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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news and a cover wrap from Melrose.

Omega boost

OMEGA oils are a key part of a healthy diet, supporting a number of mechanisms within the body, including the cardiovascular system and eye health.

Australian-owned health supplement manufacturer, Melrose, is aiming to provide pharmacists with a range of options to help patients find the best Omega product to suite their needs.

See today's cover page for details about Melrose's range.

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PPA reps join unions at Jobs Summit

EMPLOYEE pharmacists' union, Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA) will be represented by Professionals Australia at this week's Jobs and Skills Summit in Canberra.

Professionals Australia CEO, Jill McCabe, said the summit provided an opportunity to address declining real wages.

"We're proud to be representing Australia's hard-working pharmacists at the Summit, and will join other unions, employers, civil society, and government to discuss the challenges facing Australia and ways to build a well-trained and productive workforce, deliver secure, well-paid jobs and create opportunities for all Australians," she said.

"We'll be advocating for policies and reforms that deliver stronger employment opportunities and outcomes for our members working in a range of professions

and sectors.

"We believe that the Jobs and Skills Summit provides an opportunity to review Australia's bargaining system following significant workplace changes and a sustained decline in real wages over the past decade.

"The bargaining system has become overly complex and inaccessible to many workers – including for many of our members working in small workplaces."

The interests of community pharmacy owners are set to be represented through the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's membership of the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia, whose CEO, Alexi Boyd, has been listed on the list of participants.

Confirmation that the PPA will be represented at the summit came after Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National President,



Dr Fei Sim, said the organisation had not been asked to attend the event, and voiced frustration that representatives of the pharmacy sector had not been invited to attend the Minister for Health and Aged Care's Health Workforce Summit (PD 30 Aug).

Speaking at the PSA's National Conference in Sydney in Jul, Sim described the current Pharmacy Industry Award 2020 pay rates as embarrassing (PD 03 Aug).

AFSPA deadline

MEMBERS of the Australian Friendly Societies Pharmacies Association (AFSPA) who are unable to attend next week's AGM in Canberra, are being urged to submit their proxy form by 5pm on Mon 05 Sep.

The AGM will be held as part of the annual Friendlies Conference, which will also see a pharmacy business consultant, Bruce Annabel, deliver a "State of the Nation" update for the pharmacy sector.

Representatives of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia will join a panel discussing pharmacy politics, opportunities and scope of practice, on Thu, which will be followed by review of the challenges facing the pharmacy workforce, with the Guild's National Workplace Relations and Business Policy National Manager, Scott Harris.

Meanwhile, AFS Health Services CEO, Mark Boyd, has been nominated to represent Qld on the AFSPA Committee.

To access the full clinical paper
CLICK HERE

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Reference: 1. Spada F et al. Dermatol Ther 2021;34(4):e14970. (n=100) Study sponsored by Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd. EGO PHARMACEUTICALS PTY LTD, 21-31 Malcolm Road, Braeside, 3195, Australia. Australia Ph: +61 3 9586 8800 | Toll free 1800 033 706. Date of Preparation: 06/22.



Dispensary Corner

ASPIRING British Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, is pledging to be “very pro-pharmacy” if he succeeds in his bid to replace Boris Johnson.

Throughout the long-running Tory Party leadership campaign, Sunak has highlighted his ties to the community pharmacy sector, repeatedly telling anyone with a notepad and pen, or a dictaphone, of his experience working in his mother’s pharmacy in Southampton.

To further emphasise his connection to the profession, Sunak and his team returned to the store last week, where he told journalists that he grew up working behind the dispensary.

“It really informed who I am actually, these are the values that I was brought up with, strong family, community service, small business,” he said.

“That shaped me to being the person I am today, these are my roots and it is those values that I want to bring to government.

“I want to create a country where hard work is rewarded, where families are strong and supported and where aspiration is something that is celebrated.

“That is the type of prime minister I want to be.”

In an effort not to alienate himself from other frontline healthcare voters, Sunak also visited his father’s old GP surgery.

However, judging by the former investment banker’s comments, he clearly feels a greater affinity to pharmacists than GPs.

SHPA focused on specialty practice

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has set out its plan to strengthen the organisation’s Specialty Practice Program.

SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels, launched the *Five Years of Specialty Practice* report at the Specialty Practice Leaders Forum yesterday.

“SHPA is proud to launch the report celebrating the last five years of achievement, and strengthening the program for the next five years, not just for hospital pharmacists, but for the entire pharmacy sector,” she said.

“Spanning 31 specialties, [the] Specialty Practice has been essential to SHPA’s strategic priorities, harnessing and empowering our greatest collective asset, specialised member expertise, to influence policy, regulation and practice, supporting best practice in medicines management to improve health outcomes for Australian patients.



“Specialty Practice has been instrumental in SHPA’s role in defining the role of residential aged care pharmacists, achieving changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme listing of high-risk opioid analgesics to reduce harm, and providing clinical advice to the Therapeutic Goods Administration on managing complex and critical medicine shortages.

“Ahead of the Jobs and Skills Summit, Health Minister Mark Butler has outlined supporting

clinicians throughout their career as one of the new Government’s three health workforce priorities.

“SHPA’s Specialty Practice program has done exactly that for the pharmacy sector.

“The online Specialty Practice community is a crucial support for pharmacists in their day-to-day practice, working at the coalface in a fragmented healthcare system, and especially so during the uncertainty and demands of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

WET fined over ivermectin importation

WESTERN Australian business, World Environmental Technologies (WET) Pty Ltd, has been issued a \$13,320 fine of alleged unlawful importation of ivermectin by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

The TGA reported that WET imported ivermectin tablets for human use into Australia which were not included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

“There was no exemption provided in this case,” the regulator said.

“Unregistered medicines have not been assessed for quality, safety or efficacy and pose a risk

to consumers.

“Unregistered products could also be counterfeit.

“To date no major regulator has approved ivermectin for the treatment of SARS-Cov 2 infection.

“The TGA warns those considering importing unregistered therapeutic goods into Australia that they should comply with the applicable regulatory scheme.”

The regulator has previously fined TMF Cosmeceuticals Pty Ltd, and two NSW-based individuals a total of \$69,264 in relation to allegations of unlawful importation of ivermectin.

Scholes retires

MAYNE Pharma Deputy Chair, Ian Scholes, has announced plans to retire from the company’s board at the end of the month.

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange, Mayne confirmed Scholes will step down after 15 years on the Board.

The company also announced the appointment of mergers and acquisitions specialist, David Petrie, as a non-executive director.

Petrie will join Mayne’s Audit and Risk Committee and the Remuneration and People Committee.