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Available in 2 pack sizes to be sold over the counter in pharmacies throughout Australia without a prescription.

BlastX[®] is an antimicrobial biofilm wound gel for the management of wounds including:

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Please order direct from your wholesaler:

Product description	Clifford Hallam (CH2) PDE	Symbion PDE
BlastX [®] 7.5mL Tube - 1 Tube	2589074	679356
BlastX [®] 30mL Tube - 1 Tube	2589082	677868



Today's issue of PD

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

Triple action

BLASTX is an antimicrobial wound gel that could be a game-changer in wound care.

It aims to heal by destroying bacteria, deconstructing biofilms, and defending against recolonisation.

See more on the **cover page**.

Stay top of mind

TERRYWHITE Chemmart has invested in all the pharmacy schools to attract top talent.

Its Intern Development Program should make it the employer of choice.

See more on the **back page**.

Changing view

SINCE the TGA approval of medicinal cannabis in 2016, prescriptions have been steadily increasing, reaching over 117,000 new applications for prescriptions in 2022 alone.

Acknowledging the change in views on alternative healthcare, and an increased awareness of medicinal cannabis uses across different ages and demographics, Levin Health has more data **HERE**.

Ozempic stocks to arrive but limited

LIMITED stocks of Ozempic will become available in community pharmacies across Australia from the end of this month, weeks ahead of the previously anticipated availability date.

However, pharmacists should note that with stocks expected to be limited for some time, not every prescription will be able to be filled until supplies return to normal.

National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Trent Twomey (**pictured**), said while the earlier-than-expected availability of supplies was welcome, not all patients would immediately be able to access the medicine.

"I urge everyone wanting to have their Ozempic prescription filled at their community pharmacy to be patient as many people will still be unable to have their scripts filled for quite some time," Twomey said.

"At the request of the TGA,



community pharmacists will prioritise dispensing for the most needy and urgent cases and those patients who have been unable to switch to other medicines during the Ozempic unavailability.

"I also advise that patients who have switched to other glucose-lowering medicines during the shortage but still hold a prescription for Ozempic, to contact their doctor for advice as to their best course of action moving forward.

"Pharmacists will work closely

with patients' prescribers to ensure the limited supplies are most effectively dispensed."

Twomey stressed that patients needed to work with their community pharmacists during the time it takes for supplies to return to normal.

"The Ozempic shortage has been an exceedingly difficult time for patients and for community pharmacists and their staff who have helped patients manage their medicine needs during this time.

"Everyone has worked together to get through this situation, and I ask for that cooperation and patience to continue as we get back to a normal supply situation.

"In the meantime, the Guild has requested that wholesalers distribute stock fairly, and that priority be given to regional, rural and remote Australia," Twomey concluded.

Blueprint against sexual misconduct

THE Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) has outlined a blueprint to better protect patients from sexual misconduct in healthcare, and a range of broader reforms to keep patients safe.

The reforms aim to better protect patients from sexual misconduct in healthcare, raise the bar for patient safety, increase transparency, and increase support for victims, Ahpra said.

"Sexual exploitation of patients is a gross abuse of trust and can

lead to long-lasting and profound damage," Ahpra CEO Martin Fletcher said.

"Health practitioners are in positions of power and responsibility and patients are vulnerable," he said.

To improve its handling of sexual boundary matters, Ahpra and the National Boards will commence a public review of the Criminal History registration standard, expand support and information services for victims, and commission research on the outcomes of sexual misconduct.

Optometrist offer

CHEMIST Warehouse has just opened its first Optometrist Warehouse in Malvern, Victoria.

Open seven days a week, Optometrist Warehouse aims to provide a state-of-the-art advanced eye care service and discounted prices on all optical products.

Optometrist Warehouse will bring pharmacists and optometrists together to offer a more complete approach to eye care.

All services will be bulk-billed.



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AMH AUSTRALIAN MEDICINES HANDBOOK

Walk or run for breast cancer on 14 May



PHARMACISTS can encourage their customers to dress up in pink, show up, and walk or run for breast cancer when the annual **26th Mother's Day Classic (MDC)**, returns on 14 May.

Zara Lawless, Mother's Day Classic CEO said: "Registrations are now open for the remainder of Feb, and for the first time, we are providing free registrations for up to two children aged 12 and under with every paying adult or concession registration. "Coupled with an early

registration discount in Feb, it's a saving of up to 50% saving for families of four."

Participants who register before 22 Mar in any of the main MDC cities will receive personalised race bibs to wear on the day, a timing chip (for runners only), a commemorative medallion at the finish line, and access to an online fundraising dashboard and fitness tracker.

Participants wanting to stay local or needing flexibility can do so through MDC Anywhere.

Guild's IWD inspiring celebrity speaker

THIS International Women's Day (IWD) on Wed 08 Mar marks nine years of ACT Pharmacy Guild Women in Pharmacy inspiring dinner events, with this year's event of #EmbraceEquity theme being no exception.

The guest speaker will be the 2016 ACT Young Australian of the Year, Nipuni Wijewickrema, who is passionate about empowering and employing people with special needs from all walks of life in her business.

ACT Branch Vice President,

Elise Apolloni, said IWD was a highlight of the Canberra calendar.

"We look forward to hearing from local young women who have identified a social need and set about creating solutions," Apolloni said.

