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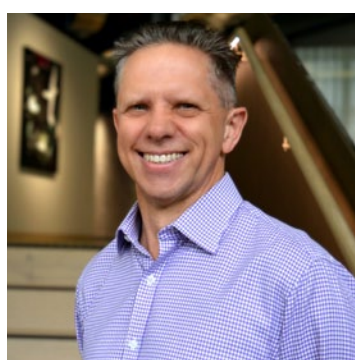
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## Pharmacists' Support Service new era

**THE** Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS) has a new leader, following the retirement of the organisation's longstanding President, John Coppock, who is being replaced by western Sydney-based community pharmacist Curtis Ruhnau.



"It is really just an extension of the desire to help people, starting with pharmacists - my people."

The changing of the guard marks a major evolution at PSS, which was strongly supported by Coppock since its very early days, initially in his former capacity as Chair of Pharmaceutical Defence Limited (PDL), which provided seed funding to help establish the group.

profession and an absolute commitment to the concept of pharmacy uniting to support all members of the profession," according to a statement from PSS.

Ruhnau has already been involved with the organisation for four years as a representative of PDL.

The Pharmacists' Support Service was formed by the PSA Vic in 1995, and became an independent organisation in 2010, at which point Coppock took the helm and led the growth of PSS from a small state-based service to a national organisation which now has a strong contingent of volunteers who take calls from stressed pharmacists.

Ruhnau (**pictured**) was elected as PSS President at the recent annual general meeting, which also saw Helen Dowling re-elected as Vice President and David North OAM continuing as Treasurer.

The PSS encourages any pharmacist, pharmacy intern, student or international graduate in Australia who is feeling stressed to reach out for support.

"John's leadership of PSS has been characterised by integrity, strong relationships within the pharmacy

"I became a pharmacist to help people, and PSS gives me the opportunity to help other pharmacists who in turn help other people," Ruhnau said.

"We are available to provide a listening ear and support over the phone every day of the year from 8am to 11pm AEDT," PSS said, with anonymous and confidential support from a pharmacist colleague always on offer by calling 1300 244 910.

Several pharmacy organisations are providing guidance to PSS including the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, PDL, APC, PSA, PPA, SHPA, AFSPA and NAPSA.

Tax deductible donations to support PSS can be made by **CLICKING HERE**, while a host of resources and information are available online, **HERE**. *BP*

### New infant immunisation kit released

**THE** Department of Health and Aged Care has released a "Routine Childhood Immunisation" set of resources for health professionals, to help answer common questions from parents and carers.

The move is part of ongoing efforts to boost childhood immunisation rates in Australia, with the kit also providing immunisation clinical support and communication assistance

for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse people.

Information includes details of free vaccines provided under the National Immunisation Program for infants and children between birth and the age of four.

The full kit, including printable communication materials, newsletter articles and social posts, can now be downloaded from **HERE**.

### BMS chief gone

**LEAH** Goodman, GM Australia and New Zealand for Bristol Myers-Squibb, has left the company, and also withdrawn her nomination for the Medicines Australia Board.

### Today's issue of PD

**Pharmacy Daily** today features three pages of news, plus a full page from **E45**.

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### New QUM grants

**TWO** new grants to support consumer health literacy and improve the use of medicines will see peak health and consumer organisations working side-by-side.

The Quality Use of Medicines Alliance represents a group of eight health and consumer organisations, including the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), that brings together unique expertise from education providers, consumer groups, researchers, health professionals, peak bodies, and member organisations to develop free health education products for health professionals and consumers nationally.

The grants will run over a two-year period and address priority Quality Use of Medicines issues for atopic dermatitis, gout, antidepressants in older people, and oral anticoagulants, awarded under the Govt's Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology Program.

PSA National President Dr Fei Sim said that improving the Quality Use of Medicines requires all health professionals to work together.

"Evidence shows that when health professionals and consumers work together, we can support more effective healthcare, medicine safety and health outcomes.

"The PSA is working to close knowledge gaps," Sim said.

## Hub to be game changer



**A PHARMACY** in the Central West of New South Wales is proactively working to connect parents and local health experts to ensure families have support in the early stages of parenthood.

Life Pharmacy Orange has created the Bub Hub, a free workshop that allows parents to interact and absorb information from an array of health specialists, such as pharmacists, nurses, and paediatric physiotherapists.

The monthly meetings will cover topics specific to babies, infants, and children.

"Isolation, particularly for new parents, can be really hard, so even just leaving the house for a coffee and interacting with some adults for a short time can be a game changer for self-care," Life

Pharmacy Group community engagement coordinator, Alex Wood explained.

