

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features five pages of news.

PATY closes today

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia reminds community pharmacies that third-party nominations for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award (PATY) are closing today.

PATY is the premier award for pharmacy assistants, recognising and celebrating their leadership, innovation, and community service.

Third-party nominations can be submitted by pharmacy owners, pharmacists, industry representatives, other pharmacy assistants or customers online, and takes less than 10 minutes.

Pharmacy assistants nominated by a third party will need to respond by Mon 15 May to their nomination to be in the running for the 2023 PATY Award.

PATY2022 Winner Terri Bakker said that PATY had given her more confidence in her career as a pharmacy assistant, to further pursue different elements within community pharmacy.

The PATY2023 winner will receive a \$5,000 cash prize as well as flights, travel and accommodation packages to attend Guild conferences to support their career and professional development.

If you know a deserving pharmacy assistant, or want to self-nominate, submit your nomination before 5pm AEST today [HERE](#).

UTS awards a tech-savvy innovator

THE 2022 UTS Innovative Pharmacist of the Year award has gone to Brooke Young (pictured) from Cooleman Court Pharmacy.

Presented at a Gala dinner last week, Young stood out from the other nominees for her engagement with a software platform called Clinicomm.

Initially, the platform was designed to communicate with patients via SMS and email post COVID vaccination, but right from the start Young, LPG COO Warwick Marx and the team have developed Clinicomm into a fully functional pharmacy clinic CRM, used for recording patient clinical visits for a range of disease states and services such as vaccination, opioid replacement therapy, woundcare,



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complex medication initiation, BP monitoring, BGL Monitoring.

“As such, Clinicomm has become a valuable part of our patient centric pharmacy businesses now deployed in 11 Life Pharmacy Group pharmacies with over

40,000 patients having had their clinical interactions recorded and over 200,000 SMS/emails sent,” Young explained.

Further positive outcomes that Young brought about by developing Clinicomm include improving patient health literacy through “drip feeding” information on their treatments to them; online record-keeping for clinical services provided to patients; ability to send ad hoc SMS and emails to patients with a central record of all these communications; and closer two-way communication between the patient and the pharmacy healthcare team.

Award sponsor AstraZeneca gave \$5K to the winner’s professional development.

Aged care pay rise

THE Federal Govt’s second Budget coming down tomorrow will deliver a 15% pay increase for aged care workers across Australia.

The pay rise for aged care workers should benefit more than 250,000 people and reflects the intent of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety’s final report to improve remuneration for aged care staff.

“For too long, those working in aged care have been asked to work harder for longer without enough reward but with this Budget, that changes,” emphasised Treasurer Jim Chalmers.

Aged Care Minister Anika Wells, shared that, “this \$11.3b investment over four years will start from 01 Jul”, with more TAFE, uni places, clinical placements, & visas.

Guild Tas branch fears for the future

THE Guild’s Tasmania branch has again stressed that patients and community pharmacies will be worse off under the 60-day dispensing changes coming in tomorrow’s Budget.

President Helen O’Byrne says the move will worsen medicine shortages and the loss in revenue

will lead to pharmacies being forced to reduce trading hours or even close.

She said doubling the number of medicines patients can receive at a time makes no sense, when in many cases no medicines are available at all, with added fear of the future with staff job losses.

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Sargent nabs role

GALDERMA has appointed pharmacy veteran Mark Sargent (**pictured**) to the role of General Manager ANZ.

“I’m excited to be starting a new role leading the Galderma Australia and NZ business,” Sargent shared on his social media, who prior to this role worked at Bayer Consumer Health for 18 years.

Sargent will continue to build on Galderma’s “dermatology solution for every skin condition”.

He has also spent 17 years on the Australian Self Medication Industry Board of Directors, including four years as Chair.



Hawthorne creates value

VICTORIAN pharmacist Deborah Hawthorne (**pictured**) has been awarded the inaugural PSA MIMS Consultant Pharmacist of the Year award at the Consultant Pharmacist Conference in Adelaide.

