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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news plus a **Fact Sheet** from **Flordis** and full pages from **TerryWhite Chemmart** and **Direct Chemist Outlet**.

TWC internship

PHARMACY graduates looking to open the door to opportunities are being invited to apply to join the TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) internship program.
More details on **page four**.

Probiotic support

INTEGRATIVE medicine specialist, **Flordis**, is providing pharmacists with a checklist to help them provide the right Ther-Biotic probiotics for their customers' individual needs.
See **page six** for more.

PSA, ACP to take on AACCP functions

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) and the Australasian College of Pharmacy (ACP) will take on the role of accrediting pharmacists next year, with the Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacy (AACCP) to be decommissioned at the end of the year.

The decision, announced this morning (**PD** breaking news) followed a meeting of the AACCP Board earlier this month, during which the organisation's owners, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the PSA, agreed to wind the body down.

PSA National President, Dr Fei Sim, said that despite the closure of the AACCP, accreditation would remain a key part of the pharmacy profession going forward.

"PSA is and always will be the home of accredited pharmacists. Accreditation aligns with our policy and advocacy agenda," she said.

"We are absolutely committed to ensuring accreditation opportunities remain and acknowledge the

need for pharmacists to develop and maintain the skills attained during accreditation to be a minimum requirement for activities like Residential Medication Management Reviews (RMMRs) and Home Medicines Reviews (HMRs).
"Accredited pharmacists have and will continue to play a vital role in the profession, especially as work progresses to embed pharmacists in residential aged care facilities."

Sim revealed that the PSA has established an Accreditation Expert Advisory Group, which will be led by former AACCP Chair, Debbie Rigby, to provide advice on a new accreditation model, to meet the needs of accredited pharmacists.

Guild National President, Trent Twomey, had hinted that the AACCP would cease operations, in an update at the Pharmacy Industry Roadshow event in Sydney earlier this month.

"We love people doing medication reviews and we want people doing medication reviews,



and the reason the AACCP is going to be wound back and out is because more people need to be accredited," he said.

"It's not because we don't value the task, it's not because we don't value the practitioners, but as scope evolves things will be stood up to upskill [pharmacists], and once you're upskilled it will be decommissioned.

"That's a marker of the success of the journey to full scope of practice."

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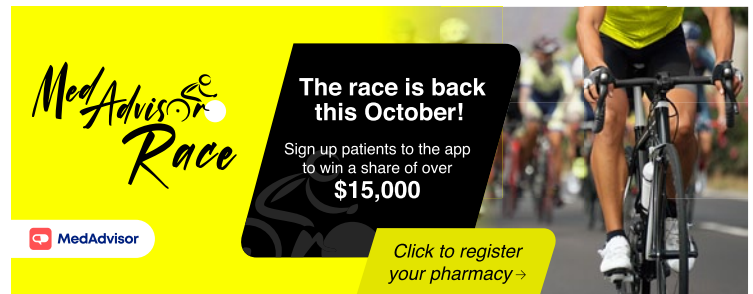
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Aussies back pharmacists to do more

UNACCEPTABLE waiting times to see GPs are fuelling public support for the expansion of pharmacists' scope of practice, a survey commissioned by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, by research group, Insightfully, reveals.

The survey, which was released yesterday to mark World Pharmacists' Day (25 Sep), found that almost 40% of the 2,411 respondents reported that GP waiting times were longer than they considered to be acceptable, with one-in-four saying they had been forced to attend an Emergency Department, due to being unable to access a GP appointment.

Close to 90% of respondents said they would support pharmacists providing more services including the full range of vaccinations under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) (83%), testing for influenza

and supplying anti-viral medicines if required (81%) and administering injectable medications (72%).

Guild National President, Trent Twomey, said community pharmacists were well placed to ease the pressure being faced by GPs and provide patients with timely access to health services.

"The wait times to see a GP are unacceptable," he said.

"Some 28% of Australians are waiting, on average, more than a week to get an appointment for themselves or someone they care about.

"In regional areas the number of people waiting more than three weeks for an appointment increases to 15%.

"Our doctors are under huge stress and patients are the ones suffering.

"This can be fixed, and fixed easily by enabling pharmacists to use



the skills and expertise they have trained for.

"There is no reason why this time next year when we recognise World Pharmacists Day that we cannot be celebrating the ability of pharmacists to do more for their patients.

"Pharmacists need to be able to work to their full scope and this research shows this is something that patients want and need."

Guild opportunity

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is seeking a Pharmacy Practice Director, to provide strategic input, policy analysis and development across the organisation.

The successful candidate will join the Guild's Pharmacy Practice Team, which is focused on "strategically important areas" including scope of practice, ownership and location rules, and pharmacy regulatory systems.

"These are all areas at the forefront of the evolving profile of the community pharmacy sector across Australia," a spokesperson said.

The recruitment process is being led by Raven's Recruitment General Manager, Heidi Dariz.

CLICK HERE for more information.

Sigma eyes growth through Amcal, DDS

PHARMACEUTICAL wholesaler, Sigma Healthcare, is aiming to "consolidate and build" its pharmacy franchise network through its Amcal and Discount Drug Stores (DDS) banners.

Announcing a \$1.5 million loss for the first half of the 2023 financial year, Sigma CEO, Vikesh Ramsunder, told the Australian Securities Exchange that the company has made "significant progress over the last six months".

