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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus full pages from Gluco Beans and Glucojel.

Grab a bean deal

BE PART of Australia's largest growing jellybean brand. Contact your Brand Solutions Australia rep for the Gluco Beans' Mar and Apr special offer where five cartons of Gluco Beans are 10% off. See more on **page five**.

Original jellybean

FRESH off the streets of Gold Coast, the battle of the beans continues, with thousands of beans given out by Glucojel at APP. Grab your Mar offer for the original GoldCross' jellybean. See more on **pages six and seven**.

APP sets record, Qld's Intern winner

MORE than 7,450 community pharmacists and industry professionals have attended this year's APP conference, experiencing four days of educational sessions and networking functions, making the conference the most successful in its 33-year history.

Highlights of the conference include the keynote speaker, Mark Butler, Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, who congratulated the profession on their commitment to Australia's healthcare sector and continuing to provide accessible health services and treatments to the many communities across the country.

Mark Burdon, UK pharmacist prescriber and Secretary General of World Pharmacy Council, spoke about the positive impact pharmacists practicing to their full scope made to the overwhelmed National Health Service.

"We've seen the profession go from strength to strength and

as of 2026, UK universities will incorporate scope of practice into graduate level certificates, which means we will have generations of pharmacists working to their full scope of practice," said Burdon.

Conference Convenor, Kos Sclavos AM, said the attendance numbers truly reflect the strength in the profession and the desire to continue learning about the clinical developments and changes happening across the sector.

"I couldn't be more proud as a pharmacist seeing the profession turn up in record numbers.

"Reconnecting with industry peers and learning from world-class leaders is what APP is all about.

"We are on the countdown for next year's APP to be held from 14-17 Mar 2024," said Sclavos.

MEANWHILE, at APP, the 2022 MIMS/Guild Intern of the Year award went to Georgina Morris from LiveLife Pharmacy Bowen Healthcare, Qld, who said being named the winner is a "true



honour".

"As an indigenous student I felt immense responsibility to relocate to a rural area for my internship to influence the health outcomes of fellow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders members in the community".

Robert Best, CEO and Executive Director of MIMS Australia and New Zealand, congratulated Morris saying, "for close to 60 years, MIMS has been committed to supporting young healthcare professionals like Georgina across Australia from all parts of the healthcare ecosystem".

Pictured (L-R): Robert Bees, Georgina Morris, and Guild President Trent Twomey.

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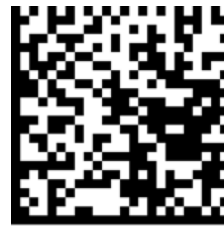
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Qld Guild is seeking IT vendor bids for its Pilot

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Queensland Branch, is calling for bids from IT vendors for the development of the clinical information system for the North Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot (Pilot).

The Pilot hopes to increase access to high-quality, integrated, and cost-effective primary healthcare

services for North Queensland communities with occasions of service due to commence at the end of 2023.

To support the Pilot and ongoing scope of practice initiatives for pharmacists, the Guild said an information technology outsourcing partner is required to develop a clinical information system with prescribing capabilities that supports service processes within the Pilot.

In addition, the clinical information system must provide clinical and outcome data to inform project evaluation of the Pilot.

This request for proposal is for now for the North Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot.

However, with other state and territories commencing on the full scope of practice journey, there is potential for expansion of work towards a national approach for the successful IT partner, said the Guild.

Interested vendors are encouraged to view the documentation [HERE](#) or [email](#) for more information.

Distress in GPs

THE Australian Medical Association said data released by regulatory watchdog Ahpra looked at the distress in health practitioners involved in a regulatory process, and identified 16 deaths and four instances of attempted suicide or self-harm among practitioners who were subject to regulatory notifications within a four-year study period from Jan 2018 to Dec 2021.

No PBS Scripts' signatures says Butler



PHARMACISTS are spared an additional administrative burden as the recent Department of Health directive has been scrapped.

