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## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus full pages from:

- Pharmacium
- PharmXchange

## Murphy on board

JUST two months after Prof Brendan Murphy retired as the Secretary of the Department of Health, he has been appointed as a board member of Kidney Health Australia.

Murphy, a past President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology, joins at a time of change.

Chair Prof Carol Pollock said, "there has never been a better time to join the fight for kidney health as we're on the verge of a major transformation; as new treatments are introduced, new programs are developed to support patients, and solid evidence emerges as to how early detection saves lives".

# Gov't seeks input on full-scope review

**SUBMISSIONS** are being invited to an independent review that will explore the opportunities and obstacles to Australia's health professionals working to the full scope of their practice.

Led by Prof Mark Cormack, the *Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce Review* was a recommendation of the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce.

The Department of Health and Ageing has stated that extensive stakeholder consultation and engagement will inform the review, with findings to be provided to the Australian Government in the second half of 2024.

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler commented that supported by technology, innovation and multidisciplinary teams, healthcare professionals working to their full capability can provide "significant benefits" to both patients and the healthcare system.

"The review will analyse the available evidence relating to



health professionals working to their full scope of practice in Australia's primary health care system, or being prevented from doing so," Butler said.

"For too long, too many of our health workforce haven't been able to work to their full potential.

"Whether it is pharmacists, nurses, or allied health professionals, in a global health workforce shortage we need everyone working as close as possible to the top of their scope," Butler added.

"The review team, led by Prof Mark Cormack, will consult widely

with stakeholders and analyse the available evidence before providing its recommendations to the Government.

"This is the first of many opportunities for input into this important review."

Butler also said working at their full potential is important for the professional and personal development of healthcare workers, and to the ability to attract and retain workers.

The Dept of Health is inviting stakeholders to lodge submissions to the review by 16 Oct, [HERE](#). JG

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## More investment



THE National Rural Health Alliance is concerned about new rural and remote health data just released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), which showed potentially avoidable deaths and hospitalisations were two to three times higher in remote and very remote areas, compared with major cities in Australia.

In addition, the number of non-hospital, non-referred attendances per person were lowest in remote and very remote communities.

“The Alliance urgently calls for increased investment in rural healthcare, given the appalling health spending deficit in rural Australia which has compounded the health problems faced by our rural communities,” said the Alliance Chief Executive Susi Tegen (pictured).

The numbers released today by AIHW confirm that rural areas also continue to have low levels of health workforce and higher rates of burden of disease and preventable death.

## CAPS' three demands sent to the PM

THE negotiations for the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement may have been brought forward but the Community and Pharmacy Support (CAPS) Group's spokesperson Emil Demyane said, “CAPS will only rest once the agreement is in a form where the government meets three criteria”.

CAPS is demanding that patients get access to affordable medications; the highly-skilled pharmacy personnel receive job security; and the 8CPA provides pharmacy owners with an agreement that maintains viability, including their responsibilities to financiers.

“If these highly achievable requirements do not occur, CAPS will take further measures to raise awareness and highlight the policy's shortcomings to the Australian public,” Demyane asserted.

CAPS stated that the material change to the 7CPA without regard to the pharmacy industry is a “catastrophic move” by the government, “destroying confidence” in the sector, leading to either a community pharmacy winding up or increasing prices.

“As expected by CAPS, the 60 Day Dispensing policy is not achieving its advertised objectives, which is half-price medication and freeing up GP appointments.”

He added that the CAPS peaceful protests had received widespread support from various stakeholders including patients, pharmacy staff, doctors, healthcare professionals, politicians, and the public.

“This support is grounded in the simple fact that CAPS is unwavering in its pursuit of equitable



healthcare for all Australians.

“CAPS aims to provide cheaper medicines for all patients, not just some,” Demyane added.

Following the peaceful rally of 2,800 pharmacists and pharmacy staff organised by CAPS in Canberra (PD 04 Sep), the group has written to the Prime Minister about the organisation's required outcomes for this campaign, he explained.

“The objectives are aligned to the organisation's goals to protect patients and customers, secure pharmacy industry jobs and maintain the viability of the community pharmacy industry.

“We would expect that the Prime Minister would provide a reply to this letter in a reasonable ‘business-like’ time frame.

“We also call on the government to stop its campaign to discredit the pharmacy industry through labelling us ‘liars’, scaremongers and ‘farmongers’,” he added.

Understanding the need for a workable solution, CAPS also emphasised the urgency for industry certainty.

Without it, CAPS stated it will continue advocating for cheaper medicines, industry staff, and family-owned pharmacies, with the possibility of further actions as required. JG

## FIP Hub launched

LAST week marked the launch of the new International Pharmaceutical Federation's (FIP) Hub after an 18-month phased transition from its previous Workforce Development Hub.

The FIP Hub will bring together experts to generate intelligence, and provide evidence-based resources to support the FIP's development goals in practice.

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## FDA approvals

**THE** US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved biosimilar Tyruko (natalizumab-sztn), developed by Polpharma Biologics.

Pharmaceutical company Sandoz's Tyruko treats all indications covered by the reference medicine, and is the first and only FDA-approved biosimilar for relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis.

The FDA has also granted an orphan drug designation to Redx's zelasudil in Aug.

Zelasudil is an oral, selective rho-associated coiled-coil containing protein kinase 2 inhibitor for the potential treatment of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF).

