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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of the latest news.

## Shows potential

AN ENTIRELY new class of anti-inflammatory medication developed in Australia is being prepared for regulatory approval, targeting the fundamental process of inflammation - see more [HERE](#).

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# Twomey all for pharmacy careers

**PHARMACY** Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey (pictured), says he is still “really excited that 20 years ago I made the decision to be a community pharmacist”.

Speaking as the opening presenter at today's inaugural Pharmacy Careers Summit, Twomey noted the ongoing evolution of the sector, which has “really stepped up” over the last few years during COVID-19.

The pandemic has seen Australians rely on their local community pharmacy more than ever, he said.

“We remained open when many other areas of Australia's primary health care system shut down.

“Australians could not get an appointment with their GP, so instead they asked their pharmacist,” he said, noting similar issues with hospital emergency department access because of a whole raft of pressures that the hospital system is under.

“And in 2023, Australians can ask their pharmacist for more things than they have ever been able to before,” Twomey added, noting increasing scope for vaccinations meaning pharmacists are protecting Australian families from not just influenza and COVID-19 but whooping cough and a whole range of other conditions.

The Guild President also



highlighted pharmacy's recent expanded involvement in the treatment of uncomplicated urinary tract infections, saying pharmacists are helping women manage this “easily treatable condition” without waiting for a GP appointment or emergency department access.

“Australia's 6,000 community pharmacies are continuing to do what they've always done, and that is to provide quality, frontline preventive health advice, and providing advice for people to manage a whole raft of chronic diseases and help improve the quality use of medicines,” he said.

On top of that the expanded prominence of pharmacy is seeing the sector “continuing to change to be the backbone of Australia's healthcare system,” Twomey added.

Wrapping up, Twomey noted that his wife and fellow pharmacist Georgina also shares the same level of enthusiasm.

“All those years ago when we were pharmacy students and

considering what path we should take in our careers, I can tell you two decades on that we made the right decision,” Twomey said.

“And we are more excited about the next 20 years,” he concluded.

The free Pharmacy Careers Summit is on all day today, with presenters from right across the sector also including hospital pharmacy, academia, franchise groups, suppliers and more - see [pharmacycareerssummit.com.au](http://pharmacycareerssummit.com.au).

## Philip Morris offers discounts to pharmacy

**TOBACCO** behemoth Philip Morris International has launched an array of marketing collateral around its VEEV nicotine vaping products targeting health professionals.

As well as heavily discounted offers to pharmacy (PD breaking

news), GPs are also being targeted with information about prescribing the items as smoking cessation aids.

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## First region boss

FOR the first time in NSW, a Deputy Secretary for Regional Health has been appointed as part of the NSW Government's commitment to improving health outcomes for regional communities.

Luke Sloane, the former Coordinator General, Regional Health Division at NSW Health, is elevated to the new role.

State Health Minister Ryan Park said, "the Deputy Secretary for Regional Health will play an important role as a strong advocate for resources and staffing at the decision-making table...and Luke Sloane has demonstrated his dedication to people living in regional, rural & remote NSW".

Sloane added, "over the past year, I've travelled to all parts of regional NSW to see and hear the challenges faced by communities when it comes to accessing the quality healthcare they deserve".

## TWC shows 'power of the collective'

IN THE face of ongoing industry changes and uncertainty, the gathering of over 550 pharmacists and professionals at TerryWhite Chemmart's Masterclass in Adelaide served as a reminder of the sector's power to "change lives through better health outcomes".

Chief Pharmacist Brenton Hart said, "together as a collective we possess the skills and passion to succeed and to overcome the challenges ahead, and now is the time to double down on professional development and the care we provide".

"With over 5,000 team members and more than 2,000 pharmacists nationwide, TerryWhite Chemmart's Masterclass program offers unparalleled opportunities for networking, learning, and professional growth within the pharmacy industry."

Last month's masterclass sessions covered key elements of emerging community pharmacy practice, including full scope of practice, medicinal cannabis, and navigating



the menopausal transition.

Notably, the TerryWhite Chemmart CareClinic program was officially launched during the event.

This integrated strategy aims to elevate professional services within the pharmacy setting, improve health outcomes for patients and drive customer footfall.

Network Partner from Mentone, Vic, Luke Watson added, "the Masterclass is the one event we mark in our calendar each year".

"It is undoubtedly the best

pharmacy education tool available.

"Previously, we brought along team members to help educate and motivate them.

"The masterclass drives our CareClinic strategy, offering new insights for the future of our pharmacy."

The masterclass delivered educational sessions by 25 industry educators, with over 40 supplier partners present.