"The Bub Hub is all about connecting, self-care and highlighting the great support community pharmacy offers our local families."

Life Pharmacy Orange also offers a specialised parent's room, which has a change table and feeding chair, as well as books, and a colouring-in station for the children.

"As a mum of two, I know how important and helpful it is to connect with other new parents - it's such a huge benefit to our mental health," Wood said.

"We want local parents to come together, have a cuppa, listen to our expert speakers, ask questions and get great tips and advice." JG

### Expert on board

**THERAPEUTIC** vaping products manufacturer, From the Fields Pharmaceutical (FTF Pharmaceutical), has announced the appointment of Dr Carolyn Beaumont as its Senior Medical Advisor for smoking cessation.

FTF Pharmaceutical CEO, Wilhelm David, said Dr Beaumont shared a common goal with the therapeutic wellness company, of working towards the major, bipartisan, public health goal of a 5% adult smoking rate in Australia, by the year 2030.

"Dr Beaumont is a well-known, leading local expert in tobacco harm reduction.

"She brings medical expertise and a deep commitment towards reducing the harmful effects of smoking."

Beaumont will become pivotal in promoting and implementing evidence-based strategies within FTF Pharmaceutical, ensuring its Australian standard product portfolio supports patient cessation pathways.

"Striving to drive smoking rates down from double digits to 5% will bring immense benefit," David added.

"Dr Beaumont's appointment reflects our mutual commitment to addressing smoking-related illness and will enable us to better communicate with the medical profession around effective approaches to help enable more Australians to quit."

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### Dispensary Corner

**WE'RE** all now familiar with most of the typical COVID symptoms - but a San Francisco eatery has come to the fore by also identifying the impacts of excessive alcohol consumption as yet another outcome attributed to the spicy cough.

Kitchen Story in Oakland's Rockridge district attracted attention on social media this week for notices on its bathroom doors warning customers who drink too many mimosas that they will have a US\$50 (A\$77) cleaning fee automatically added to their tab if they throw up in the restaurant's bathrooms or other public areas.

Owner Steven Choi told local news outlet *SFGate* that over-drinking became much more prevalent during the pandemic "and it became a very sensitive issue for my staff having to clean up".

Some would say he only has himself to blame, because the issue is clearly the eatery's "bottomless brunch" offer giving unlimited free refills on sparkling wine and fruit juice mimosa for 60 minutes - perhaps encouraging bingeing.

Fortunately, since erecting the sign it appears people are drinking more responsibly, with Choi saying he doesn't recall having had to impose the extra fee since the signs went up.

"It was really tough cleaning; people were scared with COVID and this was happening a lot," he explained.

"Now customers know they have to pay, they understand."

## Opening bell rings for Sandoz on SIX

**GENERIC** and biosimilar medicines manufacturer, Sandoz, last week marked the start of share trading on the SIX Swiss Exchange as an independent company.

The new company is included in key SIX market indices and has an investment-grade credit rating.

The opening bell-ringing ceremony at SIX headquarters in Zurich marked the successful completion of the 100% spin-off from former parent company Novartis, and the start of trading in Sandoz Group AG shares.

The shares are listed on the Swiss Performance Index, the Swiss Leader Index and other relevant Swiss indices; Sandoz American Depositary Receipts will also be traded on the US OTCQX platform.

Clint Holland (**pictured**), Country Manager, Sandoz ANZ, says from today, Sandoz will be better able



to meet the needs of "the half a billion patients we serve around the world".

"Our refreshed brand reflects our enduring commitment to healthcare innovation and our dedication to meeting the global healthcare challenge head-on.

"Our culture is founded on integrity and inclusion, with the intention that we can all be at our

best; living our values, doing what we can to drive business growth, and pioneering access to patients," Holland added.

"The spin-off allows us to operate with greater agility and focus, enabling us to respond swiftly to the evolving needs of our customers and the dynamic healthcare landscape in the Australia and New Zealand market."

CEO Richard Saynor added that as an independent company, Sandoz will be fully enabled to deliver on its "purpose-driven strategy, which targets sustainable leadership in the growing and critical generics and biosimilars industry".

"We strengthen healthcare systems worldwide by delivering over US\$17b (A\$26.4b) in annual savings in Europe and the US alone and we intend to make an even greater impact going forward." JG

## PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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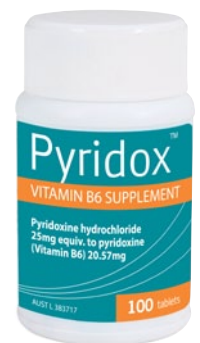
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