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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news plus a full page from Nova Pharmaceuticals.

Bundle offers

NOVA Pharmaceuticals is giving discount deals with its MediChoice Vapour Rub and Inhaler, allowing you to offer your customers real value. See more on the [back page](#).

Raven's podcast

RAVEN'S Recruitment Season 7 Episode 2 podcast is by Jacquie Meyer, a pharmacist and pharmacy owner who uses robot technology and a forward pharmacy model to break down the barriers between hospital and community pharmacy. Meyer helps pharmacists to experience this hybrid model in her LiveLife Cooroy Pharmacy, along with learning more about palliative care. The podcast can be listened to [HERE](#) from tomorrow and on all the usual podcast apps.

President Luke Kelly to lead PSA NSW

LUKE Kelly (pictured) has been elected as President of the New South Wales Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. Kelly is also the President of the Newcastle Hunter Valley Pharmacists Association, a clinical leadership lecturer at the University of Newcastle, and 2022 NSW Pharmacist of the Year.

The NSW Branch Committee has also elected Rebekah Moles and Lily Pham as Vice-Presidents, re-elected Caroline Diamantis, and elected Helen Benson as National Board Director.

Incoming NSW President Luke Kelly said he was honoured to be elected by his colleagues. "I'm grateful to the NSW Branch



Committee for the trust they have shown in me," Kelly shared. "Recent changes in the pharmacy sector have meant I felt compelled to use my experience in business and community pharmacy to

support NSW pharmacists navigate the road ahead.

"I look forward to working with an incredible group of pharmacists with the common goal of advancing our profession.

"I am very excited to be a part of such a strong, experienced Committee, including the familiar face of the immediate past President, Chelsea Felkai.

"Chelsea has set a high standard for leadership here in New South Wales, and I'm grateful to have her experience to call on.

"As pharmacists, we can do more to support the health of our communities, which I am excited to work toward in this role," Kelly concluded.

New MA's Head of Operations appointed

MEDICINES Australia (MA) has appointed Alison Bleathman (**pictured**) as the new Head of Operations, to work directly with the CEO to deliver internal business plans including financial services.

Bleathman will be responsible for matters related to strategy and MA functions, oversee

internal operations, and will maintain the efficiency and continuous improvement of the business.



Palliative care

WITH Palliative Care Week underway, a Govt-backed South Australian pilot has highlighted the benefits of improving end-of-life services.

The 'Comprehensive Palliative Care in Aged Care Measure' was adopted in various facilities to improve equitable and patient-centred care.

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UTI trial a success

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland Branch has welcomed the final *Service Evaluation Report of the Urinary Tract Infection Pharmacy Pilot - Queensland (UTIPP-Q)*.

The Guild stated the final report also ends months of speculative and detrimental false claims made by powerful doctor lobby groups.

Queensland Branch President Chris Owen said the final report, authored by Prof Lisa Nissen on behalf of the UTIPP-Q consortium, "cements the success of the Pilot and that patients were overwhelmingly happy with the service; would use it again and recommend it to others".

The QUIPP-Q Services Evaluation Report states that overall, 10,270 Queensland women had their Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) symptoms identified and managed by a community pharmacist in a safe and effective manner during the Pilot, Owen said.

The majority (87.6%) reported that their UTI had successfully resolved and where symptoms had not resolved and other care had already been sought by the patient, pharmacists verbally referred patients to their GP.

"Such false claims undermine the trust and credibility of the powerful doctor lobby groups as grass roots pharmacists and GPs continue to work collaboratively," Owen said.

Back to the lab they go



OVERSEAS, more pharmacists are returning to their laboratories and offering an additional service in their pharmacies that is often overlooked: the preparation of "galenic formulations", *ekathimerini.com* reported last week.

These formulations include ointments, syrups, creams, suppositories and customised pills, explained the publication.

They are prepared to a high standard in the pharmacist's laboratory, following a doctor's prescription, and tailored to meet the specific needs of each patient.

This practice is particularly valuable when the required medication is unavailable in the right form or dosage, or when it is scarce or no longer available on the market, the publication has reported.

Recently, the School of Pharmacy at the University of Athens hosted the first two educational seminars organised by the Panhellenic Pharmaceutical Association and the Institute for the Lifelong Education

and Professional Development of Pharmacists (IDEEAF).

Two more seminars were scheduled this month in the Attica region in Greece.

IDEEAF President Serafim Zikas expressed his excitement, stating, "there has been overwhelming interest, and all 160 available seats were filled within just three days of announcing the seminars."

According to the Australian Society of Compounding Pharmacists there are approximately 500 pharmacies offering some form of compounding service with the number growing all the time.

With roughly 43% of the world's commercial drugs being manufactured in China, 39% in India, 13% in the United States and 5% in other countries (not Australia), & the nation importing 90% of its medicines, compounding pharmacists can help with shortages as they have access to raw materials and with a script from the patient's doctor, can make up the unavailable or discontinued medication, safely in their laboratory.

Menopause cost

NEW research from the United States about the cost of menopause underlines the need for the Federal Govt to measure and report on its impact on women in Australia, according to the Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees (AIST).

The study published by the Mayo Clinic estimated that menopause-related symptoms in the US cost women about \$US26.6b (\$A40.2b) in lost time from work and medical expenses annually.

