data shows that about 47% of Australians were choosing community pharmacies as the place



to go to have their vaccinations.

"Even more significantly, the remaining 53% or so of the vaccinations were being delivered collectively through doctors' surgeries, Commonwealth vaccination clinics, Aboriginal Community Health Centres, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and

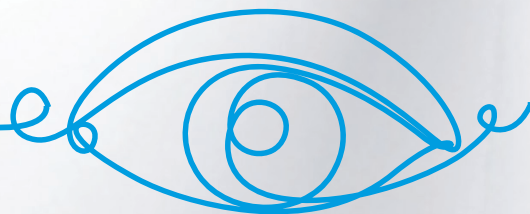
other Commonwealth vaccination facilities," Twomey said.

"With all these other providers making up the balance, it is clear the community pharmacy sector is the largest provider of COVID-19 vaccinations and clearly pharmacies are the provider of choice for Australians," he added.

Twomey said the accessibility of community pharmacies and the trust Australians have in their pharmacists were key reasons that people were choosing to be vaccinated in a pharmacy.

"Community pharmacists are consistently rated among the most trusted health professionals and the fact that 97 per cent of Australians in capital cities live within 2.5km of at least one pharmacy, while in the regional, rural and remote areas of Australia 66 per cent of people are within 2.5km of a pharmacy, means access to that trusted health professional to administer the vaccination is not a problem."

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Galderma victory

THE Australian arm of global pharmaceutical industry player Galderma has taken out the company's Global Best Practice Award for innovation in healthcare professional education.

The accolade came after Galderma Australia's multi-site, hybrid First Impressions symposium earlier this year, which was conducted in partnership with local brand experience firm Synergy Effect.

Rather than shying away from major educational events and conferences, Galderma Australia did just the opposite by investing in First Impressions which leveraged streaming technology to see international "Key Opinion Leaders" presenting to health care professionals from across the region.

More than 6,000 delegates took part in 15 cities over three days, while the Sydney location was then converted into four special training clinics where participants could undertake hands-on training.

It's the first time Galderma Australia has won the award.

MA adds four to Board

MEDICINES Australia has welcomed four new elected Board members, with the pharmaceutical manufacturing peak body also re-electing two incumbents at its annual general meeting last week.

The newcomers include Josie Downey, Managing Director of Merck Healthcare ANZ; Lizzie Marrett, MD of Astellas Australia & New Zealand; AbbVie ANZ Vice President and GM Nathaile McNeil; and Prashant Nikam, MSD Australia and NZ Managing Director.

The re-elected Directors, who stood again following the completion of their three-year terms on the Board, include Stuart Knight, General Manager of Roche Products Australia; and James McDonnell, CSL Vifor's VP and GM Australia and NZ.

The appointment of the six Directors brings the Medicines Australia Board to 11, including Dr Anna Lavelle, Chair; Adam Roach from Biogene; Anne Harris from Pfizer; GSK's Patrick Desbiens; and Ashraf Al-Ouf from Bayer.

Lavelle said "the appointment of these Board Directors comes at a pivotal time for Medicines Australia and our sector".

"Their deep industry knowledge and breadth of experiences will be a great benefit to ensure our industry can deliver better health outcomes for all Australians".

Lavelle thanked the recently departed directors for their significant service and contribution to the success of the organisation - and to the health system as a whole.

"I also wish to specifically acknowledge Selected Director, Bruce Goodwin, who has announced his retirement from the Board," she added, noting a search for a new Selected Director would start in the new year.

Medicines Australia CEO Elizabeth de Somer welcomed the new board, saying they had become directors at a crucial time for health reform and improving patient access to innovative medicines.

"Under the Chair's guidance, the Board have set us in good stead to shape health policy and reform our system for the future," she said.

"The strategic guidance from the Board will focus our efforts on ensuring Australia prioritises patient access to innovative medicines, treatments and vaccines," de Somer said.

No Ozempic until Apr 2023

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration has been advised by Novo Nordisk that its Ozempic (semaglutide) solution for injection pre-filled pen will not be available in Australia from mid-Nov through until the end of Mar next year.

The TGA has recommended that patients who are prescribed Ozempic should contact their doctor immediately to have their treatment reassessed - particularly in light of the upcoming holiday season which will see medical services limited for some weeks.

"The TGA is working with Novo Nordisk and the relevant health professional organisations to manage this serious shortage," the TGA said, adding that clinical advice on how best to manage the situation would be shortly published for health professionals.