"Today's results announcement set a clear direction for sustainable growth," he said.

"Sigma's renewed strategy has set four key objectives that will focus on leveraging our investment in distribution infrastructure, consolidating our franchise brand portfolio to deliver a sustainable growth strategy via Amcal and DDS, divesting non-core assets, and diversifying our income streams in the health, beauty and wellness categories."

Sigma reported that wholesale sales to pharmacies fell 3.3% in the period, but increased by 5% to the group's franchisees.

KKR pulls pin on Ramsay acquisition

RAMSAY Health Care has confirmed that discussions with investment firm, KKR, over a potential acquisition of the healthcare provider have been terminated.

In a statement to the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) this morning, Ramsay said that the business and its advisors had engaged with representatives of KKR since 13 Sep, when it withdrew a second bid (PD 13 Sep), to see if a deal could be reached.

"Through this engagement is

has become apparent that the consortium is unable to provide a new proposal at this time," a spokesperson for Ramsay said.

"While the Ramsay Board remains open to engagement in relation to a change of control proposal that provides appropriate value for shareholders... it is apparent that this is unlikely to be forthcoming in the near future.

"The Ramsay Board and the [KKR-led] consortium have mutually agreed to terminate discussions."



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PSA wants scope growth

EMPOWERING Australian pharmacists to play a greater role in primary healthcare will deliver benefits to patients and the health system, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) National President, Dr Fei Sim, believes.

Marking World Pharmacists' Day yesterday (25 Sep), Sim renewed the PSA's calls for pharmacists to be authorised to work to the top of their scope of practice.

"The credibility and rapport we have with our local communities place us in a unique position to make a difference in people's lives, day-in-day-out," she said.

"The pandemic has highlighted pharmacists' roles as essential primary healthcare providers, and we became a first point of contact for many in our communities.

"No matter the circumstance, pharmacists have worked hard to keep our doors open and continue delivering reliable, accessible health care.

"There is a lot to celebrate about the role that pharmacists play in Australian healthcare, but there are also opportunities for us to play a greater role in primary health.

"Australia can learn from countries around the world who have moved to allow pharmacists



to play a greater role in community health.

"In parts of the US pharmacists are prescribing hormonal contraception like the pill, while South African pharmacists are administering childhood vaccinations for polio and measles under an expanded immunisation program.

"These are all examples of how pharmacists can improve the accessibility of basic healthcare.

"As a health system we need to enable all healthcare professionals to practice to their top of scope."

Sim noted that changing State and Federal Government regulations regarding scope of practice will require extensive consultation.



Weekly Comment

Supporting an aging community

Welcome to **Pharmacy Daily's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Kavita Nadan, Co-founder, Locumate.**



changing the face of healthcare; prescriptions can be uploaded and sent to a pharmacy online, which can then store those scripts digitally. Technology is improving how we work behind the scenes, too; our app Locumate provides pharmacies easy access to locums, direct communication, automated invoicing, and a feedback system, all from the palm of your hand.

It's also more than just adapting to a changing demographic; The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety outlined the **opportunities** for pharmacists in working as part of the solution to supporting an ageing population. If you're looking for locums for your pharmacy, check out our network of locums on Locumate. pharmacists for your pharmacy, check out our locum network on **Locumate.**

WE ALL know Australia's population is ageing; according to the **Australian Institute of Health and Welfare**, by 2066, it's expected that older people in Australia (aged 65 and over) will make up between 21 percent and 23 percent of the total population. For comparison, as at June 2020, there were an estimated 4.2 million older Australians; 16 percent of the total Australian population.

For community pharmacies, recognition of and adaptation to a changing customer demographic is crucial. At the same time, technology is

Boots pay bump

BRITISH pharmacists working for Boots are set to receive a 4.5% pay rise under a deal reached with union group, the Pharmacists' Defence Association (PDA).

In the new agreement Boots will continue to make "short notice" payments to pharmacists who step in to cover shifts as a result of "unplanned absences arising within a 48-hour period".



Dispensary Corner

BEAUTY pageant debutante and pharmacist, Amrita Saund, has overcome a rare skin condition, Vitiligo, to claim the Miss Birmingham 2022 title.

The 26-year-old pharmacist, who has Indian heritage said she hoped to emulate Indian medic, Dr Bhasha Mukerjee, by claiming the Miss England crown.

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Checklist: What to look for when recommending probiotics to your patients

STEP 1: Strain

- Does the product only contain strain-specific probiotics?**
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- Are the probiotics supported by robust clinical research?**
 What to look for in a robust clinical study:
 - ✓ Do the results support the primary objective of the trial?
 - ✓ Was the study performed on the specific probiotic strains, rather than the Genus or Species?
 - ✓ Was it double-blind, placebo controlled and studied on humans?
 - ✓ Was there a significant population size and positive outcome?

STEP 2: Formulation

- Does the formula contain any 'filler' strains lacking evidence relevant to product claims?**
- Are any active ingredients included in the clinical research but missing in the final product?**

STEP 3: Dose & Delivery

- Are the strains provided in the same CFU count as studied in the research?**
- Does the product mode of delivery match what was used in the research?**
 For example, probiotics researched as a vaginal suppository may not deliver the same therapeutic benefit when taken as an oral supplement.



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