The return of PBS scripts' signatures requirements (*PD 24 Mar*) has been overturned by Federal Health Minister Mark Butler on Fri at APP2023, in his speech to a packed arena.

"This will not be happening. "In my view, that directive goes in precisely the wrong direction", Butler said.

"You are embracing digital technology and leveraging off those platforms and over the past few years working to make electronic prescribing increasingly a central part of the current healthcare system.

"How do I go back to what we had three years ago?"

A spokesperson for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia welcomed the decision to remove the onerous signature requirements.

"The provisions applied under the emergency arrangements proved that the requirement for signatures is unnecessary and burdensome on pharmacists and patients," the Guild spokesperson said.

"The announcement by the Minister for Health Mark Butler is a common sense one which recognises the advances in scripts and pharmacy procedures.

"This is a win-win for patients and the health system."



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Majority support ban on gambling ads

OVER 50% of Australians would support gambling ads banned across broadcast channels before 10.30pm, *Mumbrella* reported.

That's according to new research as the nation is also revealed to be the world's biggest gambling loser per capita.

The research comes from the Australian Gambling Research Centre at the Australian Institute of Family Studies, which surveyed 1,765 Australian residents aged 18 years and over in Jul 2022.

It found that three in four Australian adults have gambled in the past 12 months.

Australians are the biggest

losers per capita when it comes to gambling, with more than \$25 billion lost last year.

Sixty-nine per cent believed that gambling advertising is 'too common', while 60% believe it makes 'sport less family friendly' and 46% said it 'decreases their enjoyment of sport'.

As a response, 53% of respondents backed a ban to all gambling advertising before 10.30pm on radio, TV, live stream and on-demand, with 19% in opposition to such a ban.

Forty-two per cent are for a ban of sports coverage sponsorship with 26% in opposition.

New labels for Warfarin

IN THREE weeks' time Warfarin (coumadin) will have new labels on their blue bottles to help combat the selection and dosage issues found recently, announced its manufacturer Viatrix' Head of Operations ANZ Rob Elliot at APP 2023.

"We are aware of the issues and are working with the TGA on new labels for Warfarin," Elliot said.

"We'll be releasing products with new labelling in the coming three weeks.

"So, the big change we're making short-term is that it will be very clear from the labelling which dose Warfarin it is.

"There will be different colours and larger sizes of labels for all the strengths of the product."

In the future, Elliot told *Pharmacy Daily* that the product could well be marketed in blister packs.

"What we're doing in May, or maybe Jun, is laying down stability trials of the product in different blister packs, because we don't know which blister packing type will give the product the stability over its lifetime.

"What that means is those trials will go for about two years.

"At the end of those trials, we'll know which product and which blister packing type will be appropriate.

"And then we're looking to move the products to blister packs to give you the differentiation that you cannot do in any other form."

Viatrix is also actively participating in industry information events



at universities in both Sydney and Queensland to connect students with members of the pharmaceutical industry and jobs that are on offer.

Viatrix Australia has continued its relationship with universities, such as Griffith University, University of Queensland, University of Sydney and University of Technology, to engage young people outside of the lecture halls and to detail the industry support available for students in the STEM fields.

In order to support future generations of the STEM workforce, Viatrix is offering internships in Sydney and tours for students of its Carole Park manufacturing site in Ipswich, Queensland, which 70 pharmacy students from The Queensland University of Technology recently visited.

"They learnt about how we use innovation and sustainable operations to manufacture our medicines and deliver high-quality medicines to Australian patients as well as export to over 40 countries," said Elliot.

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Dispensary Corner

A BEMUSED vegan in the USA says he's shocked to have received an official direction to remove the vanity number plates from his vehicle.

Peter Starostecki from Maine says he received a letter from the state's Bureau of Motor Vehicles ordering him to no longer display the 'LUVTOFU' plates on his BMW.

"My license plate literally says 'love tofu'," he said, adding "I'm a vegan - no ill intentions".

