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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

## Panel positions

EXPRESSIONS of interest are being sought from suitably qualified and experienced nominees for appointment by the NSW Minister for Health to the state's Health Professional Councils Authority Shared Lay Members Panel.

Lay members can be appointed to sit as a member of the Civil and Administrative Tribunal and other regulatory hearings, committees, and panels that regulate health professionals in NSW.

The primary responsibility of the Councils is to protect the public by managing complaints about the health, performance, and conduct of registered health professionals practicing in NSW.

Applicants will be selected on merit and provide an appropriate range of knowledge, skills, and diversity.

For more info [CLICK HERE](#), with submissions required by this Fri 06 Jan 2023.

## PBS addition

CHIESI Australia has confirmed its triple therapy inhaler Trimbow 200/6/10 is now available on the PBS for the maintenance treatment of severe adult asthma.

Trimbow is the first inhaler combining an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS), long-acting beta2 agonist (LABA) and a long-acting muscarinic antagonist (LAMA).

# Tasmanian scope review under way

THE new year will see the review of Tasmanian Pharmacists' Scope of Practice get underway, providing an opportunity for pharmacists in this state to 'catch up' to their colleagues in other jurisdictions, and for Tasmanians to be able to access basic healthcare more readily within their local community.

The Guild's Tasmanian Branch President, Helen O'Byrne, said that she is confident the review will result in a positive productive outcome for pharmacists and patients alike and reiterated that any changes will be underpinned by rigorous education and training for pharmacists.

"This review is an important opportunity to build on recognising that pharmacists working within their local communities are a professional skilled resource that in Tasmania is currently underutilised."

O'Byrne said that it is important that the review is not conducted in a vacuum and recognises the steps forward already taken in Queensland, New South Wales,



the Northern Territory and Victoria in giving patients the choice and convenience of using their local community pharmacy for uncomplicated conditions where appropriately trained pharmacists will be able to diagnose, prescribe, treat, and manage a range of acute and chronic conditions.

"These governments have shown that they understand that pharmacists are a valuable healthcare resource which is currently underutilised in this country, particularly given the extreme GP shortage in regional and remote areas."

The National Medicines Policy

framework, released just before Christmas, also highlights the focus on patient-centred medicines services, with the call for all healthcare professionals to work to their full scope to ensure the best outcomes for patients.

"Australian pharmacies are among the best in the world with teams that have the skills, knowledge, and capacity for delivering world-class primary care services.

"Everyone acknowledges that patients need more options when it comes to primary care due to the GP crisis and the inability to get an appointment in a timely manner," O'Byrne said.

## Don't go without - speak to a pharmacist

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia's NSW Branch is encouraging holiday-makers who have forgotten their medicine and prescription at home to speak to a pharmacist rather than go without their treatment.

From late 2023, community pharmacies will be able to prescribe medicines for a wide range of everyday health issues.

Until then, emergency dispensing arrangements allow pharmacists to dispense small amounts of certain medicines

in absence of a script, allowing patients time to see a doctor and obtain a prescription.

"We want to make it as clear as possible to patients that these options are available to them", said the Guild's NSW Branch President, David Heffernan.

"Far too often, we hear from patients who realise they have forgotten their medicine, don't have a script, and don't know what to do," he said.

"We want people to know that they don't have to go without."

## Pre-dep testing

THE Australian Government will introduce pre-departure testing for COVID-19 for people travelling to Australia from the People's Republic of China including the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau.

From 12:01am on Thursday 05 Jan 2023, travellers will need to undertake a COVID-19 test within the 48 hrs prior to travel and show evidence of a negative test result when travelling to Australia.



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## Dispensary Corner

**OFTEN** Dispensary Corner relates stories of unhealthy junk food fads - but in somewhat of a departure today we bring you the tale of a New York foodie who has risked indigestion by dining at 18 Michelin-starred restaurants in 24 hours.

