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### Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news as well as a full page from Wizard Pharmacy.

### Wizard's POTY

WIZARD Pharmacy is celebrating the expertise of Maxwin Chong, Cannington, WA, as the winner of its 2022 Pharmacist of the Year award. Chong's passion & dedication has seen his team grow. See page four.

### Genetic link found

THE link between endometriosis and several mental health disorders including depression and anxiety is genetic, according to international researchers.

The team compared genetic information for 8,276 women with endometriosis with nearly 200,000 women without the condition.

Accounting for a range of external factors, the researchers said endometriosis was associated with increased odds of depression, eating disorders and anxiety.

They reported evidence of a locus, or specific physical location of a gene that is associated with both endometriosis and mental health disorders, suggesting the association between the conditions is genetic.

Learn more [HERE](#).

## Butler wants full scope of practice

HEALTH Minister Mark Butler (pictured) said this week he wants to see all healthcare professionals including pharmacists working to the top of their scope of practice.

"At a time of skyrocketing demand for healthcare, and workforce shortages, it doesn't make sense not to have every single one of our healthcare professionals working to the top of their scope of practice, whether that's doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, pharmacists, and others."

Butler remarked that he just doesn't see this happening in Australia, as "there are too many regulations, too many constraints within the MBS system, too many



turf wars that constrain the ability of people who want to deliver their full range of skills and training."

Training, he reiterated, that was delivered by taxpayers to "hundreds and hundreds of thousands of healthcare professionals."

"So, you know, I want to see out of this Strengthening

Medicare process; a much more liberated ability for all healthcare professionals: doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, to be able to contribute to the need that we have out there to deliver world-class healthcare to Australian patients.

"That's not going to be easy.

"But I sense a level of consensus around that, lifting that ability for other healthcare professionals to use their skills and training than I've ever seen before," Butler said ahead of the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce's report due to be out in the coming weeks outlining its recommendations for the future of primary care.

### Distribution set for nine more countries

AFT Pharmaceuticals has announced it has signed an exclusive licensing and distribution agreement for Maxigesic IV, the intravenous form of its patented pain relief medicine, for nine countries in Eastern Europe.

The agreement with Slovenia's Salus Pharmaceuticals will see Maxigesic sold in Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Bosnia.

Registrations are already held in Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Croatia and Slovenia, where launches are planned for this year and registration applications will be filed in the remaining countries.

The agreement follows the launch of Maxigesic IV in France

and Italy (with Germany's Everpharm GmbH) in Nov 2022.

AFT Pharmaceuticals Managing Director Dr Hartley Atkinson said: "We are delighted to reach this agreement with Salus, which has significant operations in Central and Eastern Europe.

"Indeed, the market for post-operative pain, which is a subset of Maxigesic's total addressable market, is growing rapidly and is forecast by independent market research to reach US\$553m in 2028 across the five major markets of Europe (up from US\$178m in 2019)."

Žiga Hieng, CEO of Salus, said: "We are delighted to be partnering with AFT in nine countries of the Balkan and Baltic regions".

### dTPA vax added

PHARMACIST immunisers can now access and administer National Immunisation Program funded dTPA for pregnant women, as reported by the Pharmacy Guild.

The online NSW Vaccine Centre system has been upgraded to allow eligible ordering, the Guild stated.

Find more information about vaccine eligibility [HERE](#).

### Aus Day break

PHARMACY Daily will not be publishing on Thu, due to the Australia Day public holiday.

We will be back with all the latest news affecting the Australian pharmacy sector on Fri 27 Jan.

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## Social media impacts cognitive tasks

**THE** potential for being judged online could be affecting the ability of adolescents to concentrate on everyday tasks, a study by UNSW Sydney researchers has found.

The researchers of the study published in the *Scientific Reports* constructed a situation that mimicked the threat of being assessed or judged by peers online, a feeling that often follows posting or interacting on social media.

Dr Susanne Schweizer, a psychologist from UNSW Sydney and her team asked participants prior to completing an online learning task to record an audio clip introducing themselves.

Participants were then told that their audio clips would be listened to and evaluated by others online.

During the online learning task, there was a 'views and comments tracker' at the end of the screen.

Dr Schweizer explained that "participants didn't know what recordings were being viewed or commented on, nor did they know whether the comments were positive or negative."



"This was to make it analogue to what it's like in real life - when you have to do a task, you can't track what's happening online, but you know there will be a level of evaluation," Dr Schweizer said.

The study was completed by 225 people, aged 10-24 years, who were also asked to rate their anxiety and stress levels at various points throughout the process.

Results revealed that all the participants documented a greater increase in negative mood following social evaluative threat compared to the control condition.

The threat of social evaluation also led to reduced accuracy in

completing the online task.

"There's been a 52% increase in time spent online by young people during the pandemic.

"It's important now, more than ever, to assess how it impacts learning and wellbeing," said Dr Schweizer.

"Our research showed that when young people thought that others might be evaluating them, they felt upset and their ability to perform a basic cognitive task was impaired.

"Assuming these findings reflect the impact of online social evaluation, then these results are concerning."

Learn more [HERE](#).

## Sandoz acquires

**SANDOZ** has signed an agreement to acquire worldwide product rights for systemic antifungal agent Mycamine (micafungin sodium) from Astellas.

