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## Fined by Ahpra

AN ADELAIDE woman has been convicted and fined \$1,200 for holding herself out as a pharmacist when she completed 10 shifts at two different Adelaide pharmacies in Aug 2021 without being registered.

Olivia Nguyen pleaded guilty in the Adelaide Magistrates' Court after being prosecuted by Ahpra for offences under the National Law.

Nguyen had previously held provisional registration, which entitled her to work as an intern pharmacist, but this registration ended in Feb 2021.

On 17 Aug 2021, Nguyen told her employers that she had obtained registration, which was not true as a decision about her application had not yet been made.

She provided her employer with a false copy of a letter purporting to be from Ahpra that stated she was registered.

## APA's most outstanding

**PHARMACIST** Jason Sammut (pictured), has taken out the Australian Patients Association (APA) Most Outstanding Community Pharmacist Award 2023.

The sixth annual APA Awards event were held at Melbourne's Sofitel Hotel last night.

Sponsor of the awards, the Pharmacy Guild stated Sammut had beaten a strong field to take out the award for "exceeding his patients' expectations" at his LiveLife Pharmacy in Noosa, Queensland.

He's been a pharmacist for 28 years after graduating from the University of Queensland in 1995 and has worked in the profession both here and in England.

"He's also been recognised for going above and beyond for his local community including visiting the vulnerable, checking on the sick, elderly and the bereaved," shared the Guild.

Pharmacy Guild National President Trent Twomey said, "Sammut displays all the attributes



the Guild encourages in the pharmacy profession".

"As a passionate community pharmacist, I encourage our profession to go the extra mile to make a difference for our patients," Twomey said.

"It's great to see Jason's efforts being fittingly recognised, and he follows in the footsteps of the most dedicated pharmacists who have been previously named Most Outstanding Community Pharmacist by the APA."

The Guild also congratulated all APA award winners from last night.

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of the latest news.

## Diversify career

**RAVEN'S** Recruitment's latest episode of its podcast *Your Pharmacy Career* features Brooke Shelly sharing her experience as one of the few pharmacists across the country working as a General Practice Pharmacist and one of the first to hold this role in Victoria.

Shelly champions diversification of the traditional pharmacist role for the next generation, advocating for innovative models of care for pharmacists delivering primary healthcare to the 30% of Australians who live in regional, rural and remote parts of the country.

Listen to the podcast on all your usual audio platforms, and the Raven's website [HERE](#).

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## Michaels is reappointed

**KRISTIN Michaels (pictured)** has been reappointed to lead the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA), the organisation has announced as it prepares to unveil its Transformation 2024 agenda.

SHPA President Tom Simpson said, "over seven strong and steady years, Kristin has been a driving force for modernising not just SHPA as an organisation, but the ways in which hospital-led expertise can positively impact pharmacy practice nationally".

"Kristin's deep understanding of the pharmacy sector, and Australian healthcare broadly, has helped position SHPA as a peak body for collaborative, multidisciplinary care.

"On behalf of our members, the Board of Directors recognises the energy Kristin has brought to the role, and we look forward to implementing Transformation 2024 to build on the strong foundations of the last seven years."

Simpson says SHPA is embarking on a phase of transformation over




the second half of 2023 and into next year.

"Through unprecedented investment in a new recognition program, speciality pharmacy and digital infrastructure, we are taking SHPA into a new era.

"As a long-standing member, I noticed a palpable shift in our organisation as Kristin led SHPA from a more traditional society to a pre-eminent voice for the pharmacy profession.

"It is a pleasure to appoint Kristin to continue to serve as Chief Executive; SHPA is in safe, but never still hands."



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## Call to vaccinate as kids most affected

**NSW** Health Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant has shared that the state's latest health data is concerning, with a 37% increase in emergency department (ED) presentations with influenza-like illness and a 30% increase in admissions to hospital in the week to 02 Jul compared to the previous week.

Children aged under 16 years represented approximately half of all ED presentations for influenza-like illness.

Over a third of all influenza-like illness hospital admissions in the past week were also children, showing that they are being disproportionately affected by influenza this year.

Since 16 May a number of children have been admitted

to intensive care with life-threatening complications from influenza at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, The Children's Hospital at Westmead and John Hunter Hospital, with numbers continuing to rise.

These complications include serious heart, brain, and muscle-related complications.

"Sadly, our children's hospitals are seeing an increasing number of these kids being admitted for care and some of these patients are seriously unwell.