Perhaps armed with a bottle of Mylanta, 34-year-old Eric Finkelstein says the feat took significant amounts of coordination, taking months to ensure he could get a reservation at some of the more in-demand eateries at a time that aligned with other bookings in order to beat the existing Guinness World Record.

The endeavour also almost came unstuck when a new Michelin Guide was published just a few weeks before the official date - and several eateries where he had secured bookings had lost their "stars" - but some frantic phone calls saw replacements organised.

He says it cost a total of US\$494 plus tax and tips, and estimated he consumed about 5,000 calories in the attempt - or approximately double the recommended daily intake.

Finkelstein said the successful culinary conquest "combined my love of eating interesting food, working towards a checklist, and working towards something silly".

Interestingly, it's not the first time he's set a Guinness World Record, with the former competitive ping pong player also previously setting a record for the longest table tennis serve - 51 feet, one inch.

## OS pharmacist course

**THE** Australasian College of Pharmacy, in partnership with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, has launched the Career Preparedness for Australian Community Pharmacy course for overseas-trained pharmacists wishing to work in Australia.

College President Michelle Bou-Samra said: "The College aims to provide overseas-trained pharmacists wanting to work in Australia with the knowledge and skills to practice in community pharmacy.

"Through partnering with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, this course has been developed by the experts in community pharmacy who understand the pathway that overseas-trained pharmacists must take to attain general pharmacist registration."

Each module has been designed to provide information, increase knowledge and be applicable to practice to ensure a smooth pathway to an Australian community pharmacy career.

There are a total of five modules

that cover topics such as:

- The Australian pharmacy landscape;
- Working in a community pharmacy;
- Community pharmacy programs and services;
- Codes and guidelines; and
- Completing a pharmacist internship.

"I am pleased to announce that successful completion of the Career Preparedness for Australian Community Pharmacy course will attract a \$500 discount off the price of the Guild Intern Training Program," Ms Bou-Samra said.

The Guild Intern Training Program is worth \$1,855 and provides clinical, pharmacy practice and exam preparation.

Those who enrol in the Guild Intern Training Program will receive support from the team in securing an intern position.

"Whether you are living overseas and wanting to relocate to Australia, or have already moved, sign up and complete this essential training today," Ms Bou-Samra said.

## New discretionary discounting

**FROM** 01 Jan 2023 general patient medicines with a dispensed price between \$30.00 and \$45.60 may be discounted to any price (including a price below \$30.00).

The amount charged to the patient will continue to count toward the patient's general patient PBS Safety Net threshold.

This new 'increased discount' (as referred to under the *National Health Act 1953*) is not compulsory and is at the discretion of the pharmacy. PBS said that the \$12.50 reduction

is the PBS general patient co-payment reduction and not the amount for any discretionary increased discounts applied.

This news follows the new lower cost of PBS medicines that has come into effect, meaning that the most patients will pay for a PBS-listed medication is \$30, down from \$42.50.

This follows Parliament passing legislation late last year to lower the maximum co-payment cost of PBS medicines.

This will be a big help to some 19 million patients nationwide.

## Guild Update

### Intern of the Year

**NOMINATIONS** are still open for the 2022 MIMS/ Guild Intern of the Year (IOTY) Award which recognises Guild interns who go above and beyond in their intern pharmacist role.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President Trent Twomey said the Intern of the Year Award recognised the next generation of pharmacists, and Guild interns whose actions epitomised what it meant to be a community pharmacist.

"Interns can nominate themselves and we encourage them to do so if they feel they have shown exemplary work during their internship year," Professor Twomey said.

"Similarly, Guild interns can be nominated by their preceptor, employer or pharmacist and pharmacy colleagues.

"There's plenty of time to nominate with entries closing on Tuesday 31 January 2023. But don't wait as the entry form only takes 10 minutes to complete and can be done online at the [Intern Pharmacist website](#)."

Robert Best, the CEO and Executive Director of MIMS Australia and New Zealand, said that MIMS Australia was very excited to sponsor IOTY once again.