

4 ways to help build strong bones



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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news.

E-labelling event

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is organising a digital event on 18 Apr to explore the potential of electronic labelling (e-labelling) to enhance access to medication information.

This initiative follows discussions at the 2023 FIP Congress where the value, benefits, and challenges of e-labelling were reviewed, and highlighted the important role of pharmacists in facilitating its adoption.

The upcoming digital event will build on these findings, focusing on addressing the technological and regulatory hurdles with the goal of improving information equity in healthcare on a global scale.

To register, [CLICK HERE](#).

A first for pharmacy informatics in Aus

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has unveiled the first Australian Practice Standard for pharmacy informatics, which aims to support the implementation, adoption and maintenance of the health information systems that ensure quality and safe use of medicines.

Now available through Early View and in the *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research*, the new standard will help drive quality and improve patient health outcomes in pharmacy practice.

"I would like to acknowledge Michael and the incredible work of his team to bring this critical first standard to life," said SHPA President, Tom Simpson (pictured).

"This Standard also wouldn't be possible without the support of our colleagues at the Australian Digital Health Agency, Australasian Institute of Digital health, and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia; we thank them for their contribution as part of the review process."



Lead author Michael Bakker FANZCAP (Informtcs), Chair of the SHPA's Pharmacy Informatics Standard of Practice Working Group and Electronic Medication Management Leadership Committee, and Digital Health Portfolio Lead for SA Pharmacy, said he was proud to lead the development of the standard.

"Successful healthcare delivery now and into the future is contingent on an ability to create systems and processes that assist clinicians by improving efficiencies,

productivity, reliability, safety and quality," he explained.

"Achieving this requires pharmacy informaticians who have detailed knowledge of whole healthcare system medication utilisation and a deep knowledge of digital health.

"The Standard also includes a maturity model to allow pharmacy informaticians to consider and progress their development."

Bakker will present the Australian first standard at the Digital Health Festival next month in Melbourne - more details [HERE](#). JM

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SA/NT talent awarded for innovative work

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) honoured the achievements of leading community pharmacists at the 2024 South Australia and Northern Territory Excellence Awards on the weekend.

The ceremony held in Adelaide, highlighted the innovative practices and professional standards of local pharmacists who have significantly contributed to the industry.

Among the awardees was Natasha Downing, who was named the SA/NT Pharmacist of the Year for her extensive community work in the mid-north of South Australia.

Downing, originally from Jamestown, has been pivotal in integrating pharmacists across various service deliveries in the region, enhancing patient health outcomes through personalised care, especially in palliative roles.

The Intern Pharmacist of the Year was awarded to Chloe Hall, who distinguished herself by embracing challenging roles during her internship, improving her



professional skills markedly and becoming a go-to pharmacist for both patients and peers by the end of her tenure.

Raymond Truong was recognised as the Early Career Pharmacist of the Year.

Truong has been an active member of the PSA since 2016, taking leadership roles to advocate for Early Career Pharmacists and enhance professional pharmacy services, including vaccinations and medication management in community settings.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was bestowed upon Peter Halstead, acknowledging his 40-year career, which has significantly influenced

Australian pharmacy practice.

Halstead's contributions span from community service to regulatory roles, where he has been a mentor and an advisor to many, shaping the future of pharmacy with a focus on aged care and education.

Amelia Thompson received the prestigious and rarely awarded PSA Gold Medal, which goes to the University of South Australia student with the highest GPA in the Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours) program, highlighting the exceptional nature of Thompson's academic achievements.

"The passion and dedication of pharmacists across South Australia and the Northern Territory is clear.

"It is our pleasure to recognise some of them tonight on behalf of the PSA," said Dr Manya Angley, President of the PSA South Australia and Northern Territory.

"I'm proud to present these awards tonight, and congratulate each of the recipients on their awards," Angley commented. *JG*

Chronic liver care

CHRONIC liver disease could be better managed with improved care, according to a new study from researchers from Flinders Medical Centre and Flinders University in SA.

The main aim of their work was to assess the efficacy of a chronic disease management model to reduce liver-related hospital admissions.

According to the study, "the liver-related emergency admissions rate was not significantly improved despite robust intervention, nor was any improvement in patient survival recorded".

But benefits included reduced emergency hospital admissions, due to hepatic encephalopathy, one of the most frequent, preventable and expensive causes for admission in patients with decompensated cirrhosis.

More than six million Australians suffer from chronic liver disease.

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Priceline Pharmacy Madden St and Horsham, Vic



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Blackmores exec shuffle

BLACKMORES Group has announced changes to its executive team, signalling a new phase of growth for Australia's well-known natural health company.

From 01 May, Supriya Singh will join as Managing Director of Australia and New Zealand,

bringing more than 25 years' experience in the health, beauty, and consumer goods industries.

She was most recently the Managing Director of McPhersons, where she led the ANZ business for the last two years.

Additionally, Chief Operations Officer of Blackmores Group, Andrew Fuary, has stepped into the role of Managing Director of Southeast Asia and Korea, effective immediately.

Having lived and worked in Southeast Asia for more than a decade, Blackmores stated Fuary

is well positioned to lead the company's growth in the region.

Both Singh and Fuary will report directly to Alastair Symington, Chief Executive Officer of

Blackmores Group.

Rob Callen, who has been with Blackmores Group since Aug 2020, will now fill Fuary's former role

as Chief Operations Officer, the company stated.

Callen has played a key role in developing the company's strategic sourcing maturity and capability, and prior to joining he racked up 15 years' experience at LION.