"The very best thing parents can do to keep their kids well this winter, and to reduce the risk of them being hospitalised due to influenza, is to ensure their children receive a flu vaccine if they haven't yet," she stressed.

## Strong supporter Rockliff to step down

**TODAY**, the Tasmanian Premier Jeremy Rockliff has announced that he will step down as Health Minister, with a successor to be announced in the coming days.

The PSA Tasmanian President David Peachey thanked the Premier, drawing on his commitment to expanding pharmacy practice.

"Premier Rockliff has always been a great supporter of pharmacists, working with us to work closer to our top of scope and support the health of Tasmanians," Peachey said.

"Working alongside the Premier to progress the review of pharmacists' scope of practice in Tasmania will result in more

health services being provided by pharmacists around our state.

"Tasmanians now have greater access to vaccinations through their local pharmacist and can also access a new supply of their medicines in an emergency through expanded continued dispensing.

"These initiatives are having a real and positive impact on the health of our communities.

"I look forward to continue working with him and his successor on supporting pharmacists' scope of practice and ensuring that our primary care system delivers quality healthcare for all Tasmanians," Peachey concluded.

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### Dispensary Corner

**FORMER** Israeli army sniper David Roytman has turned his hand to action painting, using guns and live-fire ranges instead of brushes and studios to blast colours onto canvases.

In Israel, Roytman uses a pistol to shoot bags filled with paint, which then splatters onto a canvas, creating the artwork, *Reuters* has reported.

In his native Ukraine, he creates paintings in a similar way by using the cannon of a World War Two-era tank.

Roytman, 42, describes the method as a way to exorcise difficult memories from his combat service.

"This is my healing by art.

"When I'm shooting - not at people, not in a war, not during the military service - I'm doing this for my, let's say, fun, for my way to say something to the world," he told *Reuters*.

"It makes me feel at peace."

Amidst the resulting splashes and holes, he intersperses letters in Hebrew, English and Russian, seemingly at random - an invitation to the viewer to form words.

Twenty of the unusual works have sold for between US\$5,000 (A\$7,326) and US\$10,000 (A\$14,652) a piece, said Roytman.

The art's message is that "everybody needs to think when they are sending their boys to fight, to protect their country - they need to remember that when they come back they need support," Roytman explained, alluding to the mental health of veterans.

## Key site for biosimilars



**GENERIC** and biosimilar medicines manufacturer Sandoz has announced an investment of approximately US\$90m (A\$131.8m) at its site in Ljubljana, Slovenia to establish a dedicated Sandoz Biopharma Development Center by 2026.

With this investment, the Ljubljana site will become one of the key locations for biosimilar product development at Sandoz.

The new site may lead to the creation of approximately 200 new full-time jobs and aims to further strengthen the company's capabilities in end-to-end drug substance and drug product development of biosimilars.

The planned investment complements recently announced Sandoz plans to invest at least US\$400m (A\$586m) in a new

biologics manufacturing plant in Lendava, Slovenia, as well as expanding its biosimilar development capabilities at its facility in Holzkirchen, Germany.

It also builds on existing small molecule product development capabilities in Ljubljana, where Sandoz stated it had established comprehensive capabilities to develop technologically complex generic pharmaceuticals.

Chief Scientific Officer Claire D'Abreu Hayling shared, "the new Biosimilar Development Center in Ljubljana, Slovenia, will build on these capabilities, helping Sandoz to meet rapidly rising global demand for biosimilars and to make an even more meaningful contribution to the long-term viability of healthcare systems around the world".

## Lungs impaired?

**ONE** of the world's largest studies on the impact of cholesterol-lowering medication has highlighted an issue with a new class of drugs that could impair lung function in some patients.

That's the finding from a recent University of South Australia study, the first in the world to compare cholesterol-lowering medications (LDL-C drugs) to a range of clinical and heart and brain MRI biomarkers.

Genetic data from 340,000 UK Biobank participants were analysed to explore the risks and benefits of LDL-C drugs.

The outcomes have been published in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*, **HERE**.

In the vast number of cases, statins do what they promise, which is to significantly lower the risk of cardiovascular disease.

However, lipid-lowering meds that clear cholesterol from the cells, known as PCSK9 inhibitors, could impair lung function, and further studies are needed on their long-term side effects, researchers said.

## A gene variant

**AUSTRALIAN** and international researchers have identified a gene variant named HLA-B\*15:01, that is common in people who were asymptomatic when they contracted COVID-19.

Looking at 136 people who reported no symptoms when they had COVID-19, the researchers say one in five carried the gene variant.

Learn more **HERE**.

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