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PSA23 'upward trajectory' despite 60DD

PSA23 opened today with its National President Dr Fei Sim saying she has "genuine belief in the positive and upward trajectory of our pharmacy profession".

Addressing a packed room of pharmacy organisations, delegates, and with the Federal Health Minister Mark Butler present, Sim expressed the challenges ahead for pharmacy after the 60DD policy announcement in the Budget.

"We have a GP access crisis, and now the 60DD policy, and with the Health Minister in this room today, I want to say we are ready, we rely on you as our health minister to enable us to do our work.

"So, the question now becomes how can we move forward together?"

"We need to work together.

"As we move forward together, we can anticipate changes to our scope and immense opportunity for our profession."

To help cope with change and the move to full scope of practice, Sim

launched the updated Professional Practice Standards which have undergone a dramatic rebuild, where each clinical activity undertaken by pharmacists falls into one or more of 17 standards that are built off the medicine management cycle (*PD Breaking News* today).

Health Minister Butler then took the stage and said 60DD "in my mind is good health policy", and "the walls between silos need to come down and outdated red tape needs to be cut.

"Everyone and every bit of work that needs to be supported to work to the full extent of their skills and training should be done and as a sector, we all need to have a laser-like focus on patient access and patient benefit.

"I know the change is difficult and of course, we want to support pharmacists through the



implementation of this policy, which is why every single dollar of the government saved through 60DD will be reinvested straight back into the community pharmacy sector."

Details of further pharmacy payments will be announced soon.

The PSA also announced its Symbion Excellence Awards with Elise Apolloni named the PSA Symbion Pharmacist of the Year, Dee-Anne Hull MPS won the PSA Symbion Early Career Pharmacist of the Year, and former PSA National President Warwick Plunkett was honoured with the PSA Symbion Lifetime Achievement Award (*pictured*).

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a front cover wrap from **Dermal Therapy** and a full page from **TerryWhite Chemmart**.

Time to capitalise

THE Dermal Therapy range has had a total brand growth in pharmacy of over 47%, with hair & scalp care seeing an 88.6% growth.

The brand has also won 20 awards in the past 12 months. See more on the **cover page**.

Galderma grows

FOLLOWING record growth in 2022, dermatology brand Galderma has reached the US\$2 billion net sales mark in the first half of 2023, up 6.9% year-on-year, ahead of the company's expectations.

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**ARE YOU A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL?
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Safety data review is on

THE UK is reviewing the class of drugs that include Novo Nordisk's weight loss drugs Ozempic and Saxenda after "some patients reported suicidal or self-harming thoughts", two weeks after similar action by the European Union, *Reuters* has reported.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) said in a statement this week it was reviewing safety data on a class of drugs known as GLP-1 receptor agonists.

Novo Nordisk told *Reuters* it had received a request from the MHRA about the agency's review of potential "suicidal and self-harming thoughts related to GLP-1 drugs".

"The review is ongoing and a response will be provided within the requested timelines," the company said in a statement.

The MHRA said AstraZeneca's GLP-1 drug for type 2 diabetes, called exenatide and marketed as Bydureon, was also included in the review.

AstraZeneca did not immediately respond to a request by the news agency for comment by Wed.

The MHRA said two other GLP-1 drugs, Sanofi's lixisenatide, and Eli Lilly's dulaglutide, were also included.

Sanofi told *Reuters* it is aware that the MHRA is conducting the review.

"We are working with the MHRA," it said.

"Sanofi confirms our continuous patient safety and pharmacovigilance monitoring system has not identified any safety concerns."



"We are aware of the MHRA's review," Eli Lilly said in a statement.

"Patient safety is Lilly's top priority, and we will respond to the review regarding safety signals related to dulaglutide (Trulicity) as part of our routine regulatory review processes."

MHRA said the review would consider safety data including adverse drug reactions reported by patients and clinicians to the agency, and other medicines' regulators that it did not name.

Between 2020 and 06 Jul this year, the MHRA received five reports of suspected adverse drug reactions involving semaglutide associated with "suicidal and self-injurious behaviour", via its Yellow Card scheme for collecting and monitoring safety concerns such as side effects from medicines.

Between 2010 and 06 Jul this year, the MHRA received 12 suspected adverse drug reactions involving liraglutide also associated with "suicidal and self-injurious behaviour", *Reuters* also reported.

CWH raises nearly \$1M for Gotcha4Life

CHEMIST Warehouse (CWH) has raised an incredible \$963,924 for Gotcha4Life, a not-for-profit foundation dedicated to helping boost mental fitness in individuals and communities across Australia.

This year marks seven years of partnership between Chemist Warehouse and Gotcha4Life, which was launched by Aussie TV and radio personality Gus Worland in 2017 to help fight for a zero suicide rate in Australia.

CWH Director Mario Tascone said the company is "proud to continue our strong partnership with Gotcha4Life and work hand in hand to open the lines of communication and encourage open and honest conversation around the country".

Worland enthused that "we

are so grateful for the amazing support the entire CWH team gives us both at head office and in store.

"CWH has been with us since the beginning and with their support, we have been able to positively impact hundreds of thousands of people and build their mental fitness to get them through life's ups and downs."

The foundation will use the funds raised during the 2023 campaign to deliver more workshops, tools and resources that support people to build mental fitness in schools, sports clubs and communities.

Gotcha4Life workshops teach participants vital tools that help them speak more openly about their feelings and experiences, as well as build deeper connections.

