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**H.E.A.R.T.**  
**AWARDS**

*Congratulations*

to the national winners of the  
TerryWhite Chemmart HEART Awards

**National Pharmacy  
of the Year**

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Coffs Harbour, NSW



**Retail Leadership  
Award**

Sharon Llewellyn,  
TerryWhite Chemmart Kingston Town, TAS



**Most Improved  
Pharmacy**

TerryWhite Chemmart  
Eudunda, SA



**Rhonda White  
Leadership Award**

Leeza & Andy Vuong,  
TerryWhite Chemmart Milton, NSW



**TerryWhite  
Chemmart.**



## Today's issue of PD

*Pharmacy Daily* today features three pages of news, plus a front cover wrap from TerryWhite Chemmart and the March MIMS Update.

## Heart Awards

TERRYWHITE Chemmart has announced recently the national winners of its HEART awards.

The awards recognise the group's best of the best that are leading the pharmacy pack. See more on the [cover page](#).

## MIMS updates

KEEP up-to-date with PBS listings and other relevant information from the MIMS monthly update.

Stay informed about new products, their indications and contraindications. See more on the [back page](#).

# ACT expands vax and joins NSW trial

PHARMACISTS across the ACT can improve access to healthcare with an initiative announced today by the ACT Government to allow community pharmacists to provide more vaccinations and treat more everyday ailments.

ACT Pharmacist Vaccination Standards were amended this week to allow Canberrans to receive vaccines for hepatitis A and hepatitis B, poliomyelitis, typhoid, and herpes zoster at local pharmacies without a prescription.

Pharmacists in the ACT can already administer the seasonal flu, diphtheria, tetanus, cellular pertussis (dTpa), Measles, Mumps and Rubella and COVID-19 vaccines.

In addition, the ACT Government has secured an agreement with the NSW Government for ACT pharmacies to participate in the NSW-led trial to evaluate the effectiveness of pharmacists prescribing antibiotics to treat uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women.



ACT Minister of Health Rachel Stephen-Smith said the expansion of the vaccine program is part of the ACT Government's commitment to improving access to healthcare in the community.

"Pharmacists have been providing vaccination services in the ACT since 2016 and are a safe and valued immunisation service.

"They contribute greatly to our healthcare system by improving access to services and relieving cost and time pressures on primary healthcare providers and

emergency departments," said Stephen-Smith.

The ACT Guild Branch President Simon Blacker (pictured) has welcomed the Minister's announcement.

"Pharmacists played a critical role during the COVID-19 pandemic, being available to help patients at all times, and administering well over 200k COVID-19 vaccines to the community," Blacker said.

"The Pharmacy Guild welcomes the Minister's decision to allow pharmacists to have a broader role in assisting the community with their health needs.

"We believe this will ease some pressure on the healthcare system," said Blacker.

PSA ACT President Olivia Collette agreed that "there should be no wrong door when patients are seeking a vaccine.

"Pharmacists are skilled and experienced immunisers who have delivered more than 10 million COVID-19 vaccinations nationally."



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## Step up for autism walk



**TODAY** the annual Steps for STEPS fundraising walk returns for the third time.

Presented by 92.7 MIX FM, breakfast duo Mark and Caroline will walk alongside the students starting at the MIX FM studios in Maroochydore, Qld, before arriving at the college in Caloundra, all in the name of raising vital funds for young adults living with a disability and autism.

This year 14 students will walk parts of the 20km journey.

STEPS Pathways Charity's Executive Manager Michael Williamson said excitement had

been building at the college over the past few weeks, and this year "we've added some of our college trainers to the MyCause page to really spice up the competition".

The team walks up Aerodrome Road in Maroochydore, then Nicklin Way through Kawana and Currimundi, before finally arriving at the college around midday.

The aim is to beat the \$56k raised last year.

**Pictured:** STEPS Pathways College students and trainers with 92.7 MIX FM breakfast show hosts Mark and Caroline on the 2022 Steps for STEPS walk.

## Ozempic scams

**THE TGA** is aware of several scams targeting consumers seeking semaglutide (Ozempic) during the current medicines shortage, and is urging consumers to only obtain these products from an Australian pharmacy on a valid prescription.

While the product is still in short supply, over the last week limited stock have become available nationally, and are expected to return to normal in coming weeks.

The TGA is investigating a number of websites claiming to be selling products containing semaglutide, for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and off-label for weight loss.

Pharmacists can raise awareness as in some cases, consumers who paid for products online failed to receive any product, while in other cases the product received was not semaglutide.