However state officials disagree, saying the plate could be interpreted as offensive because the final two letters are "F" and "U", according to CBS.

Starostecki insists he had no intention of being vulgar, saying "I've never had anybody come up and be aggressive to me, flip me off, tell me it's inappropriate".

"Every time I get a comment about it, it's something positive," he said - noting that there is also a sticker next to the plate that says "Tofu never screams" (pictured).

"It's sort of my small little protest, to say that I stand for going away from using animal products," Starostecki said.

An appeal to leave the plate in place was denied, but the Bureau offered him a replacement plate reading "V3GAN" instead.



AFT enters China market

AFT Pharmaceuticals is now registered for the sale of its long-lasting hand sanitiser Crystawash Extend in China.

AFT also has signed new licence agreements for the intravenous dose form of its Maxigesic pain relief medicine as it continues to build momentum in its international business.

AFT Managing Director Hartley Atkinson explained that "these licensing, registration and distribution agreements and the recent launches will add to the momentum we are seeing in the company's international business.

"As a result of these launches and recent sales, AFT will enter the new financial year with Maxigesic sold in 61 countries in various dose forms, 15 more than where we were in Mar 2022, although just short of our target of 63 countries.

"We are pleased with the progress made in realising the potential of our Maxigesic intellectual property.

"Additionally, we are pleased to achieve our first product registration in Mainland China and further registrations are pending."

The Chinese National Medical Products Administration approved Crystawash Extend 24-hour long-lasting hand sanitiser which allows AFT to sell into retail stores in mainland China.

Crystawash Extend sanitises and protects against 99.99% of germs for up to 24 hours, and is non-toxic and alcohol-free.

AFT will commercialise this product range within the next six to 12 months into mainland China.

The privately owned Swiss pharmaceutical company Labatec has licensed the intravenous form, Maxigesic IV, in Switzerland.

Labatec and AFT are aiming for registration and launch of the medicine - a treatment for mild-to-moderate pain for use post-operatively in hospitals when patients cannot take a medicine orally - in the next 12 to 18 months.

Weekly Comment

Welcome to **Pharmacy Daily's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Paul Rowe, Managing Director, The Business Squad.**



Successful Business Partnerships

RETAIL pharmacies are often built on business partnerships that provide the ability to share financial and operational burden. However, there are ground rules that need to be set.

1 Trust. In any good relationship, trust is key and must be unequivocal. Ask yourself: Do I trust this person with my professional reputation, financial assets, and livelihood?

2 Compatible communication styles. Deciding up front how you will communicate is vital to avoid small problems becoming large! Decide if you prefer regular face-to-face meetings, or emails. Will you have a third party to 'chair' or can you be more informal?

3 Use each others' strengths. Try to allocate tasks that make the most of your skills sets, for example, the more assertive partner could head negotiations & conflict resolution. Does one partner have a flair for marketing, does one have a financial brain?

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, have a legal partnership agreement drawn up by a lawyer BEFORE you start. This will ensure that, should any conflict arise, there are no grey areas. It will also minimise misunderstandings and be a foundation for growth and prosperity.

Less women than men ride bikes in Mel

DESPITE the health and environmental benefits of getting on a bike, in Melbourne, twice as many men ride bikes as women.

A new study by Monash University has uncovered both why this is the case, and how it can be reversed.

The study found that women experience extra barriers and concerns about riding a bike, on top of those also reported by men, including a fear of falling off their bike and into motor vehicle traffic, concerns about their personal safety in unsafe environments, and being made to feel inadequate as a cyclist.

This study highlighted that women needed protected bike lanes and paths to be able make more trips by bike.

Women reported concerns about falling from their bike and into incoming traffic, describing needing "space to fall", a requirement not met by narrow on-road painted lanes which make up the 93% of cycling infrastructure across Melbourne.

The study, surveyed over 700 Melburnians, and interviewed in depth a further 40, on what factors prevent, and what encourages people to ride a bike. Learn more **HERE**.

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