"We will leave with a spring in our step, feeling energised by conversations and connections with like-minded colleagues, and looking forward to the next year's International Women's Day event," she concluded.

Arrotex's new sales team

WITH foresight of pharmacy prescribing in the works to come, Arrotex Pharmaceuticals has launched a new medical sales team in the hope of positioning Arrotex as Australia's largest sales team across both pharmacies and prescribers in the industry.

According to Arrotex's Chairman and CEO, Dennis Bastas, the new Arrotex Medical Services Division reflects the company's diverse and evolving product portfolio.

"I am thrilled to introduce the Arrotex Medical Services Division as a new capability for our company, enabling our continued growth and investment in this competitive industry," Bastas said.

"We recognise how essential prescribers are in the provision of integrated patient-centric care.

"Our dedicated Arrotex medical team will support prescribers in educating and empowering patients to understand treatment regimens in a bid to improve equitable access to medications," explained Bastas.

Executive GM for Pharmaceuticals Hayley Tamborini said the expertise and experience of the Arrotex medical team will allow the company to hit the ground running.



"Prescribers play a central role in the delivery of healthcare to the Australian community, and the Arrotex medical team will strive to help support the quality use of medicines from diagnosis through to prescription," Tamborini said.

The full Arrotex medical sales team, (pictured L-R), Andrew Scott, Regional Manager Biologics NSW/SA/WA; Lesley McMenamin, Head of Sales Arrotex Medical; Hayley Tamborini, Executive General Manager Arrotex Pharmaceuticals; Darrin Nichols, Regional Sales Manager NSW/ACT; Renata Gizzatullina, Regional Manager Biologics VIC/QLD; Andrew Cuttle, Regional Sales Manager QLD/WA; and absent Nerida Robinson, Regional Sales Manager VIC/SA.

Data shows MS is on the rise in Australia

THE number of Australians living with multiple sclerosis (MS) is increasing at a significant and accelerating rate.

The data showed that 33,335 Australians were living with MS in 2021, an increase of 30% (7,728) over the four years since

the previous update in 2017 of 25,607.

These latest MS figures were published in the *Health Economic Impact of Multiple Sclerosis in Australia in 2021* report, commissioned by MS Australia with details to be found [HERE](#).

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Dispensary Corner



EVEN sheep like a snuggle after a stressful day.

Australian researchers assessed social proximity in sheep by strapping devices on a group of Merino ewes from different flocks.

They found sheep stuck close to familiar individuals but also developed preferences for individuals they shared a stressful experience with (e.g. trailer transport, individual restraint, herding by a dog, or removing wool).

The research published by *The Royal Society* explained that the sheep mostly stood closer to sheep they had spent the most overall time with, but over time got closer to the sheep they had been with when they were exposed to stressful situations, which the researchers believe means they bonded over the shared stress.

The researchers said these results align with human social relationships and increase our understanding of how animals perceive stressful change.

\$8.6m advance for autism trials

ZELIRA Therapeutics has received funding of US\$8.6m to conduct FDA Phase 2 and Phase 3 clinical trials for its HOPE 1 product, via a Special Purpose Vehicle.

Cantheon Capital will provide the initial funding, and Zelira's goal is to get approval for HOPE1 in the US for autism spectrum disorders.

Ballarat Cycle Classic on

FIONA Elsey Cancer Research Institute will again hold the Ballarat Cycle Classic next weekend, Sat 18 and Sun 19 Feb, with the goal to raise \$250K.

The event has raised more than \$2.6m for cancer research since its inception.

Prof George Kannourakis, Institute Director, is encouraging the community to "join us in the dirt, on the gravel and on the road and help raise important funds for cancer research.

"We are excited to bring the community together.

"This is an important fundraising event for the Institute.

"The 2022 Ballarat Cycle Classic raised \$230,000 for our cancer research program, our 2023 goal is \$250,000!

"Expanding to two days, the event showcases the beautiful Ballarat countryside and is a testament to its longevity and the community's support for the cause," he said.



Dr Nicole Yap (pictured), a Melbourne-based Breast oncoplastic surgeon and founder of the Australian Breast Care Centre, is cycling in the gruelling 85km event.

Dr Yap is encouraging people to donate to cancer research **HERE** and to register for the Ballarat Cycle Classic **HERE**.

Machine learning for Alzheimer's: CSIRO

SCIENTISTS from CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, in partnership with the Queensland University of Technology, have used artificial intelligence to develop a high-quality benchmark for measuring brain atrophy - or thinning - in neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's disease.

This technique allows researchers to set the amount and location of brain degeneration they want to compare against, so they can get a clear picture of what method of cortical thickness quantification performs the best.

The technique can test the

sensitivity of methods to a minuscule level, CSIRO said.

It can determine whether a method can detect changes in thickness of just 0.01mm.

Filip Rusak, a research scientist from CSIRO's Australian e-Health Research Centre, said cortical atrophy can start up to 10 years before clinical symptoms of Alzheimer's appear.

"Using the power of machine learning, we were able to produce a set of artificial MRI images of brains with predefined signs of neurodegeneration in the cortex region, the outer layer of the brain most affected by Alzheimer's," Rusak said.

Public hearing

THE House Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport will hear from Australians living with long COVID and other post-viral illnesses at a public hearing on 17 Feb at Parliament House in Canberra.

Pharmacists can inform and encourage their customers who suffer from long COVID and carers to speak out.

Inquiry details are **HERE**.



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