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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus a full page from Melrose.

Brand education

DERMAL Therapy has given a successful educational talk at the recent NAPSA (National Australian Pharmacy Student Association) conference.

Following the talk, 10 plus Pharmacy Student Associations from Australia and New Zealand reached out for sponsorship and sampling for their Orientation Weeks in Feb-Mar.

Dermal Therapy provided sample bags and healthcare professional brochures to 2,500 pharmacy students nationwide including one association in Auckland.

The brand was featured on social media and included in eDMs sent by the various associations to their members.

PSA 2023 awards the best of the best

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has recognised exceptional pharmacists at the New South Wales Excellence Awards as part of the Annual Therapeutic Update taking place in Port Stephens, last Fri.

The awards were presented by PSA's immediate past President, Prof Peter Carroll MPS (pictured).

The NSW Pharmacist of the Year Award was presented to former PSA State Manager Simone Diamandis FPS (pictured), for her leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and advocacy for the expansion of pharmacist-administered vaccines.

As the NSW PSA State Manager, Diamandis worked closely with pharmacists, the State Government, the health department, and other key stakeholders to drive policy change and improvements for pharmacists to better support their communities.

Her work has resulted in better health outcomes for NSW residents.

The NSW Intern of the Year Award is Elizabeth Langdon, an intern pharmacist practising on the South Coast.

She has been recognised for her work in implementing harm minimisation strategies in three pharmacies.

Langdon drove the rollout of the Opioid Harm Minimisation Strategy and SafeScriptNSW in Priceline Pharmacy Shell Harbour, Amcal North Nowra, and Callala Bay Pharmacy.

For the Take-Home Naloxone program, she played a pivotal role in educating patients on its benefits and teaching patients how to use the drug correctly.

The NSW Early Career Pharmacist of the Year was awarded to Dr Jack Collins MPS for his research at the University of Sydney School of Pharmacy, which focused on the role of community pharmacists in facilitating self-care.

Dr Jack Collins' research has employed a number of research



methods in his work to optimise the medicines management role of pharmacists, focusing on non-prescription medicines, and mental health services.

The NSW Lifetime Achievement Award recognised the contributions of Warwick Plunkett FPS over nearly 55 years, especially to pharmacy professional bodies including as PSA past president, the continuing professional education of pharmacists, and improvement to the quality use of medicines.

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Connecting communities to care

Sub-optimal practices

AUCKLAND University's School of Pharmacy has published research into the factors that resulted in suboptimal practice in community pharmacies during the pandemic.

Interviewing pharmacists in 2021, 80% of those surveyed agreed that sub-optimal practice had increased in the past five years.

Increasing workloads, particularly over the period of the Covid-19, pandemic had been a significant contributor.

Issues included staffing and time constraints, higher work volume to staffing ratio, a lack of funding leading to cost cutting, stock shortages, and a lack of equipment.

Other themes included poor workflow, lack of standard operating procedures, mess and disorganisation, poor lighting, and

no lunch or break periods.

The research funded by the Pharmacy Council in New Zealand aimed to understand the broader context of community pharmacy practice and establish a better

understanding of risks to practice than provided by notifications, complaints data, or Medsafe's Pharmacy Quality Audit data alone.

The Council's focus is on understanding the potential risk of pharmacists' practice and establishing whether risks can be properly addressed.

This may not require a formal regulatory response to the risk, but a response by pharmacists themselves or other stakeholders.

Council was awaiting further analysis from this research, and asked pharmacists to address the factors affecting work practices by learning more **HERE**.



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Black Dog's professionals' learning hub

BLACK Dog Institute is launching a free Health Professional Resource Education Hub, connecting them to online programs, resources and primary care information on mental health.

The custom-built platform will provide healthcare professionals with access to evidence-based online resources, including accredited training modules, webinars, podcasts and other e-Mental Health in Practice content.

These are designed to introduce healthcare professionals to online programs and tools and to demonstrate how e-mental health technologies can be integrated into primary care.

"Australia uses a stepped care model of mental health

care where the treatment a patient receives is matched to the severity of their symptoms," explains Jan Orman, GP Services consultant at Black Dog Institute.

"e-Mental health treatments are great treatment options for many patients with mild-to-moderate conditions and, in some cases, may be the only treatment needed at that time."

Users will also be able to connect with other healthcare professionals through the Mental Health

Community of Practice, where they can exchange ideas, thoughts and experiences with peers via forums moderated by Black Dog Institute's team of experts.

New users can sign up to the Health Professional Resource & Education Hub from Mon 20 Mar. Register now **HERE**.



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ED wait improves

NSW public hospitals improved the timeliness of emergency care for the second quarter in a row as the health system continues to recover from the significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, despite ongoing high demand.

The Bureau of Health Information's latest Healthcare Quarterly report (Oct-Dec 2022) showed emergency department (ED) wait times improved, as the fourth wave of COVID-19 reached its peak.

NSW Health Deputy Secretary Adj Prof Matthew Daly said there were more than 790,000 attendances at NSW EDs and that "despite the huge volume of patients, the proportion of those who started their treatment on time and those transferred by paramedics in 30m improved".

Curb a 'silent pandemic' says CSIRO

AUSTRALIA is seeing a growing 'silent pandemic' of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), when bacteria and other microbes become resistant to the drugs designed to kill them, such as antibiotics, usually from misuse or overuse.

Released this week the report, *Curbing antimicrobial resistance: a technology-powered, human-driven approach to combating the 'silent pandemic'*, calls for greater national coordination and a focus on streamlining commercialisation processes for new antimicrobial resistance solutions and technologies.

It was developed by the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and initiated by CSIRO, Australia's national science agency.

