



Only A Pharmacist Can Truly Understand Your Pharmacy...

Can Beezwax help you in 2023?

Pasquale DeMaria established Beezwax Business Solutions in 2016 with a single focus - to help other pharmacy owners prosper from the bookkeeping and pharmacy management methods he developed while managing his own pharmacies.

Beezwax has now grown to over 200 pharmacies across Australia, managing turnover in excess of \$600 million dollars and payroll for more than 5000 pharmacy employees.

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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, a cover page from **Beezwax**, plus a full page from **TerryWhite Chemmart**.

Lessen workload

BEEZWAX can help pharmacists with their bookkeeping and payroll services and reduce workloads. See **cover page**.

Growth promise

TERRYWHITE Chemmart backs you by promising business growth beyond core fees in the first year. See **page three**.

AI sits test poorly

AN AI computer, ChatGPT, was tested by having it take the pharmacist intern exam. The results of the experiment, conducted by *The Ben Casey Pharmacist Newsletter*, which consisted of 75 questions, including multiple-choice and patient profile questions, showed that the AI computer performed well on multiple-choice questions, scoring 64%. However, it struggled with more complex questions, scoring only 46%. Overall, the AI computer scored 57% on the exam.

PM gives shout-out to all pharmacists

GLEN Clark, co-owner of T+C Pharmacy Mackay, welcomed Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to his recently renovated community pharmacy last week.

Commenting on the Australian Government's historic change to the PBS general co-payment policy, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese met with a local patient.

Before heading off PM Albanese said, "can I give a shout-out to all of the pharmacists around Australia?"

"A pharmacist is more than just another shop [owner]; they are someone that people can rely upon to give that basic assistance and advice."

"During the pandemic, we saw pharmacists vaccinate so many tens of thousands of Australians and make a difference."

Clark said the reduction in the co-payment from \$42.50, down to the \$30 mark, means a patient can



receive a saving of \$150 per script within the first 12 months.

"That's a massive saving for non-concessional patients, and it will make a big difference for those people that are struggling with the rising cost of living."

"No patient should ever have to choose between medication and food on the table," said Clark.

When asked whether the change

Turns back the clock on heart scars

AFTER a heart attack, the shock of the event leaves behind a trail of damaged heart muscle, which becomes a scar over time.

However, the scar tissue doesn't have the elasticity and flexibility of a healthy heart muscle, meaning there can be complications with pumping and transporting blood.

For the first time, there is a method to reverse the loss of elasticity of damaged heart tissue following heart attacks, *BioSpectrum* reported.

The method, developed

by an international team of researchers, and led by The University of Sydney, showed that in preclinical studies in rats a single injection of tropoelastin into the wall of the heart in the days following a heart attack could 'turn back the clock' on muscle damage, making the scars 'stretchier' and help improve the heart's ability to contract.

Tropoelastin is the protein building block that gives human tissue its elasticity to stretch.

The results were published in the *Circulation Research*.

in policy is going to help bring more pharmacists into regional Queensland, Clark spoke about the North Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot for community pharmacists.

"There's a lot of healthcare reform that is being introduced within Queensland that may bring more pharmacists to the region such as the full scope of practice pilot."

The North Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot (Full Scope), which will be available to patients in 2024, should allow patients the option to seek treatment in their community pharmacy for common everyday conditions and gain access to treatments prescribed by their community pharmacist, as well as reduce the risk of and assist patients to manage some chronic diseases.

Abortion push?

MOVES are on for medical abortion to be more accessible across Australia by cutting down regulatory barriers, reported *SMH* this week.

MS Health, the private sponsor behind medical abortion, submitted applications to the TGA proposing expanding the number of health practitioners who can prescribe the medication and removing requirements for recertification and pharmacist registration.

Study Diabetes Education and Management

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Dispensary Corner

BRINGING cake to the office can be as harmful to coworkers as passive smoking, according to the chairman of Britain's Food Standards Agency. Susan Jebb told the UK *Times* "if nobody brought cakes into the office, I would not eat cakes in the day, but because people do bring cakes in, I eat them". She likened the health implications of choosing to eat treats at work to a decision to enter a "smoky pub". "With smoking, after a very long time we have got to a place where we understand that individuals have to make some effort, but that we can make their efforts more successful by having a supportive environment," she said. "We still don't feel like that about food," Jebb added. British PM Rishi Sunak said the Government wanted to encourage healthy lifestyles, but "the way to deal with this issue is not to stop people from occasionally bringing in treats for their co-workers".

First-aid course

QCPP-ACCREDITED pharmacies need to have at least one rostered staff member with valid First Aid qualifications. In Feb and Mar the Guild will be running training courses to outline the knowledge and skills necessary to perform first aid response, life support and management of casualty(s). Learn more [HERE](#).

Perfect storm for bone health coming

LEADING bone experts from the Asia Pacific region, including Australia, said there is a bone health crisis in the world's most populous and fastest ageing region. The experts gathered in Singapore late last year for the Asia Pacific Consortium on Osteoporosis (APCO) Scientific Summit. APCO members, (pictured), representing 19 Asia Pacific countries and regions attended the summit which also included APCO Chair Professor Manju Chandran, International Osteoporosis Foundation (IOF) CEO Dr Philippe Halbout, and summit guest of honour, Singapore's Minister for Health, Ong Ye Kung. According to Prof Chandran, senior consultant endocrinologist and Director, Osteoporosis and Bone Metabolism Unit, Singapore General Hospital, "a perfect storm of a rise in osteoporosis among Asia Pacific populations is expected to occur due to the region's rapidly ageing population, mounting



urbanisation, and subsequent increase in sedentary lifestyles. "Unless urgent steps are taken, we will be facing an epidemic of osteoporotic fractures that could have been avoided through appropriate preventive measures, early diagnosis, and treatment." Dr Chandran noted APCO members are charged with developing tangible solutions to the challenges facing osteoporosis management in the world's most populous and linguistically and culturally diverse region. APCO experts are confident

change is possible if armed with support from local governments, policymakers, healthcare providers, philanthropic organisations, pharmaceutical companies, and other stakeholders from both the private and public healthcare sectors throughout the region. Minister Ong Ye Kung reflected on the healthcare challenges and said he will prioritise preventive care for all Singapore residents, with key shifts including lifestyle modification, regular health screening, and enrolment with one primary care provider.

TGA assesses 24-hour killer spray

A LONG-lasting surface spray that has the potential to kill viruses such as COVID-19 and potentially deadly bacteria has been developed by a team of researchers at the University of Queensland (UQ). The spray contains a protein that allows it to stick to surfaces and remain effective for 24 hours and is being assessed by the TGA for commercial cleaning use, *BioSpectrum* reported. A team led by Dr Heather Shewan from UQ's School of Chemical Engineering set out to create a spray for use on various surfaces to kill COVID-19

\$1m joint project

ASTRAZENECA and Australian medical technology company, LBT Innovations, will partner for the full product development of its artificial intelligence software. The \$1m project will see LBT develop the Automated Plate Assessment System (APAS) analysis module for use by AstraZeneca in identifying microbial growth on settle plates used in sterility monitoring, in manufacturing, *SmallCaps* reported. The module goes on the APAS platform which will be deployed for AstraZeneca's use.

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 **TerryWhite
Chemmart.**