

4 ways to help build strong bones



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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of pharmacy news, plus a full page from NSC Group.

## Managerial roles

THE NSC Group is looking for professional pharmacy managers with a remuneration package that's competitive. See more on the **back page**.

## Walgreens CEO

**INCOMING** Walgreens CEO Tim Wentworth, who steps in on 23 Oct, briefly praised the company's pharmacy staff, but made no mention of the three-day walkouts held recently over poor working conditions. The walkouts reflect rising dissatisfaction among pharmacy employees, who have had to grapple with understaffing and burdensome work expectations, *CNN* has reported.

# Pharmacists praised in Sunshine State

THE Qld Govt and the Opposition jointly recognised the valuable contribution community pharmacists make across the state, at the Pharmacy Guild's fifth annual Parliamentary Reception held in the state's Parliament House last week.

Attendees heard keynote addresses from the Qld Minister for Health Shannon Fentiman and Opposition Leader, David Crisafulli who both committed their support to community pharmacy.

Acting Qld Branch President Rick Xynias said, "statewide expansion means thousands more highly qualified community pharmacists will safely treat everyday health conditions for all Queenslanders".

"Community pharmacists appreciate the ongoing support for the Qld Scope of Practice Pilot from all political parties in the state."

The reception also included an award presentation that honoured Brisbane pharmacist, James Delahunty, with The Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Distinguished



Service Award for his service.

"James Delahunty has served his community in Brisbane for over 90 years and has himself given over 50 years of distinguished service to the pharmacy profession," said Xynias.

"He has worked tirelessly and evolved with changes to the pharmacists' scope of practice and technology, to serve the healthcare needs of the community."

Xynias also paid tribute to top professionals Paul Jaffar and Emma Fernance, who were recipients of the prestigious Queensland Branch President's Award and have contributed enormously to the



profession as well as large events.

**Pictured left:** Shannon Fentiman and James Delahunty.

**Pictured right:** Rick Xynias, Paul Jaffar and David Crisafulli.

**Pictured bottom:** Rick Xynias, Emma Fernance and Shannon Fentiman. *JG*

## DRAW THE LINE...

When it comes to over the counter medication



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## High AMR in wastewater

**ANALYSING** wastewater samples from several aged care and retirement homes in Adelaide, has uncovered worrying signs of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in at least one facility, a University of South Australia study has found. High levels of bacterial resistance against three common antibiotics - ceftazidime, cefepime and ciprofloxacin - were identified in one aged care residential home.



A second facility recorded above average levels of antimicrobial resistance to gentamicin.

The listed antibiotics are used to treat a variety of bacterial infections, including pneumonia, gynaecological, urinary and respiratory tract infections, and those affecting bones and joints.

Although the wastewater study was confined to three sites and 300 residents, the findings suggest a much wider problem, and are a clear warning to aged care facilities to implement stricter policies when it comes to medication use, said

microbiologist, A/Prof Rietie Venter, who led the university's study.

"As well as increasing death rates, AMR can lengthen illness recovery times, especially for immunocompromised people who make up a high proportion of people in aged care homes."

Accurately monitoring the misuse and overuse of antibiotics in residential aged care homes is challenging, hence the use of wastewater-based surveillance, believed to be a first for this sector, Venter added. JG

## Call to upskill in end-of-life care program

**CONSULTATION** has opened for the development of the National Palliative Care Foundation Training Program announced earlier this year, stated the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA).

The peak pharmacy body is seeking input from pharmacists and other key stakeholders to help inform the learning objectives and content for this palliative care training program.

PSA National President Dr Fei Sim encouraged all pharmacists to submit their feedback.

"This foundation training program is about upskilling the most easily accessible healthcare professional to support palliative care," Dr Sim said.

"Upskilling pharmacists in palliative care will increase the capacity of palliative care teams to support people who have been diagnosed with a life limiting illness.

"I strongly encourage



pharmacists, whether experienced or interested in palliative care or not, to share their views to help us create a training program that best serves the needs of patients, their families and palliative care multidisciplinary teams."

Consultation for the National Palliative Care Foundation Training for Pharmacists closes on 17 Nov.

For pharmacists to contribute their views, **CLICK HERE**.

