

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Willach
- Glucojel

Sign up for \$15k+

THE MedAdvisor Race 2023 is back after a pandemic hiatus.

The MedAdvisor Race is a patient app sign-up competition that runs for the month of Apr.

If you've put app sign-ups on the backburner during the busy vaccination season, now is a great time to re-focus.

There's over \$15k in prize money up for grabs.

Register your pharmacy and choose the race you want to compete in, either race A, B, or C.

Once the qualifying sign-ups are reached you're in the running - see more [HERE](#).

What is MS? video

TODAY, a new education resource was launched to explain and demystify multiple sclerosis (MS), a disease on the rise in Australia.

The 'What is MS?' video (view [HERE](#)) attempts to demystify and explain a complex, and often at times, invisible disease that now impacts more than 33,000 Australians.

Commissioned in 2022 by MS Australia to mark its 50th Anniversary Year, the video will educate the public and people living with MS, especially those newly diagnosed, about the causes, different types of MS and its common symptoms that, as of now, has no cure.

MS Australia Chief Executive, Rohan Greenland says the lack of understanding extends to areas of government support such as NDIS as "if your symptoms are less visible you can be denied support".

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New NSW Health minister

RYAN Park was sworn in as Health Minister yesterday after Labor won Sat's NSW state election.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's New South Wales branch has congratulated Park and stated that he has shown a strong interest in and understanding of community pharmacy in his time as Shadow Health Minister, and that the Guild is keen to continue that work with him in government.

The newly-elected Labor government has committed to implementing scope of practice reforms in community pharmacy, the Guild said.

These reforms will see pharmacists be able to diagnose and treat minor ailments, alleviating pressure on GPs and hospitals.

"The Guild offers its warmest congratulations to the new Minister for Health," said David Heffernan, NSW Branch President.

"Minister Park has proven himself to be a strong supporter of



community pharmacy during his time in Opposition.

"I look forward to working with Minister Park to ensure that the upcoming Scope of Practice Pilot is a success and that more patients across New South Wales can have the improved access to everyday healthcare that they deserve."

MedAdvisor Race



The Race is back!

Sign up patients to the app for your chance to win a share of over \$15,000!

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Connecting communities to care

VA gains traction

ON BEHALF of the blind and low vision community, Vision Australia (VA) has led advocacy efforts since 2018 to improve pedestrian safety by urging decision-makers to nationally introduce the use of external noise-emitting devices for electric vehicles at low speed.

Yesterday, VA's campaign to mandate the use of Acoustic Vehicle Alerting Systems in electric vehicles was elevated to a national discussion with the signing of a draft Regulation Impact Statement calling for public consultation and feedback.

Chris Edwards, VA's manager of government relations and advocacy, the NDIS and aged care explained that "with electric vehicles predicted to make up 90% of Australia's vehicle fleet by 2050, and with pedestrian road crashes costing \$1.2b per year, this outcome is significant for everyone".

Electric vehicles can pose a particular risk for blind and low vision pedestrians, who rely on sound such as vehicular noise to navigate roads independently and safely.

Pedestrians who are blind or have low vision have reported feeling vulnerable near electric vehicles, with more than one in three participants in a Vision Australia and Monash University Accident Research Centre report saying they'd had a collision or near-collision with one.

Hydrocortisone shortage

THE TGA is aware of a shortage of all hydrocortisone tablet strengths due to manufacturing issues.

The national medicines regulatory agency is working with the supplier Alphapharm to manage the impact.

Hydrocortisone tablets are used to treat adrenal insufficiency conditions, including Addison's Disease.

There are two brands of hydrocortisone tablets marketed in Australia: Hysone and Hydrocortisone Viatris.

Supply is expected to resume for both brands in mid-Apr.

Pharmacists are encouraged to go to the Medicine Shortage Reports Database (search for 'hydrocortisone') to check for updates to this information, as the anticipated supply return dates can change.

The TGA has taken action to reduce the impact of this shortage on patients by approving an overseas-registered alternative hydrocortisone 20mg tablets under section 19A of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*.

These 'section 19A' products can be dispensed by pharmacists using the consumer's regular valid prescription.

The TGA states there is no need to go back to the doctor to obtain a new prescription or additional approvals.

Pharmacists can visit the section 19A database for more information about these products.

Alphapharm, a subsidiary of Viatris, is the 'sponsor' of both brands and the company can be contacted on 1800 274 276.



For those wanting more information and to order the overseas brand from the approval holders:

Medsurge Healthcare - call 1300 788 261.

Pro Pharmaceuticals Group - call 1300 077 674.

Further, the TGA has announced that as of last week, it can approve the temporary import or supply of an overseas-approved medicine as a substitute for one that is in short supply if it has been previously registered in Australia.

This includes medicines that have been discontinued, suspended or cancelled from the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) but can still assist patients who don't have other treatment options.

Previously, the TGA could only grant temporary approval for import and supply of a substituted overseas medicine if the medicine was currently included in the ARTG.