The PSA MIMS Consultant Pharmacist of the Year Award recognised that Hawthorne has achieved remarkable experience and innovation in her relatively short time as an accredited pharmacist.

She currently works as a general practice pharmacist at South Wangaratta Medical Clinic and Docker St Medical Centre.

Hawthorne is also involved in many projects relevant to the practice of consultant pharmacy, including as a GP pharmacist mentor for Brisbane South PHN program and an inaugural member of COHERENT (CONSultant pHarmacists’ sERVICES rESEARCH NeTwork) - research concentrating on medication reviews.

She is also currently engaged with



Yooralla on a project embedding a pharmacist within their health professional teams and works for Beyond Pain, delivering telehealth consultations.

One of her most valued innovations has been the development of the Facebook group Consultant Pharmacists Australia with over 2,400 members.

This community of practice is an active and safe place for discussion for all areas of consultant pharmacy practice.

She stimulates discussion on a weekly topic ‘Teaching Tuesday’.

Hawthorne is also the creator of the North East Victorian Pharmacists fb group.

Shingles facts

GSK Australia’s shingles campaign ambassador Dr Jana Pittman is encouraging Australians to start a conversation this Mother’s Day with their loved ones about age-related health conditions, including shingles.

What surprised Pittman was how little her mum knew about shingles.

“Mum’s initial fear was that she was contagious as I was pregnant at the time of her diagnosis.

“I explained that shingles is only contagious to someone who hasn’t had chickenpox.

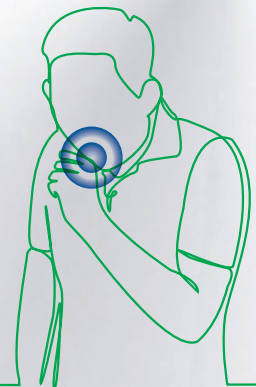
“I had chickenpox as a child, so I was able to support her.

“It was mum’s lack of knowledge about the condition that really inspired me to start having conversations about shingles, and to try and help people understand the signs, symptoms and risk factors.”

Learn more **HERE**.

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Eli Lilly's drug for Alzheimer's ticks box

ELI Lilly has announced the results of its phase three trial into their Alzheimer's drug, donanemab.

According to a company press release, the trial showed that donanemab significantly slowed cognitive and functional decline in people with early symptomatic Alzheimer's disease.

The trial looked at how the drug altered a measure of cognition and ability to partake in activities of daily living, called the Alzheimer's Disease Rating Scale.

It found that for people with early stages of Alzheimer's, there was a 35% slowing of decline on this scale.

The study's investigator, Prof Bruce J Brew, a consultant physician and neurologist at UNSW was "very encouraged by

the study's results for patients with Alzheimer's disease".

"While the full results are yet to be published, the data that has been released shows it significantly slows progression of Alzheimer's.

"The drug met all primary and secondary endpoints, however, it is definitely not a cure for Alzheimer's," Brew asserted.

"Nonetheless, it slows the inevitable worsening of the disease allowing patients more quality time with loved ones.

"The drug acts in a similar way to other amyloid monoclonal antibodies and is associated with a similar small risk of cerebral microhaemorrhages and oedema, and it is hoped that the drug will be available in the near future," Brew concluded.

Doctor of Pharmacy named



THE University of Sydney last Friday awarded the Degree of Doctor of Pharmacy (honoris causa) to pharmacist Edward Crook, for his contributions to pharmacy, innovation and technology.

A ceremony hosted by the university's Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Annamarie Jagose, highlighted his extensive career.

"Mr Crook's innovative mind has led to the development and implementation of computer systems that have shaped the way pharmacy is practised," she said.

"It's an honour to celebrate his foundational contributions and longstanding relationship with our Sydney Pharmacy School."