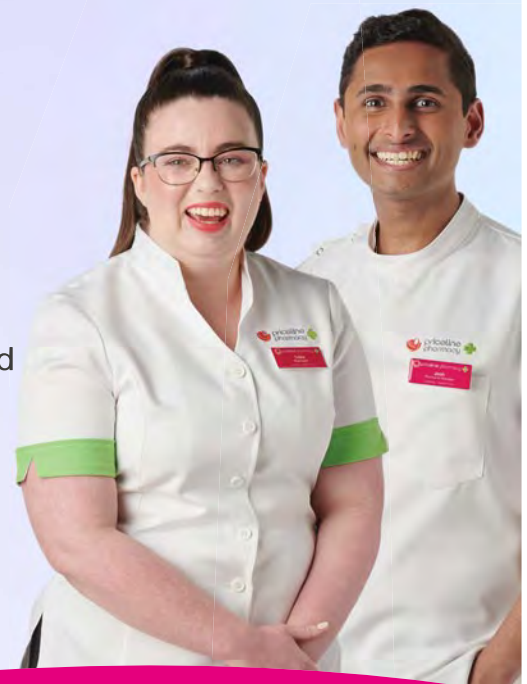
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\*Priceline Pharmacy retail units sales 1 Jul - 31 Dec 2022.  
^2022 Priceline Pharmacy data.





## Dispensary Corner

**THE** 104-year-old woman who aimed to set a world record last week as the oldest person to skydive, has died.

According to a report from the *Chicago Tribune*, Dorothy Hoffner died peacefully in her sleep, just a week after her 01 Oct skydive in Illinois.

"Age is just a number," Hoffner told a crowd that day after touching down safely, the *Chicago Tribune* reported.

She jumped from 13,500 feet (4,114 metres), with the dive lasting seven minutes.

A spokesperson for Skydive Chicago and the US Parachute Association told the *Chicago Sun-Times* they were happy to know that the skydiving experience served as an amazing end cap to Hoffner's "exciting, well-lived life".

Hoffner would have turned 105 years old in Dec.

Following her skydive, she said she had wanted to ride in a hot-air balloon as her next adrenaline-filled adventure.

Hoffner's recent skydive was actually the second time she jumped from a plane, with her first dive when she was 100 years old.

*Guinness World Records* commented that they are reviewing the information to confirm Hoffner to be the oldest skydiver in history.

The current record holder for a skydive was set in May 2022 by 103-year-old Linnéa Ingegärd Larsson from Sweden.

Hoffner's close friend Joe Conant said, "she was just indefatigable and kept going".

## Child's play to fix doses

**PHARMACISTS** and engineers in the US have developed a 3D printing process capable of producing the exact dose of medication needed by a child, *Pharmacy Practice News* has reported this week.

The process, developed at Texas A&M University, in College Station, is meant to be used in hospitals and pharmacies on an as-needed basis.

"It is hard to fix doses based on body weight in still-developing children," said Prof Mansoor Khan at Texas A&M, making paediatric medications an "unattractive market" generally for pharmaceutical companies.

"Almost all drugs are tested and developed for adults because adults are of more stable weight," Khan added.

To give medications intended for adults to children, one common method is to dissolve an adult-dosed product into liquid and then administer it to a child as drops.

But this can affect the potency of a drug intended to be taken in solid form, he commented.

Furthermore, crushing a solid drug often reveals the bitter taste of the chemicals, which would otherwise be shielded by masking

coatings, "if a six-month-old spits out a drug, it may be because it tastes bad," Khan said.

3D printing could solve these challenges, he noted.

"This is a compounding issue now, not a manufacturing issue," Khan explained, requiring only a 3D printer in a hospital or pharmacy.

If the hospital pharmacy has the raw materials to make a drug, apparently the process can be fully accomplished in-house.

He also noted that the active pharmaceutical ingredients used in these preparations typically do not have expiration dates.

They are periodically tested for safety in the US, with the test dates noted each time.

As for the workflow involved, ideally, a physician in one part of the hospital would send a prescription to the hospital's compounding pharmacy, where a technician or pharmacist 3D prints a bespoke solid medication tailored to the child's weight, and with a coating that makes it easier to consume, he said.

This process might take 20 to 25 minutes, Khan estimated.

"Dose flexibility is the key thing 3D printing brings about." JG



## Weekly Comment

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



### Skin's microbiome balance

'SKIN microbiome balance' is one of the most used "buzz phrases" in the skincare world these days. It refers to the delicate equilibrium of microorganisms that reside on the surface of our skin.

This intricate micro-sized community includes bacteria, viruses, fungi, and other microbes. Maintaining a balanced skin microbiome is crucial for the health of the skin.

These microorganisms play a significant role in supporting the skin's barrier, helping to defend against harmful pathogens, regulating inflammation, and even assisting healing.

When the balance is disrupted, often due to excessive use of antimicrobial products, harsh cleansers, or certain treatments, it can lead to skin issues like acne. Therefore, preserving and nurturing a healthy skin microbiome through gentle cleansing, a balanced diet, and appropriate skin care is essential for promoting optimal skin health and resilience.

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