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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus a full page from TerryWhite Chemmart.

All in the name

POWER House Pharmacy Brands has changed its name to Power House Retail Brands Pty Ltd, effective from this month.

The company wrote in a statement that it hopes that the "slight, but powerful name change, is going to widen the market and open us up to more opportunities, and not narrow the perception that we are a pharmacy-only service provider".

Power House Retail Brands is an Australian-owned distribution agency for health, wellbeing and lifestyle brands whose "goal is to realise the dreams of emerging and established brands".

Intrusive forms "not ok"

HEALTH experts are critical of pharmacists still asking their customers to fill out intrusive questionnaires around the dispensing of emergency contraception, when it's no longer a legal requirement, *The Guardian* has reported.

Prof Safera Hussainy of Monash University's School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine explained that the form was originally used as a training tool to help pharmacists ask the right questions and familiarise themselves with the medicine, but it has become redundant as familiarity with the "incredibly safe" product increased.

"The form is a discriminatory hangover from a time when stringent checks were in place around reproductive health.

"Asking women to fill out a form now is not okay, it's not mandatory, and it's not a legal requirement," Hussainy stressed.

"Pharmacists can have a conversation with someone

instead, just like they do for other medications, and that conversation needs to be had in an inoffensive, non-intrusive way," Hussainy added.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) created the form, and a spokesperson said the "form is not available on PSA resource sites and PSA no longer recommends its use".

The current PSA guidelines advise that pharmacists "do not use a written checklist or form because the patient...can perceive it as a barrier to care".

The Pharmacy Guild spokesperson said a pharmacist is legally responsible for establishing a therapeutic need, and assessing if the medicine is safe and appropriate for the patient.

"To fulfil those legal and professional obligations, the pharmacist is required to ask the patient some questions, but the Guild does not support the use of a questionnaire," the spokesperson concluded. *JG*

Vic pilot EOI opens

THE Victorian Government is calling for community pharmacists to participate in a 12-month statewide pilot so more people can access treatment for common conditions and basic healthcare needs from their local pharmacist.

Acting Minister for Health Gabrielle Williams yesterday announced the EOI process is open for the pilot, which will provide an alternative to booking appointments with busy GPs when Victorians are sick, need a quick vaccine, or are renewing a script for something like the pill, a statement said.

To be part of the pilot, community pharmacists are required to meet certain criteria, including having a consulting room at the pharmacy and completing mandatory training for each of the piloted services they will provide - see more, [HERE](#).

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Capsule diagnosis

SYMPTOMS of irritable bowel syndrome and small intestinal bacterial overgrowth (SIBO) are painful and uncomfortable, though not specific to these conditions, making it harder to diagnose and treat them.

Breath tests do detect gut issues, but as engineer and CEO of Atmo Biosciences Mal Hebblewhite, said, “the gut is a nine-metre-long tube”.

“With a breath test, it’s difficult to know where those gases are coming from.”

The new Australian medical device, Atmo Gas Capsule, can help as patients swallow the capsule, and as it passes through their gut, it measures the amount of hydrogen and carbon dioxide in different sections of the gut.

Early research is showing that the capsule is almost two times more accurate than breath tests for diagnosing SIBO.

Positive win as new form Fiasp is listed

THE Federal Government is listing a new form of fast-acting insulin on the PBS from 01 Oct.

The listing is welcome news for the thousands of people affected by the supplier’s removal of the products Fiasp and Fiasp FlexTouch from the PBS.

In Mar, the gov’t stated it secured access to Fiasp and Fiasp FlexTouch for a further six months and has since negotiated with its drug sponsor Novo Nordisk to list a new form of the fast-acting insulin aspart, Fiasp Penfill.

Cem Ozenc, Corporate Vice President and General Manager, Novo Nordisk Oceania, said, “we heard loud and clear the impact to the 15,000 Australians living with diabetes if the Fiasp they depend on was no longer available on the PBS”.

“The views of Australians living with diabetes were taken into this decision to list this alternative form of Fiasp, and so we thank Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Australia (JDRF) and Diabetes



Australia for their tireless work to advocate for the needs of the people they represent.

“Novo Nordisk looks forward to continuing a positive, solutions-focused working relationship with the Department of Health and the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care for our future medicines portfolio,” Ozenc added.

JDRF CEO Mike Wilson

commented, “this announcement brings significant relief”.

“We commend the Minister for Health, Mark Butler, for delivering a resolution with Novo Nordisk on this matter, and for listening to JDRF and the type 1 diabetes community in Australia.

“We equally commend the type 1 diabetes community and all patient organisations who have been advocating tirelessly for this issue over the last six months.

“We know how much this news will mean to them.”

Diabetes Australia Group CEO Justine Cain emphasised a similar message, adding that diabetes is a demanding and complicated condition that needs constant monitoring.

“Australians living with diabetes need access to the best available insulins and medicines, at affordable prices, to have their best quality of life and reduce the impact of diabetes-related complications.” JG



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Dementia-friendly future

TODAY is the start of Dementia Action Week, and alarmingly results of successive surveys continue to show that one in three Australians find people who are living with dementia “frightening”, an increase from 23% a decade ago, according to the peak advocacy body.