The FDA move will put Redx on the map as one of the key upcoming players in the treatment of IPF, though it will face intense competition, said GlobalData, an international data and analytics company.

## New CPD digital module

**THE** Australasian College of Pharmacy has launched a new CPD module as it believes that digital initiatives in health can produce significant benefits for patients and healthcare providers.

The aged care system can help older Australians get support for tasks they are no longer able to conduct on their own, the organisation explained.

Aged care services available include in-home aged care, residential aged care (nursing homes), short-term care and palliative care, stated the College.

Digital health technologies and tools (eg: My Health Record, electronic prescriptions, active script list or ASL, and electronic National Residential Medication Chart) play a significant role in ensuring continuity of care and a more collaborative approach to healthcare delivery, it added.

With this in mind, the College said the new course provides an overview of the digital health tools

and initiatives that pharmacists and other healthcare professionals have at their disposal, to integrate into their current workflow and for applications in the delivery of health services in aged care.

The one-hour course highlights the benefits of using digital health tools when providing pharmacy-related medication management services to older Australians.

This course has been developed by the College, in partnership with the Australian Digital Health Agency and the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

This activity has been accredited for one hour of Group One CPD (or one CPD credit) suitable for inclusion in an individual pharmacist's CPD plan, which can be converted to one hour of Group Two CPD (or two CPD credits) upon successful completion of relevant assessment activities.

Pharmacists can freely access this CPD module both via the College and GuildEd. *JG*

## Mindfulness Day

**TODAY**, on World Mindfulness Day, Monash University's Prof Craig Hassed has the following tips on improving mental wellbeing.

"Mindfulness is our number one life skill as all other abilities and skills in daily life, depend on our ability to focus and be present," said the Deputy Director of the Monash Centre for Consciousness and Contemplative Studies.

Depending on motivation include carving out five, 10, 15 or 20 minutes twice a day to practice meditation.

"Call these full stops punctuating your day.

"In between activities have mini-meditations of five, 10, 20, 30 or 60 seconds.

"Call these commas punctuating your day.

"Practice being present daily taking it one step, one moment at a time - listen, feel, see, taste and smell."

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## Dispensary Corner

**CANADIAN** and Mexican scientists have developed a pocket-sized device called Swift Ray 1 that links to a smartphone and can tell doctors whether a wound is inflamed, infected or neither, a bit like a medical tricorder from *Star Trek*.

The device uses normal photographs, infrared imagery, and images that make bacteria fluoresce to identify the three different wound states with an overall accuracy of 74%, based on tests on 66 wounded patients, according to the study published in *Frontiers in Medicine* last month.

More encouragingly, it distinguished between non-infected and infected wounds with an accuracy of between 91% and 100%.

By capturing the heat produced by a wound and the fluorescence of bacteria, it helps clinicians tell the difference between inflammation and a potentially dangerous infection.

This could allow for quicker intervention, catching infections before they become serious threats to health.

The researchers say this is a pilot study, and follow-ups with patients with more wound types are planned.



## First glass floor BD robot

**WIZARD** Pharmacy is installing the first BD Rowa glass floor installation in all of Asia-Pacific, it claims, at its Wizard Pharmacy Garden City (Coles Mall) in WA.

In a functional, yet visually appealing utilisation of floor space, the robot is positioned on a mezzanine level with glass flooring, so customers and patients can see it in the dispensary area below, a company statement explained.

Wizard Pharmacy's Founder and CEO Lyndon Dyson (**pictured**) said that his team were always looking for new ways to innovate and use technology as a solution, and, "BD Rowa definitely came to the table with an incredibly innovative and unique solution".

"At Wizard Pharmacy, we are incredibly passionate about innovation for the community pharmacy industry to empower our franchisees to deliver better returns for their business and, most importantly, a better experience for their customers and patients.

"I believe that the installation of BD Rowa technologies throughout our network will significantly improve workflow efficiencies and position us perfectly for increased scope of practice and the long-



term success of our pharmacy businesses," said Dyson.

Matthew Palumbo, WA Territory Sales Manager for BD Rowa, said, "as an enthusiastic participant in the forever-changing pharmacy landscape, I am thrilled to be a part of this unique and innovative project that not only enhances the aesthetics of the pharmacy, but also displays a commitment to cutting-edge solutions in medication management".

"This partnership showcases how integrating leading technology and a thoughtful, creative design can improve the impact of pharmacy services in a smaller space whilst creating a win-win for both franchisees and patients," Palumbo concluded. *JG*

## Pharmacy Guild Update

### Indigenous scholarship winners

**THREE** students from across the country have been named as the inaugural winners of the Symbion and Pharmacy Guild Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmacy Student Scholarship Initiative.

The three recipients of the scholarship are:

- Keely Clemments, first-year pharmacy student at James Cook University.
- Bryony Forrest, second-year pharmacy student at RMIT University.
- Tameera Guivarra, fourth-year pharmacy student at Queensland University of Technology (QUT).

They will each receive \$10,000 a year, for up to four years of study, to help cover the costs associated with tertiary education and living away from home.

The scholarship holders will also have support and guidance from a mentor and will have access to ongoing employment and career support and opportunities through TerryWhite Chemmart pharmacies.

President of the Pharmacy Guild, Trent Twomey, stated that the initiative was a welcome move in strengthening the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pharmacy workforce through education and career support.

"The Guild and Symbion through this scholarship are prioritising positive health outcomes for First Nations people, and this scholarship will have far-reaching and lasting positive impacts," Twomey explained.

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