Dr Branwen Morgan, Lead of CSIRO's Minimising Antimicrobial Resistance Mission, said AMR was



recently designated one of the top 10 public health threats facing humanity by the World Health Organization.

"AMR could render some of the most critical antimicrobial drugs ineffective, undermining modern medicine and making us vulnerable to drug-resistant infections," Morgan said.

"It is responsible for over 1.27m deaths globally each year and the number is rising.

"In Australia, modelling suggests

AMR could be responsible for over 5,000 deaths annually.

"This report calls out the key challenges and opportunities for Australia to improve how we prevent, detect, diagnose and respond to drug-resistant infections and reduce the impacts of AMR," Morgan said.

The report drew on the expertise of over 100 multidisciplinary experts and looked at a range of impactful technologies such as integrated surveillance and sensing solutions, point-of-care diagnostics, antimicrobial surfaces, and air sterilisation and vaccination technologies.

Specific examples included surface sprays that change colour when pathogens are present and toilets that detect and disarm harmful microbes before they reach our waterways.

Learn more [HERE](#).

People will avoid wearing hearing aids

AUSTRALIANS appear to be neglectful when it comes to the prevention and management of hearing loss, a new survey by hearing care provider Audika suggested.

The survey showed that 88% of Australian respondents over the age of 40 are more concerned about their eyesight fading than having hearing loss.

The survey also showed that over a third of people surveyed admitted that they are probably

hard of hearing but have never been tested or sought treatment.

Well over half of respondents said they are unlikely to take a hearing test any time soon.

More than half of the survey respondents said that they would avoid wearing a hearing aid for as long as possible, even if they were diagnosed with hearing loss, with those

respondents citing they are too expensive (52%) and they would be too uncomfortable (51%) as their main justification.



PDL updates good dispensing guidelines

THE Pharmaceutical Defence Limited's (PDL) [Guide to Good Dispensing](#) has been updated to reflect changes in the dispensing process that have arisen from changes in technology and legislation, such as the introduction of electronic prescriptions and active ingredient prescribing.

PDL Professional Officers are reminding pharmacists that good dispensing requires a systematic approach, risk assessment and clear documentation such as:

- Always perform the final

check of the prescription from the downloaded copy on the dispensing screen.

- An easily accessible monitor or screen should be available to review the prescription.
- Be alert for annotations as prescribers often communicate additional dosing directions, such as staged supply requirements in the annotations section.
- Reconfirm a patient's identity.

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Lies sells vapes

NEW research shows that vapes are being marketed as sexy, sleek and environmentally friendly. The study shows the many ways buyers are being enticed. Read the study [HERE](#).



Weekly Comment

Welcome to **Pharmacy Daily's** weekly comment feature.

This week's contributor is **Paul Rowe, Managing Director, The Business Squad.**



Five things to remember when selling your Pharmacy

HERE are the most common mistakes pharmacists make when selling a business:

- 1. Failure to plan**
The sale of a pharmacy should be seen as a long-term strategy, but all too often the pharmacy is simply put on the market.
- 2. Confusing price with value**
Do not confuse "price" with "value". The price is just a figure someone is willing to offer for your pharmacy at a point in time.
- 3. Timing is everything**
There are ideal times and bad times to try and sell your pharmacy. Look at the market, both locally and globally before listing your business for sale.
- 4. Getting the right advice**
Ensure you choose an independent, experienced professional that is working in your best interest.
- 5. Confidentiality vs marketing**
Confidentiality is important, yet, to attract a purchaser, the business must be visible to the market.
You have worked hard to build your pharmacy, don't fall at the last hurdle, [contact a professional](#), follow these simple steps and maximise your profit.

Dispensary Corner

THE dodo, a bird last seen in the 17th-century, will be brought back to life if attempts by a gene editing company are successful.

As reported by *The Guardian*, gene-editing techniques allow scientists to mine the dodo genome for traits that they believe can then be reassembled within the body of a living relative.

Dodos are most closely related to pigeons, according to sequencing of the dead bird's genome.

The scientists involved say their work could help inform the conservation of rare species that are not yet extinct.

However, there remains debate among biologists over whether this sort of research should be pursued.

Colossal Biosciences, the gene editing company involved, has already embarked on projects to revive the woolly mammoth and the thylacine.

But the dodo would be its first bird, which is significant as it means changing the gene-editing technique to accommodate an external egg.

This will also be technically challenging, as no one has yet managed to use gene-editing for birds in this way.

Medics strike for climate



ON FRI, Australian medical students joined forces with thousands of activists for the Global Climate Strike occurring simultaneously in nine locations across all states in Australia.

"As the future doctors of Australia, we are striking for the health of all our future patients and the planet," said Mikaela Misso, AMSA Code Green Co-

National Coordinator, adding that anthropogenic climate change poses an immense threat to human health and wellbeing globally. "From the acute harm caused by extreme weather events to the exacerbation of cardiovascular and respiratory disease burden, climate change is the greatest global health threat of the 21st century," Misso concluded.

Reproductive justice in the limelight

WITH International Women's Day around the corner on 08 Mar, reproductive justice is more topical than ever.

The latest series of Monash University's podcast, *What Happens Next?* examines the state of reproductive health and rights today.

Women's reproductive healthcare has historically been overlooked by medical science and is still treated as taboo in

many cultures.

Over the course of the two-part series, host and outspoken feminist Dr Susan Carland is joined by guests including medical historian Dr Paula Michaels, world-leading emergency contraception expert Dr Safeera Hussaini, human rights law expert Dr Tania Penovic and male contraceptive researcher Dr Sabatino Ventura. Listen to the podcasts [HERE](#).

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