Dementia Australia CEO Maree McCabe said, “these are devastating findings”.

“These are our parents, grandparents, friends and neighbours now and in the future, it could be anyone reading this who might be diagnosed with dementia.

“This fear leads to stigma and discrimination which can have a real and distressing impact on people living with dementia, their families and carers.

“People may avoid seeking critical medical and social support and become increasingly socially isolated,” McCabe added.

“Dementia is a largely invisible disease and what we can’t see, we don’t understand and what

we don’t understand we are often afraid of and then avoid.”

With an estimated 400,000 Australians currently living with dementia, 70% of whom live in the community, McCabe said the impact was being felt by families across the country and we must act now, and we all can all take some action.

“The good news is, there are so many simple things we can do every day to change this.

“We have such inspiring examples of communities that have created welcoming and inclusive environments for people with dementia through our Dementia-Friendly Communities program.

“It shows that it can be done, it does have an impact, and it doesn’t have to take much,” McCabe explained.

Dementia Australia is providing information on actions that individuals and organisations can take to become more dementia-friendly, [HERE](#). JG

100 Women and Ostelin team up for grants



TO MARK the charity’s 10th anniversary of giving, 100 Women has awarded five grant recipients a total of \$242,470 at its gala dinner last Fri at the Hyatt Regency in Perth.

The charity’s national brand partner is Sanofi’s Ostelin, whose General Manager Gladys Peters, said, “together, Ostelin and 100 Women are aiming to balance the playing field so that every woman and girl has access to health, education, safety and economic freedoms”.

“By building awareness of 100 Women and our ‘Project Strong’

campaign, we can strive towards instilling much-needed change for women across the nation.”

The 2023 grant recipients were shortlisted from a competitive field of more than 120 applications from Australian organisations running local, national and global grassroots initiatives that support and empower women and girls.

The 2023 100 Women x Ostelin Grant recipients are **pictured** (L-R): Orana House, The Hunger Project, Radiance Network South West, The Water Well Project, and Cana Communities.

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Dispensary Corner

PANDAS living outside China might experience 'jet lag', according to international researchers who say this could affect their welfare.

The team studied the activity, sexual behaviour, and abnormal behaviour of 11 giant pandas at six zoos both inside and outside the pandas' natural habitat.

They found pandas at zoos located outside China were less active and displayed signs of abnormal behaviour.

The University of Stirling's lead author of the study, which was published in *Frontiers in Psychology*, Kristine Gandia, said, "animal body clocks get cues from their environment through light cycles, seasonal food availability, and temperature, but if these change, it could disrupt their bodies and behaviour, much like jet lag in humans".

The circadian clock matters for wellbeing, as pandas migrate to find their favourite food, new bamboo shoots, and breed during this migratory season, so disruption could have effects on welfare and also partially explain why pandas are notoriously difficult to breed in captivity, the researchers explained.



AF awareness saves lives

AFFECTING more than one in four Aussies aged 55 and older, atrial fibrillation (AF) causes strokes, and can lead to other life-threatening health complications when left untreated, including heart failure and dementia.

This is why the awareness week for the condition, starting today, is so important, advocacy groups have shared.

Maria Vamvakinou, co-chair of Parliamentary Friends of Heart, and Stroke Foundations said, "the urgent need to bridge the knowledge gap and promote early detection is more critical than ever for the health and wellbeing of the Australian population".

Associated with a three-fold increase in the risk of heart failure and a seven-fold higher risk in life-threatening stroke, AF is the leading cause of cardiovascular hospitalisations, resulting in a direct annual healthcare cost of approximately \$1.63 billion.

"With early diagnosis, treatment and lifestyle changes, a person with AF can reduce their risk of hospitalisation and stroke and improve their quality of life, which is why awareness is so important," said Dr Adrian Elliott, health expert



in cardiac arrhythmias, and lecturer at the University of Adelaide's Centre for Heart Rhythm Disorders.

Elliott suggested that pharmacists should advise "customers over 65, or those experiencing any symptoms to speak with their GP and get their heart checked".

Hearts4Heart CEO and founder Tanya Hall said, as one in three were unaware of the condition, and 30% are living with the condition untreated, she is urging Australians to learn to recognise AF symptoms.

"If you've experienced a rapid heartbeat or palpitations, dizziness, unexplained tiredness, shortness of breath, fainting, swelling of the ankles or chest pain, have a check up, it may save your life." JG

Guild Update

Countdown to World Pharmacists Day

IT'S less than a week to World Pharmacists Day which is being celebrated on Mon 25 Sep, reminds the Guild.

The theme for this year's day is 'Pharmacies strengthening healthcare systems'.

According to Pharmacy Guild National President Trent Twomey, a great example of this theme is pharmacists working to their full scope of practice.

"As we work with the states, the territories and, of course, the national government we'll be pushing the case so Australians can ask their pharmacists for more," Twomey said.

"We all know that we can do more for Australia's healthcare system, so we can help Australians live happy and healthy lives."

Event organisers at the Guild have already begun sending members digital toolkits to promote World Pharmacists Day on their social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

There will also be posters and banners available to be printed to be displayed at community pharmacies throughout the country.

And a video promoting the day will soon be available to Pharmacy Guild members at the [Guild's website](#).

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