Dementia risk

TRANSGENDER and non-binary adults may be at higher risk of developing Alzheimer's disease in later life, due to key risk factors being more prevalent in this population.

Research recently published in *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association* showed some risk factors for Alzheimer's disease are disproportionately higher in transgender men & women, and non-binary populations.

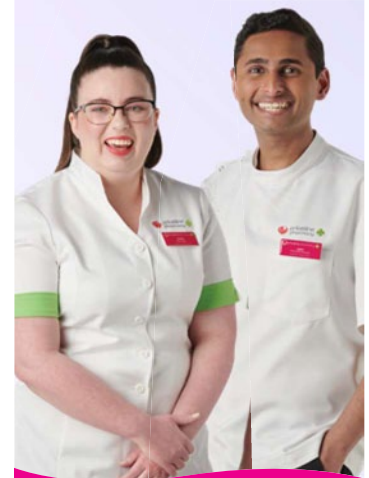
The researchers found non-binary adults had the highest rates of depression (49.8%), compared to biological men (13.8%), biological women (23.6%) and transgender women (30.7%).

They also found significantly higher rates of kidney problems among non-binary adults (8%) compared to biological men (0.9%) and biological women (1.3%).

Non-binary adults also showed the highest rates of physical inactivity (35.6%) compared to both biological men (23.2%) and women (23.9%), and higher CVD rates.

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Dispensary Corner

A GRAPE variety typically found in the southeastern part of the US has been found to combat signs of ageing, according to a new study, but there's a catch, *news.com.au* has reported.

Researchers from the University of Florida conducted a study for the Nutrition 2023 conference on how muscadine wine could help improve skin elasticity and reduce water loss.

Muscadine wine is a variety found in the south-eastern US, usually producing dark purple or black grapes that can be used to make white, red, and rose wines.

However, the wine only helps reduce signs of ageing if the alcohol is removed.

Researchers found that de-alcoholised muscadine wine significantly decreased transepidermal water loss on the face compared to the initial data collection.

Elasticity increased after the consumption of the de-alcoholised muscadine wine compared to the placebo group.

However, while there were improvements in the skin, there wasn't enough of a difference in these factors when comparing the beverages, with little change in wrinkles.

Dr Lindsey Christman, co-author of the study, said the group was hoping it would improve elasticity.

"The muscadine grape has a unique polyphenolic profile in comparison to other red wine varieties.

"As a result, the biological activity may be different in comparison to other types of red wines," Christman said.

Ready to play a key role



PHARMACIST and herbalist Gerald Quigley, a speaker at the upcoming Australasian College of Nutritional and Environmental Medicine (ACNEM) Annual Conference 2023, will be discussing how "pharmacy teams in all settings can play an important role in the support of Long COVID patients".

"With their knowledge and skills in diagnosis, a highly trained pharmacy workforce, up-to-date with recognising the early signs and symptoms of Long COVID, and the latest evidence-based treatment options, is a highly valuable piece of the healthcare puzzle - especially in a climate of challenges to GP access."

He explained that Long COVID in Australia has not gone away despite far less media focus, with 5-10% of COVID-19 cases in Australia leading to the insidious post-COVID condition.

Long COVID recently prompted a Parliamentary Inquiry which heard submissions of evidence from healthcare practitioners and other groups about issues and inconsistencies around access to care and models of care for Long COVID.

This weekend, hundreds of practitioners will converge at the ACNEM conference titled 'Long COVID Navigating the Complexity: A Clinician's Roadmap'.

Audiences will hear from researchers, clinicians, and

therapists about the latest scientific evidence and approaches to tackling the ongoing problem of Long COVID, including pathways to simplifying diagnosis and exploring potential evidence-backed treatment protocols.

Quigley will be presenting on the "crucial role mitochondrial health plays in the management of Long COVID".

"I will be presenting science-based evidence for nutritional and lifestyle interventions for better outcomes for Long COVID patients."

"Some of these interventions include regular exercise, calorie restriction, plant-based diets, and antioxidative supplements, to enhance mitochondrial health and to reduce the severity of and likelihood of Long COVID.

"Supplementation includes nutritional compounds which support immune function, as well as those such as ubiquinol which support mitochondrial energy production, which has been shown to be impaired by viral infection, resulting in fatigue."

Recent research also shows that the impact of Long COVID and potential long-term post-COVID disabilities could contribute substantially to the COVID-19 burden in Australia's post-vaccination setting, and "community pharmacy is well positioned to take a key role in this post-pandemic health landscape," Quigley concluded.

\$39m in funding

PEOPLE without Medicare can now access government-funded HIV treatment, after a \$39 million investment, the Federal Government announced yesterday.

Under the new funding model, people with HIV without Medicare will access free or subsidised treatment from hospital pharmacies or sexual health clinics, depending on which state or territory they live in.

Previously, people with HIV without Medicare accessed treatment through an industry-sponsored compassionate access scheme.

To ensure medical professionals understand what these changes mean and how to provide accurate information and advice to clients, the Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine has released state-specific webinars and online resources on these new protocols, [HERE](#).

ASHM CEO Alexis Apostolellis said that it's crucial we equip doctors, nurses, pharmacists, & community and sexual health workers with the information needed.

"These new arrangements will increase access to treatment for hundreds of people with HIV, a significant step towards achieving Australia's goal of ending HIV transmission by 2030.

"To seamlessly and effectively implement these changes, we need to make sure medical professionals are aware of them, so they clearly understand what this means for their clients," he said.

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- Jen Chao, Pharmacy Intern
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