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Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

*Reference: 1. Lang C, et al., *Planta Med* 2015;81:968-974. Supported by Engelhard Arzneimittel GmbH & Co. KG.

*Prospan is clinically proven to relieve a chesty cough in 7 days vs 14 days untreated. Schaefer A, et al., *Pharmazie* 2016;71(9):504-509.



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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus a cover wrap from **SFI Health** and a full page from **Nova Pharmaceuticals**.

Clears coughs

SFI Health's Prospan aims to clear a patient's cough twice as fast than if it were left untreated.

The company stated that its Prospan has a five-action proven chesty cough relief.

See more on the **cover page**.

Gluten-free bean

NOVA Pharmaceuticals Glucoboost jelly beans offers pharmacy customers more choice as it is gluten-free.

Symbion pharmacy owners should also note that Glucoboost now has new PDEs.

See more on the **back page**.

PSA elects top leaders

DR FEI Sim (pictured) has been re-elected as the National President, and Chair of the National Board of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), last week.

Sim, who was first elected as President in Jun 2021, said, "despite the challenges that our profession faces, I am confident in the future of our profession as we work toward recognising the skills and expertise of pharmacists to allows us to practice to our top of scope - this is my priority and the priority of our entire team."

"I would also like to thank retiring Board members Michelle Lynch, Warwick Plunkett, Andrew Sluggett, and Deanna Mill for their service to our profession."

The Guild National President Trent Twomey said Sim's re-election was a strong demonstration of the stability within the profession.

"At the moment the pharmacy profession is facing existential threats...and the strong PSA



leadership is working closely with the Guild to minimise the dangers of the 60-day dispensing mis-directed policy".

Twomey added this "unified approach also augured well for future shared priorities such as full scope of practice".

The Board has also elected Caroline Diamantis and Benjamin Marchant as National Vice-Presidents.

The PSA full Board of Directors includes Fei Sim (WA), Caroline Diamantis (NSW), Benjamin Marchant (Vic), Dr Shane Jackson (Tas), Helen Benson (NSW), Amanda Cross (Vic), Mark Naunton (ACT), Natalie Soulsby (SA), and Bridget Totterman (Qld), and new appointments will start on 01 Jul.

Vale Keith Fittock

KEITH E.R. Fittock, former Pharmacy Guild Queensland Branch President (1980-1982), passed away last week after a short COVID-related illness.

He served as a branch committee member until 2002.

The Guild shared Fittock was a "strong and committed advocate for community pharmacy, serving the patients in his community of Coorparoo, Brisbane".

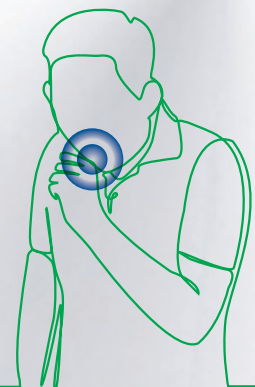
Qld branch committee member Kos Sclavos acknowledged Fittock was "unwavering in his determination to get the best outcome for the members of the Guild and the healthcare needs of patients in Qld".

Fittock was also an active Pharmacy Defence Limited member from 1994-2008.

He is survived by his wife Evonne, brother Arthur, and his children.

DRAW THE LINE...

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Unlock MS care

AS MULTIPLE sclerosis (MS) cases continue to rise, tomorrow's World MS Day puts a spotlight on the insidious condition.

MS Australia reports that the number of Australians with MS rose by 30% from 2017-2021 to 33,335, making it more important than ever to increase awareness and funding for research into treatments, and possibly a cure for the disease.

Total costs for all people with MS in Australia increased from \$1.75 billion in 2017 to \$2.5 billion in 2021.

The Monash University, Central Clinical School Department of Neuroscience Head, Prof Helmut Butzkueven explained, "the biggest area of need is treatments for progressive MS".

"We need to unlock the huge basic research efforts in the last 10 years and turn them into new treatment trials to stop and reverse MS disability.

"To open up trials, we need better ways of measuring MS.

"We need to create the right infrastructure so all people with MS who can and want to work together on this challenge are enabled and free to do so, no matter where in Australia they live."

Butzkueven will feature in an *MS Plus Webinar* on how care is changing, from 5.30-6.30pm AEST on World MS Day tomorrow.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Palliative care program

A NEW Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) training program announced last week could see pharmacists enhance support for patients receiving palliative care.