In addition, updates have been made to improve the accuracy of the information published on the TGA Medicine Shortage Reports Database.

The changes clarify requirements around updating and resolving shortages.

Ramsey fined

THE TGA stated that on 17 Mar, Christopher Ramsey, the Director of AusLabs, Smart Labs and iSARMS, was sentenced at Downing Centre Local Court to two years imprisonment and fined \$300,000 for his role in the manufacture, supply and advertising of illegal SARMS (Selective Androgen Receptor Modulators) and nootropic products.

Ramsey's sentence will be served by way of an intensive corrections order.

He was also ordered to complete 750 hours of community service and received an additional \$1,100 fine for possession of a tablet press, which will be seized.

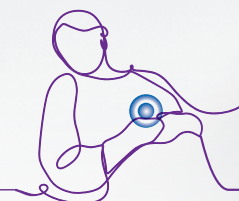
Ramsey's three companies also received significant fines totalling \$2,225,000.

Natural Franchises - which traded as AusLabs - received a fine of \$1,050,000, SARMS International (iSARMS) received a fine of \$775,000, and Smart Labs received a fine of \$400,000.

This court outcome follows the TGA's significant investigation which led to the seizure under warrant of manufacturing materials for illegal SARMS and nootropics.

Last Oct, Ramsey and his companies pleaded guilty to over 200 offences of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* for the manufacture, supply and advertising of unapproved therapeutic goods.

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Dispensary Corner

THERE is likely to be a strong demand for baby products in Argentina, which is experiencing a boom in so-called "birth tourism" due to the Ukraine war. More than 10,000 pregnant Russian women have flown to Buenos Aires over the last year to have their babies, taking advantage of visa-free status and the opportunity for them to obtain Argentinian citizenship along with their new offspring. Immigration authorities are now investigating the issue, which came to a head when 33 expectant women, all in their late second trimester, arrived on the same flight last week. Although some have stayed, more than 7,000 returned home after giving birth, with local lawyers charged with applying for Argentinian citizenship. "The problem is that they arrive, have their children and then leave Argentina never to come back," said immigration chief Florencia Carignano. "We cannot allow them to shamelessly lie to us saying they are tourists when they are not."

LocumCo rewards its own



LOCUMCO has announced at APP the pharmacist locum winners who worked the most last year. The temporary job placement agency ran a competition throughout last year where it awarded \$100 gift vouchers each month to the top three locums who helped the agency by doing the most number of locum placements in the month. The winner of the major prize

was Yi Chen, who was awarded a cheque for \$5,000, for the most locum placements completed in 2022.

There were five runners-up each winning \$1,000 with John Deng being one of the runners-up who received his cheque.

"I felt that in such difficult times as pharmacies have had to endure, these locums should be rewarded for their efforts in keeping pharmacies open," LocumCo director Sue Muller said.

Pictured (top L-R): LocumCo staff member Asa Tse, Sue Muller, winner Yi Chen, and chair of APP Kos Sclovos.

Pictured left (L-R): Asa Tse, runner-up John Deng and Sue Muller.



Dr Teo 'untruthful'

NEUROSURGEON Dr Charlie Teo has been accused of giving "opportunistically untruthful" evidence at a disciplinary hearing, as well as lacking empathy and insight.

Dr Teo fronted a NSW Health Care Complaints Commission inquiry in Sydney yesterday to defend brain tumour surgeries he performed on two women, who never recovered.

One of the women was left in a vegetative state after surgery and repatriated to WA, causing her family great emotional trauma and expenses, the hearing was told.

Commission counsel Kate Richardson SC said Dr Teo's claims the woman's husband had been "hoodwinked" into making a complaint showed a "lack of empathy and lack of ability to reflect".

Richardson accused Dr Teo of being "opportunistically untruthful" in regards to the risks involved with the surgery and on how he conveyed the risks to the patient.

Dr Teo admitted his actions were responsible for poor outcomes, but rejected any suggestion he was negligent.

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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper
Associate Publisher – Anna Piper
Editor – Jayamala Gupte
Contributors – Adam Bishop, Myles Stedman, Janie Medbury, Matthew Wai
info@pharmacydaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi, Nicki Harford
advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper
accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
 Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
 PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
 Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

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Kim Jarratt

omg. These are disgusting. I still have a packet at home for you to try

Angel-Rose Cole

Kim Jarratt agree, they're almost inedible!

Barbara White

One word "disgusting"

Barbara White

They are vile 🤢

Wylie Cooper

Yep they are disgusting. Always bought the big bag of glucogel jellybeans and now they have been replaced with these awful ones. Wont be buying them anymore.

Janis Blackman

This new brand is disgusting 🤢

Monterrose Brennan

Karina Corrie - Sutton would rather eat arm pit

Michelle Smith

These are terrible bring back the others

Loraine Morgan

Not nice at all. Bring back the other Jelly bean

Billy Green

Go back to old jellybeans, these are 🤢



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