The Impact of Menopause Symptoms on Women in the Workplace study identified an association between menopause symptoms and adverse work outcomes, including lost work productivity.

"Despite the universality of menopause and the important role women play as contributors to the global economy, there remains a dearth of literature on the impact of menopause symptoms on work productivity," the authors wrote.

The study covered 4,440 women who were employed and receiving primary care at Mayo Clinic, a non-profit academic medical centre.

The US study findings were welcomed by AIST, which has estimated severe menopausal symptoms cost Australian women \$15.2b per year in lost earnings and superannuation due to early retirement.

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Bianco L et al., *J Am Geriatr Soc* 2012; 60:1180-1.



Strong bank sheet

AFT Pharmaceuticals today announced record revenue for the year to the end of Mar 2023 and a maiden dividend.

Annual operating revenue reached \$156.6 million, up 20% from the \$130.3 million in the same period a year ago.

AFT has an operating profit of \$19.7 million in line with the prior year's \$20.4 million which was bolstered by significant licensing income.

Operating profit from product sales and royalties (excluding licensing income) rose 38% to \$18.8 million from \$13.7 million in the prior year, despite increased investment in growth opportunities.

EBITDA is steady at \$21.4 million with net profit after tax of \$10.7 million amid higher finance costs and a return to paying tax.

Net debt at \$29.9 million in line with \$29.3 million at the end of Mar 2022.

Education key in tragedy

DEMENTIA Australia has expressed that it is "devastated by the tragic events" that have led to sufferer Clare Nowland being hospitalised.

A spokesperson for the organisation shared, "we acknowledge the seriousness of her condition and extend our sincere sympathies to Ms Nowland and her family."

"While Dementia Australia is not aware of all the details of what happened and is unable to comment on the circumstances, we have received calls and emails from people living with dementia, their families and carers expressing their anger and sadness for Ms Nowland and her family."

Dementia Australia acknowledged that while situations like this are "rare, tragically this has highlighted the need for everyone working across healthcare industries to receive compulsory education about dementia to increase their understanding, knowledge and



skills in dementia care.

"This includes everyone working in the health, aged care and disability systems including emergency services staff."

Pharmacists should encourage anyone with concerns about changes in behaviour related to dementia to contact Dementia Support Australia on 1800 699 799.

Further, if pharmacy customers are distressed and need extra support they should contact the National Dementia Helpline service, available 24/7 on 1800 100 500 or

No 'Manuka' claim

A RULING by New Zealand's Intellectual Property Office that NZ honey producers have no exclusive claim to the term "Manuka honey" has been welcomed as a "common sense outcome" by Australia's Manuka honey industry, which has plans to grow international sales in response to rising demand.

The trademark win follows earlier Australian successes in other jurisdictions including the UK and Europe.

Australian Manuka Honey Association chairman Ben McKee said, "this is positive news not just for Australian Manuka producers, but also the broader industry - the thousands of people involved in producing, transporting and selling Manuka honey as a consumable and as an ingredient in an expanding range of pharmaceutical, health and beauty products".

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Dispensary Corner

AFTER the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the globe, people in Japan were advised to wear masks to protect themselves.

Now that the mask rules have been eased, the Japanese feel like they've forgotten how to smile.

Smiling lessons are now available for people in Japan following three years of government recommendations that people wear masks.

According to the *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper, since the recent lifting of the mask rules, many people have struggled to adjust to life without face coverings.

Some have forgotten how to smile and feel the need to rehearse the facial expression, the paper explained.

Sessions organised by the Akabane Elderly Relief Centre have grown in popularity with more people requesting individual lessons since the end of last year.

The number of applicants rose by 4.5 times after the govt announced it would be dropping its recommendation to wear masks.

Participants are given a hand mirror to check their progress and smiles, with some adjusting their facial expressions until they are happy with the outcome of their natural smile.

Yasuko Watarai, a participant in one of the lessons said, "smiles are essential for maskless communication".

"I want to apply what I learned today at volunteer activities and other gatherings."

Mobile CT van in far NSW

NSW'S first mobile CT imaging van was officially unveiled by the state's Minister for Health Ryan Park last week.

The service is expected to see around 1,500 people per year as it rotates between Walgett, Bourke and Cobar.

"There is no fixed CT service between Dubbo and Broken Hill to the west, and the Queensland border to the north, so this service at the doorstep will help many patients avoid hours on the road, some of them up to 10-hour round trips to Dubbo, to have scans," Park explained.

"It will also improve the health of our Indigenous communities."

Western NSW Local Health District Imaging Services General Manager James Harvey who was at Walgett for the unveiling, said

the service is a fully-equipped CT scanner installed in a custom-built housing on the back of a rigid truck.

The housing expands to create an air-conditioned scanning room and reception, ensuring patient comfort.

"The truck has a bed lifter to transfer patients in beds or wheelchairs, and we've ensured each hospital site in the mobile CT's rotation has had significant power, data and parking upgrades so the van's functions are the same as a fixed service," Harvey said.

"A radiographer oversees and runs the service, supported by other health service staff in each location along with Aboriginal Health Workers."

"Scans are read by radiologists, who will report on images remotely from other District areas or Sydney."

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Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Patrick Rodrigues, Sales Executive, Kizmet Capital**



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