Details have been posted on the TGA's Medicine Shortage Reports Database at tga.gov.au.

Order PBS stationery for Xmas delivery

SERVICES Australia is urging pharmacies to place orders for Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme stationery now in order to have it in store by Christmas.

The agency has confirmed it does not process PBS stationery orders during the Christmas and New Year period between 23 Dec 2022 and 02 Jan 2023.

To ensure pharmacies have sufficient supplies for the holiday period they must ensure orders

are placed by 30 Nov.

"We'll still process orders made after 30 Nov 2022, however you may not receive your stationery until Jan 2023," the Department said in a website update.

Pharmacies and hospitals must order PBS stationery via the Health Professional Online Services (HPOS) platform, requiring linking of PRODA accounts to HPOS prior to lodging stationery orders.

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*IRI Data, January 2022, Pharmacy, Hand Moisturisers



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Pain peak body paracetamol pushback

PAIN advocacy body Painaustralia has warned that proposals to restrict availability of paracetamol through supermarkets will disadvantage millions of Australians.

The organisation has made a formal submission to a Therapeutic Goods Administration consultation on the issue, which will be considered next week by the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling.

An independent report into the use of paracetamol in Australia has made several recommendations (**PD** 14 Sep), including reducing the size of packs sold in supermarkets and convenience stores, as well as in pharmacies without the advice of a pharmacist.

The report also suggested limiting the number of packs of paracetamol products that can be purchased in one transaction to reduce home stockpiles; making modified-release paracetamol only available with a prescription; and also requiring a script for the purchase of paracetamol by individuals aged under 18.

Painaustralia CEO Giulia Jones



told *Nine Publishing* that the changes would unfairly impact chronic pain sufferers, with the submission pushing back on any of the proposals to restrict sales of the medication.

"There are 3.4 million Australians who live with chronic pain, and many of them use paracetamol every day without a script because going to the GP costs money," a *Nine* report quoted Jones as saying.

Restricting sales to over-18s would "negatively impact young

carers who provide support to adults," the Painaustralia submission adds, noting that the proposed policy would place the same requirements on accessing paracetamol as alcohol or tobacco, which are "clearly more harmful in general to society".

Several options will be canvassed by the Committee at its meeting scheduled for 16 Nov, including requiring paracetamol in tablet or capsule form to be provided in blister or strip packaging.



Dispensary Corner

AMERICA'S National Parks Service has issued an unusual new health warning for visitors to some of its parks in Arizona - they've been advised not to lick any of the local toads.

Sonoran Desert Toads (*bufo alvarius*) measure almost 18cm long, and have "prominent parotoid glands that secrete a potent toxin", according to a Facebook update from the government agency.

"As we say with most things you come across in a national park, whether it be a banana slug, unfamiliar mushroom, or a large toad with glowing eyes in the dead of night, please refrain from licking," the service noted.

Apparently the toxins, once extracted, can be smoked to produce a potent psychedelic effect - hence the propensity of some to lick them to induce similar hallucinations.

THERE was another kind of health crisis aboard a flight from the Canary Islands back to the UK over the weekend, after toilet malfunctions forced the aircraft to divert.

Operated by low-cost carrier Jet2, the Airbus A321 initially operated its normal route, but about 90 minutes into the flight turned sharply east and landed in Bilbao "so that the toilet tanks could be emptied".

After staying on the ground for almost two hours the plane once again took off, with air monitoring site Flight Emergency tweeting "Bladders emptied, LS782 is back on its way" with the plane eventually landing in Manchester at 11pm.



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Vertex TGA tick

VERTEX Pharmaceuticals has announced the TGA approval of Trikafta (elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor) for children with cystic fibrosis (CF) aged 6-11.

Eligible patients have at least one F508del mutation in the CF transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene, the most common CF-causing mutation worldwide.

The approval follows the recent PBS listing of the item for those aged 12 and older.

Celebrating our winner!

PATY
2022
PHARMACY ASSISTANT
OF THE YEAR

 The Pharmacy
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Terri Bakker

TerryWhite Chemmart Rosny Park, TAS

Congratulations to Terri Bakker on winning the 2022 Pharmacy Guild of Australia / Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY).

Terri's hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated. We are extremely proud of her achievements, both with this award and the real care she brings to her local communities every single day.

 **TerryWhite
Chemmart.**

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