"I'm delighted to welcome these three exceptionally talented leaders to their new roles on our executive team at this pivotal time," Symington said.

"Having a strong leadership team across our home and international markets is critical to our future success," he added. *JM*



Guild gives the Blue Light on savings



THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has secured a new free benefit for members and their staff with the Blue Light Card, which offers exclusive discounts to healthcare workers.

The Blue Light Card was launched in the United Kingdom in 2008 and was founded by Tom Dalby and former police officer Steve Denny.

It was launched in Australia in Oct 2022, and works by teaming up with some of Australia's best-known brands such as Woolworths, The Good Guys and Dan Murphy's, who offer Blue Light Card members

discounts and early access to sales and special offers.

In fact, the Blue Light Card has partnered with more than 350 brands in Australia.

Blue Light Card holders can take advantage of these offerings online, and from 16 May instore.

Guild members should have already received an email from Blue Light Card on how to activate their account.

Members who haven't received an email or can't find one and want to take advantage of the benefits of the Blue Light Card should email support@bluelightcard.com.au

Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

The latest in pharmacy robotic automation

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Dispensary Corner

A CALIFORNIAN woman has revealed what it's really like to be a psychopath in an opinion piece published in *Business Insider* last week

Psychopath, attorney and author M.E Thomas explained that unlike the stereotyped view of violent male psychopaths, female psychopaths aren't in tune with their emotions and are often cold and calculating.

"A really good way to think about psychopaths is that they have the emotional world of a three-year-old," she said.

"My emotions are really dulled, and my interest in others is mostly cognitive, not feeling-based," she added.

Thomas said her lack of emotions have helped her thrive as a lawyer.

"I have insights that would be difficult for a non-psychopath because I can read between the lines and I have no personal integrity, so it's really easy for me to adjust and move away from any positions I've taken," she commented.

In 2013, Thomas wrote a book called *Confessions of a Sociopath: A Life Spent Hiding in Plain Sight*.

But when it was released, she was fired from all her law professor jobs as she was seen as a threat to her students.

It is also worth noting that despite her claims to be nonviolent, in her book, she wrote about how she has had murderous fantasies in the past.

According to *Psychology Today*, psychopaths are often manipulative, pathological liars, possessing a lack of empathy.

Impact of dementia work



THE Dementia Australia Research Foundation is commemorating its 25th anniversary with the release of its report, *More than a Cure: 25 Years of Impact*.

The report highlighted over \$31 million invested in pioneering research projects that have propelled the field forward, benefitting those living with dementia and their caregivers.

Over the past quarter-century, the Foundation has supported more than 380 projects, enhancing understanding of dementia from a cellular perspective and advancing care models that improve quality of life.

Prof Graeme Samuel AC, Chair of the Dementia Australia Research Foundation and its Patron, emphasised the transformative effect of these initiatives.

"Our focus has particularly been on nurturing Australia's new and early career researchers.

A recent survey shows that 75% of our grant recipients are still active in dementia research, with 97% mentoring newcomers to the field," Prof Samuel stated.

Among the researchers supported by the Foundation is Dr Rachel Buckley, who received a two-year Post-Doctoral Fellowship in 2014.

Now leading her laboratory at Massachusetts General Hospital, a Harvard University teaching facility, Dr Buckley's team investigates

gender-specific risks in dementia, discovering critical differences in how the disease affects men and women, particularly related to protein levels in the brain.

These advancements underscore the vital role of funding, entirely sourced from a variety of public and private donations.

Sal Navarra, CEO of Navarra Venues, has raised over \$1 million for the Foundation since 2015.

In honour of his mother, the Sarina Navarra Project Grant was established, recently funding research into whether intermittent fasting could lessen the risk of Alzheimer's disease.

"Dementia Australia's efforts are instrumental in driving innovation and improving lives affected by dementia and we're proud to support such impactful work," Navarra commented.

Ita Buttrose AC OBE, former President of the Foundation and current Dementia Australia Patron, reflected on the progress made and the journey ahead.

"With nearly 800,000 Australians potentially living with dementia in the next 35 years, the continuous support from researchers and donors is crucial.

"We aim to be much closer to a breakthrough and, hopefully, a cure by then," Buttrose noted. *JG*

Pictured (L-R): Ita Buttrose, Sal Navarra and Prof Perminder Sachdev.

Quit like Sweden

AS SWEDEN prepares to become the first nation to ever win 'smoke-free' status, other countries are inspired and a new global drive called 'Quit Like Sweden' (QLS) has just been launched in Brazil.

"A country where 49% of men used to smoke regularly has virtually wiped out this scourge by allowing its smokers to switch to products that pose just a fraction of the risks, such as snus [traditional smokeless tobacco] and other smoke-free alternatives like vapes and nicotine pouches," said campaign founder Suely Castro, who launched the QLS initiative at a conference in Brazil, which was attended by medical professionals, politicians and policy makers.

"Swedes are reaping the health dividend with significantly lower cancer cases and mortality rates compared to their European counterparts. "Now Quit Like Sweden will amplify this message globally, leveraging expertise and fostering collaboration to help countries replicate the Swedish experience."

Research has shown that three million more Europeans would be alive today if other countries had only adopted a similar comprehensive approach to eradicating smoking.

Other countries such as South Africa, Bangladesh and Pakistan could save 320,000, 920,000 and 1,200,000 lives, respectively.

A new study has also found that by 2060, Brazil could save 1.36 million lives by implementing similar policies.