

Target muscle and joint pain **fast!**

As seen on TV!

Now available direct from **Symbion, Sigma, API & CH2**. Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

AUSTRALIAN OWNED

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

Doc cops fine

A NSW-BASED medical practitioner has been issued with a \$2,664 infringement notice relating to the unlawful importation of a Prescription-Only medication.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) alleged that the unnamed doctor illegally imported an unregistered medication used to treat HIV.

The regulator reported that the medic had shipped the product from India to give to patients as a treatment for COVID-19 symptoms, without prior approval or authority to import it.

"The medicine has been seized at the border and will not be released," the TGA said.

PA concerned over COVID pay cuts

MOVES to end COVID-19-related public health orders and income support will adversely impact pharmacy staff and the broader community, the Professionals Australia (PA) union believes.

In a statement issued earlier this week PA, which represents employee pharmacies, warned that "COVID-19 remains a significant risk to the health and wellbeing of Australians".

Under changes announced by National Cabinet last month community pharmacists who contract COVID-19 will not be eligible to receive Pandemic Leave Disaster Payments, while targeted financial support will be available to workers in the hospital sector (PD 30 Sep).

"Although the recent wave has receded, we are likely to see further waves and variants that will cause serious illness," PA said.

"If action is not taken now to reduce these waves, we will once again see significant pressure

placed on frontline workers in the health and care sectors, including PA's pharmacist members and the vulnerable Australians they care for.

"We remind employers that the removal of public health orders and income support does not change employer obligations under our health and safety laws to ensure workplaces are healthy and safe and that any risks to health and safety must be addressed.

"Employers must ensure that workers who contract COVID-19 are not forced to attend work and are financially supported to isolate safely and recover from the illness. "Employers must also work with workers and their unions to ensure that appropriate health and safety measures are in place to deal with COVID-19.

"The pandemic has also demonstrated the risk to public health that has been caused by the erosion of paid sick leave entitlements across the workforce,



especially as a result of insecure work."

PA added that having initially secured paid pandemic leave, the union would continue to campaign to ensure workplaces are safe and employees are paid to isolate if they contract COVID-19.

"We call on the Albanese Government to work with unions, employers and the community to ensure workplaces are prepared for future waves of COVID-19 and ensure we have policies and practices in place that minimise the risks of COVID to our community in the future," a PA spokesperson said.

DRAW THE LINE... when it comes to Hayfever & Allergy relief



Affordable, quality healthcare supporting Australian families

Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

www.apothealth.com.au

The APOTEX trademark is under license. Apotex Pty Ltd Macquarie Park NSW 2113. ABN 52 096 916 148. Copyright © CONSUMER-000779. August 2022. All rights reserved.



ConPharm set to continue with PSA

ACCREDITED pharmacists' annual conference, ConPharm, will go ahead in 2023, under the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

The announcement comes less than a month after the PSA and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia confirmed that the Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy (AACP) - which has previously hosted ConPharm events - will be disbanded at the end of 2022 (**PD** 26 Sep).

PSA National President, Dr Fei Sim, said the decision to hold the standalone event in Adelaide in May 2023, reflected the organisation's commitment to accredited pharmacists.

"PSA is committed to preserving the legacy of AACP and we are very excited to be able to continue offering a dedicated national conference for accredited pharmacists, the PSA ConPharm23," she said.

"ConPharm has a long history of bringing together hundreds of accredited pharmacists from around Australia to connect and receive high-quality education targeted to the accredited pharmacists, those undergoing accreditation, and those looking to advance their practice.

"PSA made a commitment to give career-long support to accredited pharmacists. PSA will work with the PSA Accreditation Expert Advisory Group to deliver a program that meets the needs of accredited pharmacists."

Sim also confirmed that the PSA will preserve the AACP's Consultant Pharmacist of the Year awards as part of ConPharm.

"I am delighted that PSA will be continuing these awards, when I look back at all the winners of the past, I see the names of so many incredible pharmacists - many of whom are advising PSA on how we can continue supporting



accredited pharmacists."

"PSA-accredited pharmacists will be able to access professional support and professional development throughout your entire career, not only through your training. This is an important part of the support AACP has provided, and PSA is proud to carry on that legacy."

ConPharm 2023 will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 05 to 07 May 2023.

CLICK HERE to register.

Medicare rorting claims 'wrong'

ALLEGATIONS of widespread rorting of Medicare by GPs are "unjustified" and "just plain wrong", Australian Medical Association (AMA) President, Dr Steve Robson, says.

Robson said reports that members of the medical profession have rorted or inaccurately billed for Medicare services to the tune of \$8 billion, aired in a joint report by the *ABC's 7.30* and *Nine Entertainment's* print publications, "don't stack up at all".

"There's no doubt there are areas of Medicare that need improvement," the AMA President said.

"But I'm aware of no evidence of this kind of rorting on an industrial scale.

"It's just ridiculous, and it doesn't help."