Astellas reported Mycamine sales of US\$135m for the year ending 31 Mar 2022.

Sandoz CEO Richard Saynor said: "Acquiring this leading and respected global brand will significantly reinforce the Sandoz global hospital offering, as well as complement our existing global leadership position in generic antibiotics."

"This will also be an important addition to our growing portfolio of anti-infective therapies aimed at combatting the spread of antimicrobial resistance, by providing the right drug to the right patient at the right time," Saynor concluded.

## Hold off on chocolate to save your knees

**PREVENTING** weight gain from early adulthood could reduce knee replacements in Australian adults by almost 30% and save the health system \$373m per year, new research has found.

The Monash University-led study, published in *Osteoarthritis and Cartilage*, searched for patterns of weight gain (body mass index trajectories) from early adulthood to late midlife and the risk of total knee replacement for osteoarthritis.

Senior author and Monash University Prof Flavia Cicuttini said while weight loss was recommended for people with osteoarthritis who were overweight or obese, this was often too little too late.

"Reducing your caloric intake just slightly each day builds up to avoiding 8-12kg of weight gain over a couple of decades, saving money and avoiding surgery."

"For example, eating the average equivalent of two fewer pieces of chocolate per week, or adding 10 mins of exercise, can prevent the insidious 0.5-1kg weight gain we see per person per year in Australia."

Prof Cicuttini said a "call to action" was needed for knee joint health.

"Too often we tell people with knee pain to lose weight, only for them to return five years later having gained a further 3-5kg."

"This is a missed opportunity as it is easier to prevent further weight gain than it is to lose it."

"Australians tend to gain about 0.5-1kg per year over adult life."

"This slow, steady accumulation of weight adds up, resulting in the obesity we see."

The project used data from 24,368 participants.

Learn about the Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study [HERE](#).

## Barriers to access

**A TEAM** of researchers from Griffith University, Australian National University, University of Newcastle, University of Melbourne and University of Wollongong have come together to investigate multi-stakeholder views on the use of, and access to medicinal cannabis in Australia, *BioSpectrum* reported.

Focusing on three key areas, the study looked at public and industry preferences for medicinal cannabis, possibility of having medicinal cannabis products registered with the PBS and clinical trials to determine the baseline effectiveness of different cannabinoids and cannabis medicines.

Many submissions from patients or family members stated they had experienced obstacles in accessing medicinal cannabis products, pointing to various supply, regulatory, legislative, financial, and dispensing challenges that hindered timely access to medicinal cannabis products.

According to lead researcher Dr Daniel Erku from Griffith University, "while the government has made a series of reforms to the way these products are accessed, the current model is still not fit for purpose because it puts a lot of pressure on both prescribers and patients".

Interest in cannabis-based medicines (CBMs) has increased in Australia, but while recent policy and legislative changes have enabled health practitioners to prescribe CBMs, many patients still struggle to access them.

The question of how to regulate medicinal cannabis has been a major source of debate in many countries and continues to divide the public health community, *BioSpectrum* reported.

For more information on the study [CLICK HERE](#).



## Dispensary Corner

**EXERCISING** outdoors is never a bad idea - although it didn't work out too well for a yoga enthusiast during a class in Miami, Florida last week.

A free community class has been taught in a local park for more than 14 years, with up to 100 attendees sometimes.

According to a report in the *Miami New Times*, the first Sat of 2023 drew an especially large crowd, possibly because of scores of new year's resolutions.

However one attendee is definitely rethinking his decision to take part, after a giant lizard dropped onto him from a tree.

An Instagram Live video recording of the incident sees the instructor saying "guys, I think we are going to close the class. I'm going to take care of someone who just got an iguana dropped on his face".

The victim, who didn't want his name revealed because "I don't want to be known as the guy whose face was used as an iguana landing pad", said it felt like he was hit by a sandbag.

"The first thing that went through my head was it must have been a coconut, but there were no coconut trees.

"And then I thought maybe the guy next to me slugged me - but I mean, we're in a yoga class and it's so calm and peaceful."

Witnesses confirmed that it was in fact a giant green iguana, with some estimates saying the reptile weighed up to 15kg.

Paramedics attended the scene to render first aid, with the hapless yogi suffering a black eye and facial bleeding.

# HEALTH & BEAUTY

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**RRP:** \$29.99

**Website:** <https://dermaltherapy.com.au/product/scar-treatment-silicone-gel/> for more information.

# Congratulations to our 2022 Pharmacist of the Year



**WIZARD** *pharmacy*

## Maxwin Chong | Cannington | WA

Maxwin's dedication and passion for his patients and the growth of his team over the last ten years is truly admirable. He consistently looks for new ways to engage with his community - supporting local high schools and universities by taking an active role in student work experience and personally delivering medication to his patients. Maxwin has administered over 2,800 COVID-19 vaccinations and over 800 flu vaccinations in the last 12 months.

“ I was astounded when I heard my name called during the Awards night as so many pharmacists have worked so hard and given so much to their communities, beyond what they are required to do. I have to say a huge thank you to my team, who have played such a significant part in serving the community with me during these times of unprecedented crisis,” said Maxwin.

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