As one of the successful recipients of the National Palliative Care Projects grants scheme, the PSA Palliative Care Pharmacist Foundation Training program will upskill pharmacists and improve their capacity to provide palliative care.

PSA also will pilot a community palliative care pharmacist service model, with specialist palliative care pharmacists who have undertaken the training.

The training will be co-designed with subject matter experts, partner organisations, and consumers.

National President Dr Fei Sim said people who reported difficulty accessing appropriate palliative care due to gender, cultural, or disability reasons would benefit through pharmacists receiving training in delivering care to diverse patient groups.

"Upskilling local pharmacists in palliative care will increase the capacity of community palliative care teams, community pharmacists, and general practitioners to provide care to palliative care patients.

"The service model pilot will trial and inform an ongoing model of care," Sim said.

"The pharmacist will increase collaboration and coordination of local palliative care services, reducing unnecessary hospital presentations."

Training will be available to all



Australian registered pharmacists and more information of when it will launch and how to enrol will be communicated in 2024.

Funding for the training program and pilot of the community palliative care pharmacist service model was announced by the Govt as part of \$68 million palliative care grants package.

Further, a Senate Committee report, *Ending the postcode lottery: addressing barriers to sexual, maternity and reproductive healthcare in Australia*, into sexual and reproductive healthcare has supported the PSA's call for pharmacists to play a greater role in improving safe access to contraceptives.

Sim added, "to ensure that access to reproductive healthcare is timely and contemporary we must be prepared to do things differently and allow all health professionals to practice to their top of scope".

"More than 100 countries around the world allow pharmacists to prescribe contraceptives without a prescription.

"Pharmacists are well placed to inform patients about their contraceptive options, including long acting reversible contraceptives," Sim concluded.

Vapes test toxic

VAPES sold in Queensland contain heavy metals which are "toxic to reproduction" and may "cause neurological anomalies," tests have found.

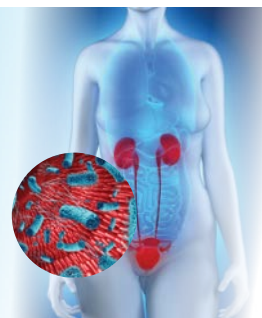
The state government's Health and Environment Committee tested 17 e-liquid samples from vapes available on the market, as reported in general media.

"Lab tests were performed for the presence of nicotine plus other substances including carbonyl compounds, volatile organic compounds, pesticides, fungicides and herbicides and heavy metals," a Queensland government statement said.

All samples contained nicotine, formaldehyde (a group 1 human carcinogen), acetaldehyde, volatile organic compounds, arsenic and zinc.

Other toxic heavy metals such as lead, mercury, nickel, chromium, antimony, aluminium, iron, nickel, barium, manganese, copper, strontium and vanadium were found in some samples.

Some of those heavy metals are known to be "carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic to reproduction and development and cause neurological anomalies".



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'Unscripted' asthma care virtual session

HEALTH professionals have the chance to watch a real-world consultation as a respiratory physician, general practitioner and pharmacist navigate the clinical presentation of an actual asthma patient and explore possible solutions to the complex challenges he faces.

The National Asthma Council Australia is hosting a virtual locum asthma session 'Breathing Easy' on Thu 01 Jun at 7pm (AEST) as part of the Inside Practice series, [HERE](#).

National Asthma Council Australia Director and respiratory physician Professor Peter Wark will present, alongside Advanced Practice Pharmacist and National Asthma Council Australia Clinical Executive Lead Debbie Rigby (pictured), and Associate Professor Ralph Audehm as Chair.

Together the three healthcare experts will illustrate the diagnostic progress of asthma, the need for medication, and



the importance of an asthma management action plan.

Pharmacists are urged not to miss this rare opportunity to benefit from a "real-life unscripted example of best-practice asthma management that will advance your knowledge when providing front-line patient care," the organisers concluded.

Potential collusion probe

THE US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is probing whether Abbott Laboratories and other companies that make baby formula colluded in bidding on state contracts, according to a document posted on the agency's website.

The FTC is looking into whether the companies "engaged in collusion or coordination with any other market participant regarding the bidding," according to the document, reported *Reuters*.

The document also stated that in 2022 the FTC began looking into potential collusion or coordination in bids to provide formula for the US Department of Agriculture's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program that provides free formula to low-income families.