Refugee pharmacy owner set for Award

PHARMACIST, Fadi Almasri, is in the running to land the *Irish Pharmacy News'* People's Pharmacist of the Year Award less than a decade after arriving in the Emerald Isle.

The Syrian native was forced to flee his home in Homs when the uprising against Bashar al-Assad's regime started in 2011.

Almasri moved to Ireland as part of the UN Refugee Agency's resettlement program in late 2014, and seven years later he established his own pharmacy in the rural town of Ballon, about 100km south of Dublin.

Since opening Ballon Pharmacy, Almasri has built a loyal customer



base, *The Nationalist* reported.

"I do feel that when you open a business in a community, you have a responsibility to that community, to be part of it and help support the community," Almasri said.

"Not everyone has the chance to start their life again."

Unauthorised firm hit with import fines

SOUTH Australian company, Inspire Cosmetology Pty Ltd, is facing two infringement notices totalling \$26,640 relating to the importation of unapproved cosmetic injectable products.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) alleged that the firm attempted to ship medical devices containing Prescription-Only substances that they did not have the approval or authority to import into the country.

"Equivalent products can be obtained lawfully in Australia," the regulator said.

"Patients seeking cosmetic injectables are at increased risk

of adverse events when injected with products that have not been approved for supply in Australia.

"All Prescription-Only products on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) undergo assessment by the TGA prior to inclusion to ensure they meet quality standards, including that they are sterile, contain only the labelled ingredients, and were manufactured in a suitable facility.

"Unregistered products do not come with these assurances."

Patients accessing cosmetic treatments are urged to make sure businesses they use only supply ARTG-approved products.

Ultra Muscleze®

Advanced Magnesium Blend



Move with Eze

Sleep with Eze

BioCeuticals®

Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

[Learn More](#)

Dispensary Corner



OCTOGENARIAN pharmacist, Martin Brian, is set to spend four years of probation for trading pills for sex.

The lusty 82-year-old Pennsylvanian was busted after police went to investigate reports that two unconscious people were parked behind his pharmacy, in Apr 2021.

Broadcaster, *NBC Philadelphia*, reported that while officers were attempting to identify the individuals in the car, a woman was seen exiting the pharmacy's back door, before rushing in after spotting the police.

Brian then came out of the store and asked investigators what was happening.

The officers then questioned the pharmacist and the woman, receiving conflicting accounts from the pair, before they seized the woman's mobile phone finding text messages from the pharmacist allegedly directing her how to respond to questions.

An audit of the pharmacy's stock by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) days after the incident found discrepancies in the store's inventory of oxycodone, Xanax, and fentanyl.

On 26 Apr, the woman was interviewed again, and she admitted to meeting with Brian weekly to exchange sex acts for money and controlled substances.

In addition to serving probation, the pharmacist will pay US\$750,000 in penalties.

Hands off community pharmacists

BRITISH Health Minister, Will Quince, is being urged to halt the recruitment of pharmacists to work in general practice settings, to ensure community pharmacies retain adequate staffing levels.

Speaking at an industry event over the weekend, Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) CEO, Janet Morrison, who leads the sector's contract talks with the British Government, told delegates that she had raised concerns about the growing number of pharmacists being diverted into the GP setting with the newly installed minister, the *Pharmaceutical Journal* reported.

"One of the things I clearly said to Will Quince when I met him was, 'you have to stop recruiting clinical pharmacists into primary care,'" Morrison said.

"It doesn't make sense.

"Clinical pharmacists can add more value keeping community pharmacies open, delivering on medicines safety, really effective prescribing, delivering services, giving advice, being open so many hours of the day and being relied on by the public.

"I'm not saying they shouldn't work there [in general practice]; I'm saying they should stop continued recruitment.

"If you want integration and multidisciplinary teams, which completely makes sense, then actually use the resources that are already there."

Primary Care Pharmacy Association President, Graham Stretch, said that rather than stopping the recruitment of GP pharmacists, the profession needed



to make sure that community pharmacy is not left behind.

"The idea that somehow everybody moved from community to GP is just plain wrong," he said.

"Yes, it's part of the problem, but it's not the biggest problem.

"The biggest problem comes down to you as a working professional looking for satisfaction.

"That's a multifaceted thing, that's not just money, that's not just training, it's flexibility, value and actually time to try something new and you can't argue against that."

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Ferro-Max C for the prevention & treatment of iron deficiency

Iron deficiency is a common nutritional deficiency in Australia, especially in women. If your customer is feeling constantly tired & exhausted, they could be low in iron.

Ferro-Max C is a high potency iron supplement with added Vitamin C to increase iron absorption. Each tablet contains ferrous sulfate 325mg (105mg elemental iron) & vitamin C 500mg.

So recommend Ferro-Max C to your customers today!

Supplier: Available from Symbion, Sigma & API.

Contact Clear Sales Australia on 1800 640 043 for special deals.

RRP: \$18.99

For more information visit www.petrus.com.au

