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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

Board changes

SIGMA Healthcare last week appointed Dr Chris Roberts as a Non-Executive Director to its Board.

Roberts has more than 40 years experience in the medical device industry, including as the former CEO of Cochlear from 2004 to 2015, and before EVP of ResMed from 1992 to date.

He is also currently a Non-Executive Director at a number of companies, and has been nominated by HMC Capital Partners Fund as a 19% shareholder in Sigma.

Chairman Michael Sammells said, "Chris brings significant healthcare industry experience, including leadership roles at two of Australia's most successful global companies, and will be invaluable as we continue to execute our growth strategy".

Roberts added that he is "delighted" to be joining, "I look forward to working with my fellow Directors to support Vikesh and the Sigma management team in delivering success for Sigma's shareholders and customers."

Further, Christine Bartlett will retire as a Non-Executive Director and Kate Spargo will be appointed as Chair of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee at Sigma.

Diffusion line partnership



DIRECT Chemist Outlet (DCO) and Runway Room have announced an exclusive partnership to launch a curated selection of its beauty offerings across all 120 stores nationally from Nov.

DCO Buying Manager Hannah Jackson confirmed, "I am ecstatic to introduce Runway Room to the Direct Chemist Outlet line-up of cosmetics and tanning products".

Runway Room founder, Alex Fevola, (pictured with DCO Dingley team), says she is "thrilled" to be partnering with DCO as their values are aligned.

"We have plans to grow the diffusion line should the partnership prove to be as successful as we anticipate.

"We are so excited to have more tangible touch points for our customers and also to be introduced to so many new customers via DCO's national presence," Fevola added.

The diffusion line 'Runway Express' will include Runway

Room's best-selling and coveted products including the award winning First Base Primer, hydrating Lip Prep, and a collection of new and compact lip glosses, as well as a first to market product that is yet to launch across the business.

In support of this new partnership DCO will have standout POS displays and easy to access clip strips at several high traffic areas within the stores.

In a first for DCO they will also be supporting the launch by setting up multiple brand touch points and hydration stations within several key outlets.

Runway has already begun to roll out its professional product and cosmetics application training with DCO staff across the country with positive feedback.

In an exciting addition to the base range, DCO will also be stocking BROSH, a new product concept within the beauty industry offering customers an instant Glow Up and Tan Blender in one. *JG*

Boost vax in <65s

ABOUT 500 lives and at least \$500 million could be saved in NSW each year if just 55% of under 65s had an influenza vaccination, according to a new Govt report.

The *Boosting NSW's Influenza Vaccination Rate* report, released last week by NSW Productivity Commissioner Peter Achterstraat, found that the state could maximise money and lives saved by vaccinating up to two million more people under 65 against the flu.

Every extra jab on the way to this target will create potential savings every year between \$250 and \$640, he said.

The annual economic benefits, which could reach up to \$1.3 billion, include avoiding millions of lost work hours, thousands of flu-related hospitalisations and GP visits.

The Govt report found savings and economic benefits comfortably outweigh the cost of vaccination, which is estimated to be around \$40 per person.

"NSW had a severe flu season in 2022, with an estimated 116,000 influenza cases reported.

"The flu season in 2023, still ongoing, has also been relatively severe with more than 85,000 cases reported to date," Achterstraat said.

"The vaccine we have already saves lives and limits the financial cost of influenza, but more can be done."

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TWC puts 50s+ vision loss in its sights

TERRYWHITE Chemmart and the Macular Disease Foundation Australia (MDFA) have teamed up to raise awareness about the importance of monitoring changes in vision for early detection of macular disease.

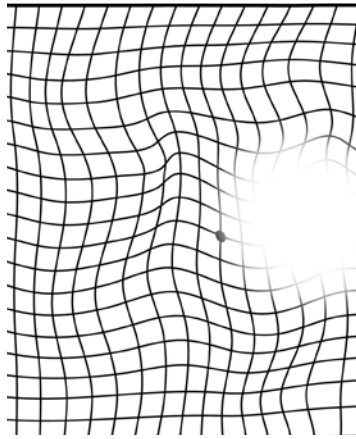
Age-related macular degeneration affects approximately 1.5 million Australians and is the leading cause of irreversible severe vision loss in the country.

This equates to one in seven Australians over the age of 50 years exhibiting some form of macular degeneration, MDFA stated.

Additionally, between 300,000 and 400,000 are affected by diabetic retinopathy, the leading cause of preventable blindness among the working-age population.

Despite the high prevalence of macular disease in the Australian community, at least 25% of cases remain undiagnosed.

To tackle this issue, MDFA and TerryWhite Chemmart are providing the 50 plus community



with a fast and easy way to understand and assess their risk factors for macular disease.

"Our partnership with Macular Disease Foundation Australia has helped us to start conversations with patients and get these important tools into their hands," said Brenton Hart, Chief Pharmacist at TerryWhite Chemmart.