The document said studies showed that in addition to the money made from the contracts, the contract win tended to lead to better commercial sales.

"Although the boost in non-WIC sales motivates manufacturers



to win WIC contracts, it may also create incentives to engage in collusive or coordinated market allocation, whereby incumbent WIC contract holders agree not to bid against each other," the document, written by Commissioner Alvaro Bedoya, said.

A spokesperson for Abbott commented, "Abbott is unaware of any factual basis to support the WIC-related investigation, and staff have not identified any reason to believe that Abbott or any of its competitors have coordinated or colluded regarding any WIC contract."

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Dispensary Corner

SCIENTISTS have discovered the iconic Aussie ocean spot, The Great Barrier Reef, has chlamydia. Basically, they found that loads of the coral clusters in the reef have been infected with a bacteria that causes chlamydia. It's not the chlamydia that humans get, but a very similar, closely-related infection. University of Melbourne's Dr Justin Marie, who is team leader of the scientists who made the discovery, was a bit "surprised" by the finding, but added that the "clap is pretty common out in the wild.

"It is not necessarily the downfall of the coral," he told *Yahoo News*. "There is a wide range of chlamydia in the environment that can infect anything from amoebae to humans, to koalas, and a lot of them are actually not pathogenic." The scientists say chlamydia can be a good thing for the reef. They believe that the chlamydia bacteria could help the coral become more resistant to increases in temperature and thus bleach less, though more research needs to be done.

"In these crazy times we're living in would you honestly be surprised if chlamydia was the thing that solved global warming?" Marie said.



AI game changer in fight

RESEARCHERS have used artificial intelligence (AI) to discover a new antibiotic that can kill a deadly species of superbug.

The AI helped narrow down thousands of potential chemicals to a handful that could be tested in the laboratory, *BBC* has reported.

The result was a potent, experimental antibiotic called abaucin, which will need further tests before being used.

The UK McMaster University researchers focused on one of the most problematic species of bacteria, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, which can infect wounds and cause pneumonia.

To find a new antibiotic, the researchers first had to train the AI. They took thousands of drugs where the precise chemical structure was known and manually tested them on *Acinetobacter baumannii* to see which could slow it down or kill it.

This information was fed into the AI so it could learn the chemical features of drugs that could attack the problematic bacterium.

The AI was then unleashed on a list of 6,680 compounds whose effectiveness was unknown.

The results, published in *Nature*



Chemical Biology, showed it took the AI only an hour and a half to produce a shortlist.

The researchers tested 240 in the laboratory and found nine potential antibiotics.

One of them was the incredibly potent antibiotic abaucin.

Laboratory experiments showed it could treat infected wounds in mice and was able to kill *A. baumannii* samples from patients.

The researchers said the next step is to perfect the drug in the lab and then perform clinical trials.

The first AI antibiotics could take until 2030 when they are available to be prescribed.

The scientists will next look at *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

Stomach health that's the bees knees

TODAY on World Digestive Day, pharmacy owners can avail of a limited time, 15% discount offer on the only TGA-registered, beeswax-alcohols-based product, Abexol, **HERE**, with the code AB15OFF.

Abexol aims to help pharmacy customers to manage the symptoms of digestive discomforts such as bloating, gas, indigestion or abdominal pain.

The product mixes six high molecular weight primary aliphatic alcohols purified from beeswax to create a blend that claims to provide a protective barrier, soothing inflammation, and supporting the body's healing process.

Abexol also contains antioxidants to counteract the harmful effects of free radicals on cellular structures of the body.

Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Lisa Golden—CEO & Managing Director, Kizmet Capital**



Alternative ways to finance

GONE are the days when you would buy a house, bite off more than you can chew and raise a family in the same area for decades. Nowadays, people are buying a house, it increases in equity, they sell it, refinance, and move somewhere bigger. It's a really different approach.

This applies to pharmacy ownership too. It's no longer the case that you would buy a pharmacy in a faraway location and stay there for the next 40 years. There is a new fluidity to the way we live and work in which finance can play a pivotal role in helping facilitate.

Yes, traditional loan structure where you go to the bank with a deposit and borrow the balance works for some circumstances, but this change in mindset and approach to our lives and businesses means pharmacists require a range of different financial solutions to meet a need at a particular point in time.

As a specialist pharmacy broker, Kizmet have developed unique, innovative finance solutions to ensure pharmacists have this flexibility to meet their needs and the needs of a changing market.

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