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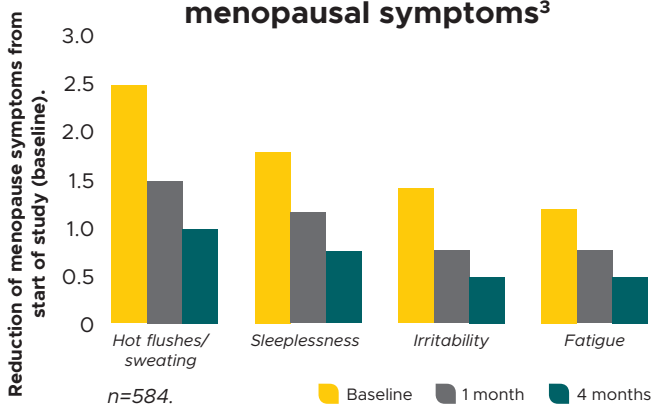
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*#1 selling non-prescription menopause relief product in Switzerland.
References: 1. Lopatka L et al, Journal of Menopause 2007; 2:16-21. 2. Schellenberg et al, Evidence-Based Comp and Alternative Med 2012. Funded by Max Zeller Soehne AG. 3. Drewe J et al, Phytomedicine 2013; 20:659-666. Funded by Max Zeller Soehne AG. 4. IQVIA, national sales data Switzerland, sell-in (Pharmacy, Drugstore, Self-dispensing Doctors), turnover (ex-factory) in CHF, MAT June 2021.

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AUSTRALIAN OWNED

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus a front cover wrap from SFI Health.

Patient 'belittled'

SYDNEY comedian and endometriosis sufferer Anna Dooley was humiliated after a pharmacist allegedly "belittled" her as she tried to fill a prescription for painkillers, *Yahoo News Australia* has reported.

"Careful, you might overdose," the pharmacist said in front of a shop full of people, she claimed.

"It makes you feel overwhelmingly ashamed.

"I said, I have endometriosis, and he doesn't let me finish speaking," Dooley recalled.

She claims the pharmacist then "interrogated" her, forcing her to explain her medical history.

"He then hands me a Naloxone spray and said, 'I have to give you this legally, it's complimentary from the government in case you overdose'; so awful," she said.

Be key to stronger care

AS THE first phase of the Federal Government's *Unleashing the Potential of our Health Workforce Review* opens for consultation, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the many roles pharmacists play across the health system.

Chair of PSA's Community of Speciality Interest, Interdisciplinary Team-Based Care, Debbie Rigby (**pictured**), is particularly encouraging credentialed pharmacists to contribute to PSA's submissions to the review.

"The workforce review is an opportunity to highlight how credentialed pharmacists can better help optimise medication management to the full extent of their skills and training," Rigby said.

"Home Medicines Reviews and Residential Medication Management Reviews have more than 25 years of practice and are entrenched in general practice.

"A growing number of pharmacists are working collaboratively in aged care and disability services."

She added that the Medical Services Advisory Committee supports funding pharmacists



in First Nations Primary Health Services, and "we eagerly await the implementation of the aged care on-site pharmacists' program".

Many credentialed pharmacists have a wealth of experience and have built strong and trusted relationships with GPs.

"However, there are still problems with access and equity across all communities, including regional, rural & remote areas and disadvantaged populations," Rigby added.

"The evolution of medication reviews requires some blue sky thinking and strong advocacy.

"I'm pleased PSA is supporting credentialed pharmacists, listening to their views and strongly advocating for their interests."

Rigby encourages all credentialed pharmacists to join the Interdisciplinary Team-Based Care CSI group on Facebook and share their views and experiences. *JG*

Sabril substitution

THE TGA is informing pharmacists that due to the shortage of epilepsy medication, vigabatrin (Sabril), it has approved overseas-registered vigabatrin tablets under section 19A of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989.

However, as the TGA is aware that supply of this stock is limited, it has also made a Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument (SSSI), which allows pharmacists to dispense Sabril sachets to patients, with a prescription for Sabril tablets if the tablets are unavailable, and when pharmacist judges that it is appropriate.

The TGA reminds pharmacists that if Sabril tablets are not available but they have access to the Sabril sachets, they could use the SSSI.

The SSSI allows pharmacists to substitute vigabatrin (Sabril) oral sachets without prior approval from the prescriber, if the permitted circumstances of the SSSI are met.

