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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Melrose
- Glucojel

TWC vax rates up

WITH World Immunisation Week taking place 24-30 Apr, TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC), is celebrating its latest winter vaccination results with almost half (41%) of Australians already vaccinated for influenza or COVID-19, based on year-to-date Australian Immunisation Register (Jan - Apr) data.

TWC now offers up to five winter vaccination options for flu covering children, the national immunisation program, high-dose quadrivalent and the standard quadrivalent flu vaccine, along with choices for COVID-19.

TWC reports that one in five Australians could choose a TWC pharmacy as their preferred vaccination provider.

TWC Chief Pharmacist, Brenton Hart noted that the variety on offer and increased accessibility encourages consumers to consider getting protected in pharmacy.

"TWC has administered over two million vaccinations in the last two years alone.

"We have built exceptional expertise across our network with our six-part vaccination excellence program," said Hart.

PSA WA's best of the best



THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) recognised Western Australia's top pharmacists as part of the 2023 PSA Excellence Awards last night in Perth.

The WA Pharmacist of the Year was awarded to Laura Stewart MPS.

Working in the Pilbara and Gascoyne regions of WA, known to have significant health workforce shortages, Stewart has been able to expand the team to now include 16 pharmacists, as well as two interns by investing in free accommodation for students and interns.

Her strong staff mentoring, forming strategic partnerships with professional bodies including universities to help stimulate and drive student placement opportunities, and community engagement through seminars, workshops or career vocation days, has seen the Pilbara region become a coveted placement destination.

The WA Early Career Pharmacist of the Year was awarded to Ayomide Ogundipe MPS.

Ogundipe is a practising pharmacist and academic, undertaking a Doctor of Philosophy

at Curtin University investigating pharmacists' adoption of technologies.

The WA Intern of the Year was awarded to Keiran Batavia MPS.

Batavia demonstrated strong engagement with the Branch committee, a willingness to work collaboratively and showed excellent leadership potential.

The WA Lifetime Achievement was awarded to Prof Kevin Batty FPS for his exemplary 40-year career spanning hospital pharmacy, academic teaching and leadership, and research.

PSA WA President Lusi Sheehan MPS presented the awards and congratulated the winners and said, "these pharmacists have truly demonstrated the full scope of pharmacy practice in their respective faculties, have travelled beyond the regular roads of pharmacy and are outstanding in the heart of our profession".

Pictured (L-R): Dr Fei Sim, PSA National President, Ayomide Ogundipe, Prof Kevin Batty, Laura Stewart, Keiran Batavia, and the WA PSA President Lusi Sheehan.

Strong Q3 results

MEDADVISOR has announced an update on its activities for the quarter ended 31 Mar (Q3 FY23) where its operating revenue is up 50.4% to \$17m, from Q3 2022 of \$11.3m.

Its US activities went up by 59% to \$11.8m, underpinned by increased pharmacy participation in the US digital platform, and as compared with FY2022 of \$7.4m.

Australia was up 33% to \$5.2m (Q3 FY22 \$3.9m), including a three-month contribution from GuildLink of \$1.1m, and excluding GuildLink the underlying revenue was up 5.1%.

The Year to Date (YTD) Q3 revenue is \$81.1m, up 62.5% (Q3 YTD FY22: \$49.9m).

MedAdvisor reported that its gross profit was up 53.7% to \$10.3m, exhibiting an increase in gross profit margin of 1.3 ppts on the personal contract purchase.

It has a strong capital position with \$20.1m cash on hand as at 31 Mar.

MedAdvisor has also expanded its reach of US digital to 70 million individuals, an increase of 10 million (16.7%) individuals over the quarter.

The GuildLink pharmacy integration is on track at 86% complete with 1,288 of the 1,494 GuildLink pharmacies migrated to a MedAdvisor account with the rest due for completion by 30 Jun.

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Connecting communities to care

A culture of care

AUSTRALIAN health tech company Cannatrek has launched the Cannatrek Foundation.

This new not-for-profit organisation aims to support Australia's most vulnerable patients, including veterans and first responders, with access to medicinal cannabis.

The Cannatrek Foundation, an independent entity to the company, will continue to distribute and donate medicinal cannabis products provided by Cannatrek to eligible patients.

Currently, Australian patient groups requiring medicinal cannabis treatments are not provided with govt support.

The Foundation supports these groups by providing them with medicines and healthcare services and intends to engage with the govt for expanding future programs.

Curated self-care toolkit

LIFELINE has launched a new service designed to reach help-seekers who aren't ready to talk to someone else about their situation or simply prefer to manage things themselves first.

Available at Lifeline's site, the new support **toolkit** has practical information in plain language, as well as quality curated tools, apps, techniques, and services to help individuals take the next step in their wellbeing journey.

The support toolkit is also designed to help those supporting someone else in need.