Crook graduated in pharmacy at the University of Sydney in 1959, starting his career at Sydney's Hallam Pharmacies before moving to Canberra where he owned and operated several pharmacies.

He was ACT President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia in the late 1970s, roles in which he was "celebrated for changing community pharmacy and reshaping the future of healthcare and funding for the sector".

In 1977, Crook and pharmacist

Colin Trevena pioneered the development and implementation of computer systems in pharmacy, including automation of the dispensing process alongside medication information and checking of drug interactions.

Their company Chemdata entered a relationship with Amfac and established the national Amfac-Chemdata company in 1984, and in the ensuing 20 years they built a team of over 300 employees and had an 80% market share until the pharmacy software business was purchased by IMS in 1993.

Crook's other achievements include a Citizen Science project to test sunglasses widely sold through the pharmacies, with the experiment identifying significant deficiencies which led to the Australian Standard on Sunglasses amendment.

Crook also helped secure support for developing a database for computer-based herb-drug interaction checking, which is still used today and implemented in the widely used eMIMs software.

Edward Crook is pictured with Professor Andrew McLachlan and Professor Annamarie Jagose from the University of Sydney.



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MRN extension confirmed by Health

THE extension of existing accredited pharmacist Medication Review Numbers (MRNs) for up to 12 months (**PD** breaking news) has been welcomed across the pharmacy sector, with significant concern that the previously planned 01 Jul cessation would impact patient health.

MRNs are used by accredited pharmacists to lodge claims for complex medication reviews, including Home Medicine Reviews (HMRs) and Residential Medication Management Reviews (RMMRs) in residential aged care facilities.

The closure of the Australian Association of Consultant Pharmacists (AACP) on 31 Dec last year saw the Department of Health and Aged Care implement a transition period, whereby AACP-issued MRNs which were valid as at that date would remain valid until 30 Jun 2023 within the Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) online portal for claiming. "This will ensure currently

Accredited Pharmacists can continue to utilise their existing AACP Accreditation to provide services," the Government said.

However with that 30 Jun deadline fast approaching, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) said it had "raised urgent concerns with the Government".

Speaking at the inaugural PSA Consultant Pharmacists Conference in Adelaide last Fri, Department of Health Assistant Secretary of Pharmacy, David Laffan, announced that current MRNs would remain valid until 30 Jun 2024 or when the new Australian Pharmacy Council standards are finalised.

PSA National President, Fei Sim, hailed the announcement, saying the continuation of medication review services by Accredited Pharmacists was a positive step amid the significant and ongoing uncertainty within the sector.

"HMRs and RMMRs are an important tool for promoting a model of patient-centred care," Dr

Sim said, also noting confirmation by Laffan that the Government's commitment to pharmacists in residential aged care would provide for one pharmacist per 250 beds in a residential aged care home, who is on site at least one day per week.

MEANWHILE, the PSA is continuing to call for more flexibility in the delivery of the aged care pharmacist program, confirming that Health Minister Mark Butler's announcement about a switch to a community pharmacy-only outreach program was unexpected.

"No doubt some community pharmacies are well equipped, experienced and have the expertise to deliver tailored services to aged care facilities," Sim said.

However "PSA continues to advocate for flexibility in the delivery model," she added, urging the involvement of the profession in the implementation of the program to maximise pharmacist time within aged care facilities.

FIP pain paper

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has released a report from an expert roundtable discussion on personalised pain care which was convened in Seville, Spain last year during the 80th FIP World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Topics covered during the session included the global pain index, how people act on their pain and how to improve their experiences with healthcare professionals.

The gathering also discussed challenges and opportunities for pharmacies to manage chronic pain conditions, and how patient profiles can be used to better understand individuals and their personalised care needs.

The report is only accessible to FIP members, who can view it when logged in at fip.org by **CLICKING HERE**.

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Dispensary Corner

THERE'S no monkeying around when it comes to scientific research - and that aphorism is literally coming true in some quarters due to shrinking supplies of primates.