The TGA says pharmacists should explain to the patient, and confirm they understand that one sachet of the powder (0.5g) of vigabatrin is equivalent as one tablet (500mg), and how to prepare and take the oral powder.

The prescriber should be notified of the substitution afterwards.

Product recall

LAST week, Felton Grimwade & Bosisto's recalled certain batches of Euky Bear Warm Steam Vaporiser - Humidifier because the enclosed heating element can overheat.

The TGA stated that customers should be alerted that if the device isn't turned off after steaming has stopped, the base of the blue heating module may overheat and disintegrate, producing smoke.

Reliable relief

SFI Health - home of Flordis, is promoting Femular Forte, a product that aims to provide multi-symptom relief to people experiencing menopause.

See more on the **cover page**.

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Dementia Week

DEMENTIA Action Week 2023 is currently on (18-24 Sep), with World Alzheimer's Day coming up this Thu.

Around two-thirds of people with dementia live in the community, according to peak body, Dementia Australia.

However, a lack of knowledge and understanding of dementia may lead to people living with the disease experiencing stigma and discrimination in the community.

This Dementia Action week, the peak advocacy body is encouraging everyone, including healthcare professionals like pharmacists, to act now to help make their local communities more dementia-friendly.

One of the ways to learn more about the condition is to visit the Centre for Dementia Learning for courses, training and information [HERE](#).

Pharmacist prosecuted

THE Health Care Complaints Commission has prosecuted a complaint against pharmacist Sabina Grewal before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

It was alleged that between Nov 2014 and Mar 2021 while registered as a pharmacist, Grewal failed to disclose to the National Board relevant changes to her criminal history in her application for renewal of her registration.

She also lodged fraudulent PBS claims for prescriptions and was later convicted of an offence of dishonestly obtaining a gain from another person.

Further, Grewal failed to notify the regulatory body, Ahpra, within seven days of being charged with the dishonesty offence.

The Tribunal reported that she contravened a condition on her registration to abstain completely from the consumption of alcohol.

It was also alleged that Grewal was impaired.

In its decision of 31 Aug, the



Tribunal found these elements of the complaint proven.

Grewal's conviction has rendered her unfit in the public interest to practise and found her guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct.

The Tribunal has reprimanded Grewal and cancelled her registration with a non-review period of three years.

The Tribunal also imposed an order prohibiting her from providing a health service for the same period.

It was also reported that Grewal has been asked to pay the legal costs of the Commission as agreed.

The full decision can be found in NSW Caselaw, [HERE](#). JG

'Superjab' coming

AUSTRALIANS will be eligible for a 'superjab' to protect them from both COVID and the flu by 2026 thanks to Moderna, *The Weekend Australian* has reported.

The US biotech company has slated its anticipated launch date for the product, which will combine vaccines for the flu and COVID-19 into a single shot for the first time.

The northern hemisphere will be able to access the jab from late 2025 for its flu season, subject to regulatory approval, with a launch in Australia to follow in 2026.

Australia will also play a key role in manufacturing the 'superjab', as Moderna is building a new factory in Melbourne, which is expected to begin operation by 2025.

The facility is part of a 10-year partnership with the gov't to produce mRNA vaccines locally, reported the publication.

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CW appoints new head of digital strategy

CHEMIST Warehouse has appointed Leteesha Serzycki as Head of eCommerce and Digital Experience, effective from today.

Serzycki has a large role to play overseeing trade, performance, digital delivery and customer experience, while being responsible for delivering a strong, overarching digital strategy and platform transformation.

She has had previous experience across telecoms, superannuation, government, retail and pharmaceuticals at Terra Firma Management Consulting, Worksafe Victoria, Telstra, Australian Super, Optus and Adairs.

As the newly appointed digital lead, Serzycki plans to harness the power of tech and data, as well as the CWH teams, to improve the online shopping experience for Chemist Warehouse customers and suppliers.



“In an era where businesses must adapt swiftly to the digital age, I am driven by a clear vision to lead Chemist Warehouse into the forefront of the digital landscape for pharmaceutical retailers, where online presence and enhancing the online customer journey is paramount for achieving sustainable growth and year-on-year success,” Serzycki concluded.

Aussie drug US FDA tick

A CANCER drug developed in Australia has received the green light from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a bone marrow cancer treatment.