## Raven's Podcast

**RAVEN'S** Recruitment latest podcast Season six, Episode four with Nichole Lanham is now available.

Lanham is a University of Queensland graduate with a Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) who is passionate about pharmacy in general, but has a particular interest in the clinical areas of skin, asthma, and generic or biosimilar medications.

Lanham is a Pharmacist Policy Advisor with the Guild's Practice, Policy and Regulations team.

Her podcast will cover ways to further careers at whatever point they may be at, as she has provided ongoing training, mentoring, and regulatory advice to pharmacists and pharmacy owners, and assisted in developing pilot patient-support programs with various companies.

Listen to the podcast **HERE**.

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## Dispensary Corner

**CONTRARY** to claims by US gun advocates, constipation does not kill more people than rifles.

A social media post circulating recently has revived incorrect claims about causes of US deaths, suggesting that in 2022 rifles killed 297 people, while constipation killed 2,167 patients.

A "fact check" by *Associated Press* confirms that both figures are completely erroneous - the 297 deaths from rifle fire were recorded in FBI statistics for 2018, while the constipation figures from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) actually cover a 15-year period.

The news agency noted that the latest available numbers in the FBI's online Crime Data Explorer put the total number of American deaths from rifles at 447 for 2021 (along with thousands of murders involving other types of guns), while the 2,167 total figure for constipation relates to CDC records for the period 1999 to 2014, an annual average of 144.

## Vaccine in teens

**THE** rate of teens who experience rare heart conditions myocarditis or pericarditis after receiving a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine could be lower in younger teens compared to those nearing adulthood, according to Canadian research.

Published in *JAMA Pediatrics* the study's researchers looked at vaccine safety surveillance data for teens aged 12-17 in Ontario, where about 1.65m doses were administered among that age group and 77 cases of myocarditis or pericarditis meeting the diagnosis criteria were reported.

Most cases were in boys, and the researchers say there was a higher rate of cases in teens aged 16-17 than in those aged 12-15, suggesting there is a variation in the reported incidence of heart issues.

The researchers noted the incidence of these conditions is very rare in both age groups, and the risk should be considered in relation to the benefits of getting vaccinated. Learn more [HERE](#).

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## Central Coast reception



**THIRTY** pharmacy colleagues (pictured) attended the social reception held by the NSW Guild at the Central Coast Leagues Club on 22 Feb.

The highlight of the evening was that members heard from NSW Branch President David Heffernan about the NSW Government's new reforms to allow pharmacists to operate at their full scope of practice, easing the pressure on the health system and improving patients' access to everyday healthcare.



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### SHPA conference

**AUSTRALIA'S** newest conference is underway for accredited hospital pharmacists who lead patient-centred care.

The Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) had delegates from across healthcare disciplines attending the opening of **PharmCare 2023** in Hobart.

The opening session saw the launch of the new **SHPA Accredited Pharmacist Directory** and the preview of education packages.

Free to SHPA members, other pharmacists can list, for a fee.