The US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine released a report last week, concluding that the situation is significantly compromising critical biomedical studies.

The report found that almost two-thirds of US researchers have reported challenges in obtaining monkeys, with the issues resulting in delayed studies, the use of fewer and "less ideal" animals, and in some cases seen studies abandoned.

The organisation also cited skyrocketing monkey prices, which in some cases have tripled to US\$24,000 each which puts them out of reach for many researchers, according to the *Science* journal.

The COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain issues have seen Asian sources of primates dry up, while domestic primate centres within the USA have been unable to expand their breeding programs.

The report notes that in 2019 the USA was receiving about 60% of its imported monkeys from China, with issues compounded by a rapid spike in demand due to vaccine research.

Other problems include the refusal of many airlines to carry monkeys for research purposes, and a major smuggling scandal in Cambodia, which had become a key alternate source.

New York's new pill plan

PHARMACISTS in New York state will be able to distribute self-administered hormonal contraceptives from late next year, under new legislation approved by Governor Kathy Hochul last week.

No prescriptions will be required for oral birth control pills, vaginal rings and patches, as "part of a long journey to find more ways to protect the rights of women in the state of New York," Hochul said.

"We're going to do everything in our power to stop the backslide while expanding reproductive rights here in our state."

Doctors and nurse practitioners will be able to send pharmacists

scripts for contraceptives that do not list the names of individuals.

Patients will fill out a self-screening risk assessment questionnaire to help pharmacists with appropriate training to identify any risk factors and decide on an appropriate contraceptive, at which stage the patient's name is inserted on the relevant prescription, according to *Fox News*.

Similar legislation has also been announced in Indiana this week.

Pharmacist participation in the program is voluntary, and they cannot be forced to prescribe based on moral, ethical or religious objections to the initiative.

RPMA renewals now due

APPLICATIONS for renewal of the Rural Pharmacy Maintenance Allowance (RPMA) may now be submitted for the 2023/24 financial year, with lodgements required to be finalised by 14 Jun.

The Pharmacy Programs Administrator (PPA) noted that in accordance with the RPMA Program Rules, late applications will not be accepted.

Renewal applications can be initiated by logging into the PPA Portal at ppaonline.com.au and navigating to the RPMA program page for a particular pharmacy.

Once submitted, applications will have their status set to pending until the RPMA Payment Matrix for 2023/24 is made available and individual allowance amounts can be calculated.

More info on 1800 951 285.

US CF approval

THE US Food & Drug Administration has granted approval for ivacaftor (Kalydeco) to be used to treat cystic fibrosis patients aged one month to less than four years of age who have at least one mutation in their CF transmembrane conductance regulator (CFTR) gene that is responsive to ivacaftor.

Previously, the product was approved for patients aged four months and over, with ivacaftor now the first and only CFTR modulator approved for infants as young as one month old.

Isotretinoin update

HEALTH authorities in the UK have recommended tighter controls on use of isotretinoin (Roaccutane and Reticutan) in people under 18, to ensure it is only used for severe acne when other standard treatments have been sufficiently tried without success.



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Mark Churchill**, Director - Banking & Investment, Kizmet Capital



Helpful tips about lending

PURCHASING a pharmacy can seem like a long and difficult process, here are some tips to help you through the process:

1. Pre plan - have a think about what you're looking for - do you want a pharmacy in a shopping centre? Are you willing to relocate? Do you want to purchase yourself or go into a partnership?

2. Speak to an accountant - Working with an accountant who specialises in pharmacy will give you advice and help you make the right decisions based on your long-term goals.

3. Understand your finance options - historically you'd need to understand your borrowing capacity which limited what you could purchase, but at Kizmet we can find a solution for you no matter what your capital position.

4. Build an army behind you - the entire process of purchasing a pharmacy can be time consuming, getting a team of experts across accounting, financing and legal will ensure they do all the hard work for you, application to settlement.

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