The treatment, momelotinib, has been invented at Cytopia, an Australian biotech company founded by Prof Andrew Wilks (pictured) in 1999, and listed on the ASX in 2004.

The Cytopia team was headed by Wilks and Dr Christopher Burns.

Wilks is currently Managing Director at SYNthesis BioVentures, a new life science venture fund, and Burns is CEO at Amplia.

Prior to founding Cytopia, Wilks and his team at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research discovered and developed a suite of patents around JAK1 and JAK2, which were licensed by Cytopia.

These JAK enzymes are the protein targets of Momelotinib.

One of Momelotinib’s owners, Sierra Oncology, was acquired by GSK in 2022 for US\$1.9b (A\$2.9b),



in an all-cash deal, making it the highest acquisition amount paid for a drug invented in Australia.

While initially approved as a treatment for a type of bone cancer, myelofibrosis, the molecule has the potential to gain additional approvals for treating a number of inflammatory diseases.

According to Wilks, FDA approval for Momelotinib is not only a personal victory but a triumph for the many scientists with whom he has worked across Australia.

“Despite Melbourne boasting one of the world’s leading biomedical precincts in Parkville, Australian scientists often face a shortage of experience and capital required to maximise the value of their inventions,” Wilks concluded. JG

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Dispensary Corner

THE streets of a Portuguese town ran red when two vats at a local distillery burst and released nearly 600,000 gallons (2,271,247 litres) of wine.

Photos and videos captured by witnesses show the red wine flowing through the streets of Sao Lourenço do Bairro, Anadia, after the vats burst at the Destilaria Levira, *UPI* has reported.

Pedro Carvalho, Chief Executive of the distillery, said nearly 2.27 million litres of wine flowed out of the facility over the course of about an hour, stated the news publication.

He said the first vat burst due to a structural failure and the force of the released wine caused the second vat to be knocked over.

He told *The New York Times* he does not expect there to be a lingering smell on the town's streets because it was "good quality wine".

There were no injuries reported from the spill, but at least one cellar was said to have been flooded with wine.

The distillery apologised for any damage caused to property.

"We assume full responsibility for the costs associated with cleaning and repairing the damage, having teams do so immediately," officials wrote on Facebook.

"We are committed to resolving this situation as quickly as possible."

Local firefighters collected much of the escaped liquid and took it to a wastewater treatment plant.

Little Wings is a lifeline



A SPECIAL medical retrieval plane will join the Little Wings fleet dedicated to transporting seriously ill children in regional, rural and remote locations.

The new Little Wings Beechcraft Baron can fly up to five people, taking sick children and their families to lifesaving medical treatments in the cities before returning them home.

Based at Bankstown Airport, in Sydney, the plane should enable Little Wings to deliver an extra 800 flights each year, increasing its capabilities by a third.

Little Wings Hospital Flights provide free flight and ground transport services for seriously ill children in the ACT, NSW and Qld.

Pharmacist and Assistant Minister

Emma McBride commented, "all Australians deserve to have access to quality primary care, not just those who live in major cities".

"Little Wings provides critical support to Australian kids when they need urgent transport."

Since joining the Little Wings fleet, the plane has been flying daily, doing as many as three missions a day.

"For families living with the challenges of dealing with a very sick child, Little Wings is a lifeline.

"It takes away the huge stress of long-distance travel, offering safety and support at the toughest times.

"The Australian Government is dedicated to making rural, remote and regional health as good as it can possibly be," McBride added. *JG*

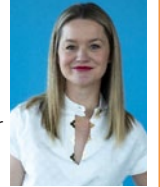
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Weekly Comment

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



The power of opportunity

THIS week I was reminded of the promise of the next generation of pharmacy owners and the power of opportunity.

Our team was abuzz this week talking about one of our pharmacy customers who has just purchased his first pharmacy.

Several team members have been out to visit the pharmacy and to use their words "he is so happy, driven and so glad he purchased this pharmacy".

This is a wonderful story - a young, bright, passionate, and motivated pharmacist buys his first pharmacy, and owns it outright. Great!

However, like a lot of young pharmacists I speak to, he did not have the sizable deposit required with traditional loan structures, and the prospect of ownership was limited to a small partnership percentage at best!

Which is where the power of opportunity comes in.

Using **SUCCESSion**, he was given the opportunity to secure the finance required to buy the pharmacy, without a deposit.

He now has the independence and opportunity to control his own destiny and his smile tells the story. Even better!

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