"We look to raise awareness of these tools including the Check My

Macula online quiz."

In less than one minute, a TerryWhite Chemmart customer can learn about their risk of developing age-related macular degeneration and diabetic eye disease and then schedule an eye test with their local optometrist.

In addition to the risk assessment quiz, MDFA has provided the TerryWhite Chemmart pharmacy network with Amsler grids (**pictured**), which patients can collect for free at their local pharmacy.

The Amsler grid is an essential home monitoring tool for people over 50 years of age to pick up any changes to their vision in between their eye tests.

Patients are encouraged to place the Amsler grid on their fridge and check their vision at home on a weekly basis.

If any changes are noticed, it is essential to book an appointment with a local eye health professional immediately, MDFA advised. JG

Fred IT's decision

THE Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has announced that its final determination to allow Fred IT Group's eRx to facilitate a smooth transition to a sole-provider model for prescription delivery systems for publicly-funded electronic scripts will be made public this month.

Following this transition, Fred IT Group's eRx will be the sole provider of Prescription Delivery Services for electronic prescriptions which are publicly funded, pursuant to an agreement between Fred IT Group and the Department of Health (**PD** 11 May), ACCC has reported.

Fred IT was granted interim authorisation in relation to coordinating data transfer from MediSure to eRx as it moves to a sole-provider model for prescription delivery systems (**PD** 19 May).

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Dispensary Corner

WHILE it is a cheeky move to hide your identity after an arrest, history does emphasise that it will usually not end in a desirable outcome.

In 1895, an Irish man was jailed after allegedly committing a theft in the US, and eventually died while he was imprisoned in the town of Reading, Pennsylvania, with his identity remaining unknown to the public until recent days.

"Stoneman Willie", a nickname bestowed after the then-mysterious man's passing, has finally had his casket closed after 128 years in the open.

Willie was transferred to Theo C. Auman Funeral Home after he died in jail, where he was accidentally mummified when no one came to claim his body.

"Fast-forward 128 years and he's still here," funeral home director Kyle Blankenbiller told the media outlet.

The corpse was displayed in an open casket throughout his afterlife, attracting thousands of locals, researchers and students in an excursion into the past to study his leathery skin and smooth facial features.

"He's been gawked at enough," Blankenbiller said while burying the body of James Murphy (his real name), also embedded at the bottom of his tombstone, below the acclaimed title of his given name "Stoneman Willie".

It is thought that Murphy intended to stay anonymous as he did not wish to tarnish his wealthy father's reputation - now that is ironic!

Sanofi shines on hub in Qld



SANOFI in partnership with Griffith University has opened its latest research site at the Gold Coast campus, which will bring global biomedical research and development to the region.

The partnership forms part of the Translational Science Hub (TSH), a collaboration that links researchers in Qld, and now the Gold Coast, with scientists at the Sanofi mRNA Centre of Excellence in France and the United States to develop the next generation of immunisations.

The TSH is a \$280m partnership to put the Sunshine State at the forefront of mRNA vaccine development and biomedical research in Australia.

Qld Deputy Premier Steven Miles said, "the fact that Sanofi, one

of the world's largest healthcare companies, chose Qld to reshape 21st-century medicine is a strong sign of things to come".

Griffith University's Vice-Chancellor and President Prof Carolyn Evans, shared Griffith is a "burgeoning biotech hub", and a partnership of this ilk is a "sign the Gold Coast is at the epicentre of groundbreaking science".

Dr Iris Depaz, Managing Director TSH & Country Medical Lead, Sanofi ANZ added, "we want to play a major role in Qld because there is a strong talent pool of some of the brightest medical minds right here in the Sunshine State".

Pictured: Iris Depaz; Qld Gov't's Acting DPG, Mark Tierney; and Carolyn Evans. JG

Weekly Comment

Welcome to **Pharmacy Daily's** weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Amit Saha, Innovation Manager, LaCorium Health.**



Acne scars & pigmentation

ACNE scars occur when inflammation associated with acne leads to structural damage within the skin.

Due to swelling of the pores, the follicle wall breaks which results in skin lesions. Skin does attempt to heal itself by forming new collagen fibre, but the repairs are not as flawless as original, resulting in an acne scar.

Sometimes it is hard to differentiate acne scarring from post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation.

Hyperpigmentation is a skin condition that occurs after an inflammatory injury like acne, resulting in excess production of melanin.

These changes can be temporary and fade away naturally, or more permanent, which needs particular attention.

So how can acne scars be treated or prevented? Stop picking the pimple or use an AHA-based resurfacing technique can improve the appearance of the scar. Avoiding over exposure to sun can also help pigmentation.

The quicker the inflammatory acne is treated, lesser is the chance of scar formation.

Ingredients such as Alpha Arbutin, Bakuchiol (a natural retinol alternative) and niacinamide may also help address this issue.

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