Next year's masterclass will return to the Gold Coast.

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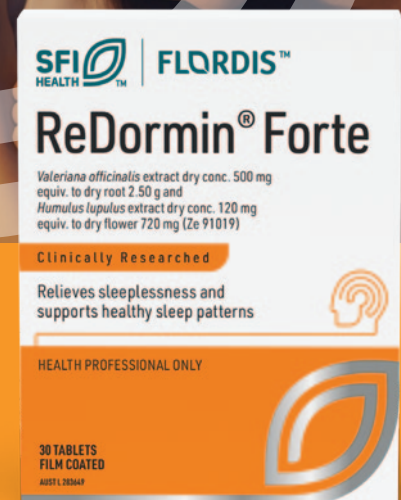
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<sup>1</sup>Koetter U, et al., *Phytother Res.* 2007;21:847-851. <sup>2</sup>Fussel A, et al., *Eur J Med Res.* 2000;5:385-390.

<sup>3</sup>Lataster MJ, et al., *Notabene Medici.* 1996;4:182-185.



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## Dispensary Corner

**TAYLOR** Swift has been credited with reviving global economies through her Eras concert tour, which caused the internet to melt down here last week - and now she's also apparently responsible for making a woman go into labour.

A pregnant lady in Ohio has revealed she was still a few weeks away from her due date when she went to T.Swizzle's appearance in Cincinnati with a friend, according to a report on local TV station WKRC.

"We were just happy we could get down there and go, hoping that I would be able to make it," Tori Hedges said.

However just after the concert ended, as she was making the long climb down from her seats in the upper bowl of the stadium, she felt a sudden urge to go to the bathroom and discovered that her water had broken.

Her husband was concerned that she may not make it out of the venue in time and asked whether the throngs of people would get out of the way.

"With an ambulance, they will," she assured him, with a 911 call making sure she went quickly to hospital, where her new baby son Lyle was born.

"People say that I started my new era as being a mother, so leave the Eras Tour and go into my new one," she quipped.

The incident has sparked much online commentary, with quipsters noting that Hedges had to do a lot more than just "shake it off" when she felt the labour pains coming.

## 30-days upon discharge

**THE** Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) welcomes the long-awaited support in NSW to enable 30 days medicines supply for people on discharge from hospital, as well as fund more speciality hospital pharmacy positions in emergency departments and introduce innovative models of patient care.

The *NSW Government Response - Inquiry into the impact of ambulance ramping and access block on the operation of hospital emergency departments in New South Wales* addressed hospital pharmacists' concerns in two of its recommendations, while SHPA stated it continues to urge investment in the workforce and capacity in NSW to realise the full benefit to medicines safety.

SHPA President Tom Simpson (pictured) says the "risks of NSW's current second-class status among Australian states, without a Pharmaceutical Reform Agreements (PRA) with the Commonwealth, are well-known".

"Instead of receiving a 30-day PBS supply of medicines when leaving hospital, patients in NSW and the ACT are given two to seven days' worth and expected to find



a GP immediately as part of their recovery," Simpson explained.

"As the inquiry pointed out, hospital pharmacists providing more medication to patients on discharge 'improves patient wellbeing and reduces the risk of patients re-presenting to Emergency Departments if their medication runs out'.

"We commend the NSW Government for seeking to end decades of medicines access inequity by requesting PRA negotiations, and we call on the Federal Government to prioritise discussions to ensure patients in NSW have a safer transition from hospital to home or residential care, and to end the unnecessary waste of GP time when discharged patients urgently seek new scripts."

## Share the load

**PHARMACEUTICAL** Defence Limited's (PDL) professional officers acknowledge that the changes to services such as the ODT program, dispensing services and remuneration are placing a great deal of strain on all pharmacists involved in those areas of practice.

PDL advises to share the load, lean on support organisations, and be mindful of practice limitations - see more [HERE](#).

## New endo clinic

**ORANGE** and the surrounding region may now access expert, multidisciplinary care with the opening of one of Australia's first Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinics at the Orange Family Medical Centre.

Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health Emma McBride yesterday officially opened the Orange clinic that is being provided \$700,000 over four years.

The funding can be used to hire specialised staff such as nurse practitioners and allied health professionals, pelvic physiotherapy services or resources and training.

The clinic will also use the funding to build professional knowledge and skills in this area, improve access to information and care pathways, as well as raise awareness of endometriosis and pelvic pain.

The Orange clinic is one of six in NSW and one of 20 in Australia funded as part of a \$58.3m package for endometriosis and pelvic pain announced in the Budget.



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