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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news plus a full page from PharmXchange.

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See page three.

Pfizer vax approved

THE TGA has granted provisional approval to Pfizer's bivalent COVID-19 vaccine: tozinameran and famtozinameran (COMIRNATY Original/Omicron BA.4-5 COVID-19 vaccine) for use as a booster dose in individuals aged 12 years and older.

The new bivalent vaccine comprises 15mcg of famtozinameran based on the Omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5, and 15mcg of tozinameran based on the original strain of SARS CoV-2.

This is the first vaccine provisionally approved by the TGA that is designed to specifically target the Omicron variants BA.4/BA.5 and follows provisional approval of the Pfizer BA.1 Omicron/original bivalent vaccine on 27 Oct 2022.

NAPSA makes the best of opportunity

WITH the NAPSA Congress 2023 just ending, a key message to all delegates present (pictured right) was to make the most of every opportunity and invest in their own career and community.

"Bite off more than you can chew, then chew like mad!", were the words of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's National President Dr Fei Sim (pictured below), and to "keep calm and say yes!"

And that's exactly what got the team at Queensland Pharmacy Students' Association (QPSA) to win the NAPSA Best Branch of 2023 Award, given out last Fri at the gala night at the National Arboretum in Canberra.

QPSA President 2023 Jessica Heald (pictured right) said: "It truly was an honour to be bestowed this award in front of all my peers.

"It was a privilege to lead our team throughout a week where we learned about the future of pharmacy, study techniques, diversity in careers, how to better support our gender-diverse patients, advocacy in pharmacy, and other fantastic topics.

"We also had a multitude of networking opportunities, and we



Charity Cup Competition, an annual fundraising competition between the pharmacy schools.

TAPS won for raising funds for Myeloma Australia last year.

James Cook University Pharmacy Student Association won the Vampire Cup, an annual blood donation competition between the pharmacy schools.

Ingrid Stroud, the CaSPA President, won the NAPSA Wildcard PSA Pharmacy Student of the Year and will travel to Sydney to the PSA23 to compete in the national finals later in the year.

NAPSA also presented Kay Dunkley from Pharmacists' Support Services with a cheque for \$2,594, which was raised by the students at Congress throughout last week.

Finally, the NAPSA Congress 2024 will be hosted by TAPS in Tasmania.

Pictured below: National Pharmacy Student Advisory Council.



all made many new connections - both with other students, and industry professionals.

"Now, we return to Brisbane ready to strive for excellence.

"Thank you to my QPSA team, all the delegates from across Australia and New Zealand, and the NAPSA team for a sensational week.

"The biggest thank you is to the Congress Organising Committee from the Canberra Student Pharmacy Association (CaSPA) for the extraordinary efforts to develop this event for us all," Heald said.

The Tasmanian Association for Pharmacy Students (TAPS) won the



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Dispensary Corner

POLICE in the US state of Rhode Island have launched a formal investigation into Santa Claus and his reindeer, after being asked to run tests on a partly eaten cookie and carrot remains discovered by a local girl on Christmas morning.

Officers in the township of Cumberland, north of the capital Providence, issued a press release about the probe this week, confirming that they had received a letter with the items, with the youngster asking if they could "take a sample of DNA and see if Santa is real".

Police Chief Matthew J. Benson said he had "immediately instructed his Investigative Division to forward her evidence to the State of Rhode Island's Department of Health - Forensic Sciences Unit for analysis.

"This young lady obviously has a keen sense for truth and the investigative process, and did a tremendous job packaging her evidence for submission.

"We will do our very best to provide answers for her," he said, with the statement accompanied by photos of the evidence (pictured) for analysis.



MedAdvisor revenue up

MEDADVISOR has increased its operating revenue up 89.9% to \$44.1m for the quarter ended 31 Dec 2022 (Q2 FY23).

Commenting on the company's results over Q2 FY23, CEO and Managing Director Rick Ratliff, said: "Our strong performance in the reporting period was underpinned by our growing scale in Australia and the US, and reflects the increased uptake of our digital solutions for medication adherence".

The company further reported in its update that the US is up 97.7% to \$39.4m, underpinned by expansion of the COVID-19 awareness program combined with increased pharmacy participation in the US digital platform, inMotion.

Australia is up 42.6% to \$4.7m, including the three-month GuildLink contribution of \$1.3m; and excluding GuildLink the underlying revenue was up 2.8%.

Gross margin was up 164.3% to \$26.4m, with an increase of 16.9 ppts (59.9% vs 43.1%).

The company reported a strong capital position, with \$32.7m cash on 31 Dec 2022, an increase of \$20.8m cash for the quarter.

"In the US, we increased our



pharmacy network to over 30,000 locations, enabling digital access to 60m individuals," Ratliff said.

"The network expansion gained momentum via our ability to demonstrate our digital capabilities and service at scale, resulting in a new agreement with a software company providing access to an additional circa 10,000 pharmacies.

"We recognise that the momentum in the first half of the financial year is likely to moderate as we move beyond the winter months in the US that provided a seasonal peak for this business.

"In Australia, the integration of our GuildLink acquisition continues to progress well and to plan.

"During the quarter we have transitioned customers and enhanced the functionality of the MedAdvisor PlusOne platform," Ratliff concluded.

Further, MedAdvisor's 1H FY23 operating revenue of \$64.1m was up 65.8% on 1H FY22 to \$38.7m.

Guild Update

You can 'make it' in the movies

DO YOU work in a rural pharmacy and love it so much you could make a movie about it? Well, here's your chance because now there's a video competition called 'Why I love rural pharmacy'.

It's part of the Rural Pharmacy Forum, which will be held at the APP Conference on the Gold Coast from 23rd to 26th Mar. The theme for the video competition is "Rural Pharmacy - exploring challenges, hidden opportunities".

Movie makers are encouraged to share their stories in a 1-2 minute video showing how their rural pharmacy has risen and adapted to some of the challenges over the past few years. There will be two categories of awards with prizes for the best video and a 'People's Choice' award.

The competition is now open with entries closing at midnight on Thu, 16 Feb.

All videos entered for the competition will be played at the conference with the winners to be announced on Thu 23 Mar during the Rural Pharmacy Forum.

Entry is free and open to any employee or owner of a rural pharmacy rated as MMM 2-7.

For added Hollywood inspiration you can watch last year's winning videos [here](#).

To find out more and enter, click [here](#).

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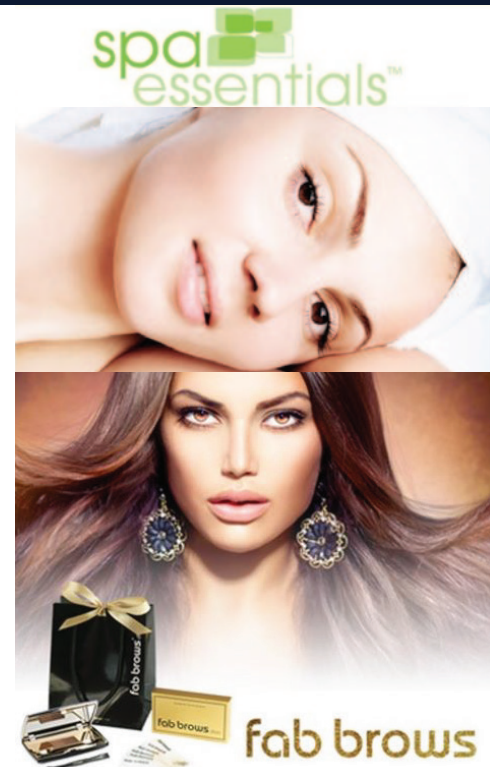
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