**Pharmacy Daily**  
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## New Products

- Avalglucosidase alfa (Nexviazyme)** is a recombinant human acid  $\alpha$ -glucosidase (rhGAA) that provides an exogenous source of acid  $\alpha$ -glucosidase (GAA). Avalglucosidase alfa is a modification of alglucosidase alfa in which approximately 7 hexamannose structures each containing 2 terminal mannose-6-phosphate (bis-M6P) moieties are conjugated to oxidised sialic acid residues on alglucosidase alfa. Avalglucosidase alfa has a 15-fold increase in mannose-6-phosphate (M6P) moieties compared with alglucosidase alfa. Increasing the level of bis-M6P on rhGAA provides a mechanism to drive uptake into the diaphragm and other skeletal muscle via the cation-independent M6P receptor, where it can degrade glycogen and ameliorate tissue damage. *Nexviazyme is indicated for long-term enzyme replacement therapy for the treatment of patients one year of age and older with Pompe disease (GAA deficiency).* Nexviazyme powder for infusion contains avalglucosidase alfa 100 mg and is available in packs of 1 vial.
- Pneumococcal 15-valent polysaccharide conjugate vaccine (Vaxneuvance)** contains serotype-specific pneumococcal capsular polysaccharides each of which is conjugated to a carrier protein (CRM<sub>197</sub>), and elicits antibodies that enhance opsonisation, phagocytosis, and killing of pneumococci to protect against pneumococcal disease. Vaxneuvance is also expected to elicit a T-cell dependent immune response. Carrier protein-specific helper T-cells support specificity, functionality and maturation of serotype-specific B cells. *Vaxneuvance is indicated for active immunisation for the prevention of pneumococcal disease caused by Streptococcus pneumoniae serotypes (1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19A, 19F, 22F, 23F and 33F) in adults 18 years of age and older.* Vaxneuvance is contraindicated in individuals with a history of severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to any diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine. Vaxneuvance suspension for injection contains 32 micrograms of total pneumococcal purified capsular polysaccharide (2.0 micrograms each of serotypes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6A, 7F, 9V, 14, 18C, 19A, 19F, 22F, 23F, and 33F, and 4.0 micrograms of serotype 6B) conjugated to 30 micrograms of non-toxic diphtheria CRM<sub>197</sub> protein, adsorbed on 125 micrograms of aluminium (as aluminium phosphate adjuvant). It is available as a 0.5 mL prefilled syringe in packs of 1 or 10.
- Sotorasib (Lumakras)** is a KRAS G12C inhibitor, which covalently and irreversibly binds to the unique cysteine of KRAS G12C. Inactivation of KRAS G12C by sotorasib blocks tumour cell signalling and survival, inhibits cell growth, and promotes apoptosis selectively in tumours harbouring KRAS G12C, an oncogenic driver of tumourigenesis across multiple cancer types. The potency and selectivity of sotorasib is enhanced through the unique binding to both the P2 pocket and the His95 surface groove, locking the protein in an inactive state that prevents downstream signalling without affecting wild-type KRAS. *Lumakras has provisional approval for the treatment of adult patients with KRAS G12C-mutated locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer who have received at least one prior systemic therapy for advanced disease.* Lumakras tablets contain sotorasib 120 mg and are available in packs of 240.
- Tozinameran and famtozinameran (Comirnaty Original/Omicron BA.4-5)** is a nucleoside modified messenger RNA vaccine. It is formulated in lipid nanoparticles, which enable delivery of the non-replicating RNA into host cells to direct transient expression of the SARS-CoV-2 spike (S) antigen. The mRNA codes for membrane-anchored, full-length S with two point mutations within the central helix. Mutation of these two amino acids to proline locks S in an antigenically preferred prefusion conformation. The vaccine elicits both neutralising antibody and cellular immune responses to the antigen, which may contribute to protection against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). *Comirnaty Original/Omicron BA.4-5 has provisional approval as a booster dose for active immunisation to prevent COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2, in individuals 12 years of age and older.* Comirnaty Original/Omicron BA.4-5 ready to use suspension for injection contains tozinameran 15 mcg and famtozinameran 15 mcg per 0.3 mL dose and is available in packs of 10 or 195 six dose vials with a grey cap.

## New Indications

- Tofacitinib (citrate) (Xeljanz)** is now indicated for the treatment of adult patients with active ankylosing spondylitis who have responded inadequately to conventional therapy; and for the treatment of active polyarticular course juvenile idiopathic arthritis (rheumatoid factor positive [RF+] or negative [RF-] polyarthritis, extended oligoarthritis and systemic juvenile arthritis without systemic features for six months) and juvenile psoriatic arthritis in patients 2 years of age and older, who have responded inadequately to previous therapy with DMARDs.
- Trastuzumab deruxtecan (Enhertu)** is now indicated for the treatment of adult patients with unresectable or metastatic HER2-low (IHC 1+ or IHC 2+/ISH-negative) breast cancer who have received prior chemotherapy in the metastatic setting or developed disease recurrence during or within 6 months of completing adjuvant chemotherapy. Patients with hormone receptor positive (HR+) breast cancer should additionally have received and no longer be considered eligible for endocrine therapy.
- Upadacitinib (hemihydrate) (Rinvoq)** is now indicated for the treatment of adults with active non-radiographic axial spondyloarthritis with objective signs of inflammation as indicated by elevated C-reactive protein and/or magnetic resonance imaging change, who have responded inadequately to, or are intolerant to nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

## New Contraindications

- Estradiol (Sandrena)** is now contraindicated in acute liver disease; history of liver disease where liver function has failed to return to normal; and known, past or suspected malignancy of the genitals or breasts.
- Nirmatrelvir and ritonavir (Paxlovid)** is now contraindicated with concomitant eletriptan, silodosin, eplerenone, ivabradine, finerenone, naloxegol, oral midazolam, tolvaptan, primidone and lumacaftor/ivacaftor.

- **Quinine sulfate dihydrate (Quinate)** is now contraindicated in patients with mefloquine or quinidine hypersensitivity; haemolysis or haemoglobinuria; and prolongation of QT interval.
- **Trimethoprim (Triprim)** is now contraindicated in premature infants or children under 4 months of age; pregnant and breastfeeding women.

*This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month.  
Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.*