It provides tools and resources to help people understand and cater to the needs of someone in distress while making sure they administer effective self-care at the same time.

Lifeline Australia CEO Colin Seery commented that the support toolkit will enable the organisation to support people who wouldn't otherwise engage with mental health and crisis support.

"Our new support toolkit means



help-seekers at all stages of their journey can come to Lifeline to access help on their terms.

"It helps people to make sense of their experience and take active steps to manage their wellbeing," Seery explained.

"We know that a lot of people looking for help might not yet be comfortable involving another person in their situation.

"The toolkit makes it easy for anyone who feels they are ready to take positive steps forward but doesn't know where to start."

Work-life survey

OVER the past month, Australians have increased searches for "work-life balance" by 55% - suggesting they are feeling the pressures of working and living a life outside of work.

Insurance company Budget Direct has surveyed 1,000 employees, weighted to be representative of the Australian adult workforce aged 18+, across various industries, to reveal which had the best work-life balance.

Stats for the 88 healthcare workers surveyed revealed that 36.4% of them worked on their last holiday; 55.7% felt restricted by work commitments for when they could take leave; 31.8% were happy with the amount of paid leave they received; 48.9% checked their work email while on holiday; and 62.5% of workers were emailed or texted while on holiday.

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Dispensary Corner

LIFE can be tough for everyone sometimes - even the families of billionaire pharmacy chain owners.

Janet Roach, described by *news.com.au* as “the socialite partner of Chemist Warehouse billionaire” Sam Gance, is apparently heartbroken at having to sell off a collection of personal possessions, because they won't fit into the pair's \$43 million new mansion.

Located in Lansell Rd, Toorak, it's the most expensive home ever sold at auction in Australia - and for that price tag it came fully furnished meaning there just wasn't room for all of their other stuff.

Roach confirmed that Gibson's Auctioneers had been engaged to sell off art, chandeliers and furniture from Gance's previous Toorak Rd property.

“A lot of it makes you cry when it goes to auction,” the former *Real Housewives of Melbourne* star lamented, saying many of the items were likely to sell for less than they originally cost.

OSA changes overlooked

POORLY managed sleep apnoea can lead to uncontrolled blood pressure - a little known underlying risk for millions of people's cardiovascular health, a new study in *Nature* journal has revealed.

Most at risk are those with wide-ranging variability in their night-to-night Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA) severity which can be overlooked or misdiagnosed during standard clinical testing, the Flinders University-led research warned.

“Regardless of their overall OSA average severity, people with increased night-to-night variability in the amount of sleep apnoea are at a 50% to 70% increased likelihood of having uncontrolled hypertension and variable blood pressure - a confirmed risk factor for cardiovascular events, all-cause mortality, vascular organ damage, atrial fibrillation and dementia,” explained lead author Dr Bastien Lechat.

“High variability in OSA severity is an independent clinical predictor of uncontrolled hypertension and has significant implications for identifying patients most at risk of cardiovascular harm.”

OSA is a clinical sleep disorder



characterised by repetitive upper airway collapse during sleep and is estimated to affect approximately one billion people globally.

The Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute (FHMRI) Sleep Health research is one of the first large-scale extended studies of OSA severity, made possible by using a novel under-mattress sleep sensor technology that allows for multi-night, in-home, non-invasive monitoring of sleep data from 12,287 adults over approximately 180 nights with about 30 repeat blood pressure tests.

“The findings reinforce recent evidence indicating there is considerable night-to-night variation in OSA severity for many people, which raises concerns clinically regarding OSA misdiagnosis,” said senior Flinders University sleep researcher and FHMRI Sleep Health Director, Prof Danny Eckert.

“Therefore, there is considerable potential to incorporate new simplified monitoring approaches to aid current single-night diagnostics, which are labour intensive and costly.”

Autism learning

WITH around one in 70 believed to be on the autism spectrum in Australia, implementing the National Guideline for the Assessment and Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders is timely.

The University of South Australia's (UniSA) allied health students will be the first to learn how to implement the National Guideline, as the University becomes the first hosting partner of Autism CRC's tailored undergraduate eLearning lecture and activity.

Autism spectrum disorder is a complex developmental condition that can affect how a person thinks, feels, learns, and interacts with others and the world around them.

It's characterised by difficulties in social interaction, communication, non-traditional play behaviours, heightened emotions or sensory experiences, and uneven thinking patterns, but presents differently in people.

Paediatric speech pathologist and lecturer, UniSA's Kady Moraby, explained that the teaching package will ensure UniSA graduates immediately have the work-ready skills.

“Delivering quality allied health education is not only about imparting knowledge, but also about shaping compassionate and skilled healthcare professionals,” Moraby said.

“Autism CRC's National Guideline defines clinical best practice for working professionals to improve diagnostic practices and consistency.”

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