



**Cal-600®**  
Helps build strong bones

Available from API, Symbion, Sigma & CH2

**Petrus PHARMACEUTICALS**  
Calcium 600mg  
120 tablets

Use only as directed. Consult your healthcare professional if symptoms persist.

## Today's issue of PD

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

- Dispense Assist
- Independent Pharmacies of Australia Group

## Staffing solution

**DISPENSE** Assist is a low-cost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7 at rates as low as \$6.37 per hour, for services that include compounding and DAAs, among others.

To learn more about the free trial, head to **page four**.

## IPA holds summit

**SAVE** up to \$250 with earlybird rates for the Independent Pharmacies of Australia Group (IPA) Member Summit 2024 Together in Health (14-17 Oct).

Keynote speakers include past Pharmacy Guild of Australia President, Kos Scavos; Retail Doctor Group's CEO, Brian Walker; and DBG Health's Chair and CEO, Dennis Bastas - see more on **page five**.

## PAG slams PBS delays



**AUSTRALIAN** patients are facing significant delays in accessing new medicines, according to Amgen's latest *Australian Patient Access Gap* (PAG) report.

On average, it takes 591 days from the time a medicine is registered with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to when it is available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

In contrast, patients in Japan wait 101 days, Germany 121 days, and the UK 167 days.

The report calls for urgent reforms to shorten this delay, suggesting a goal of reimbursing new medicines within three months of regulatory approval,

which could improve access to life-saving treatments.

Key factors contributing to these delays include multiple resubmissions to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC), complex approval processes, limited resources, regulatory barriers, and negotiation delays.

The report also found that drugs requiring cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) faced longer delays compared to those with cost-minimisation analysis (CMA).

The average time for CEA medicines was 638 days, while CMA medicines took 488 days.

The report also notes that 38% of medicine and population pairings were recommended on the first submission, with a higher success rate for CMA medicines (77%) compared to CEA medicines (19%).

These hurdles extend the time it takes for innovative therapies to reach patients.

The average time for a PBAC recommendation to a PBS listing was 6.6 months.

Amgen emphasised that streamlining these processes are crucial to ensuring timely access to new medicines for Australian patients. *JG*

## PharmX delays

**PHARMX** Technologies Ltd has delayed the release of its annual results due to its ongoing case from last year (*PD* 05 Jun 2023).

According to the ASX, the results are pending the repayment of \$8,128,486.63 to Fred IT Group Pty Limited, following the Victorian Supreme Court's judgments on 08 Aug 2024.

In addition, PharmX has agreed to pay Fred a further \$1,770,000 to cover remaining interest and costs.

The company expects the Court to formalise these orders in the coming week.

Due to these developments, PharmX will release its annual results on 27 Aug covering the period ending 30 Jun 2024.

The repayments follow two appeals in the Victorian Supreme Court.

The first appeal, involving Corum Systems Pty Ltd, overturned a previous judgment favourable to Corum.

The second appeal upheld a prior judgment in favour of PharmX Ltd.

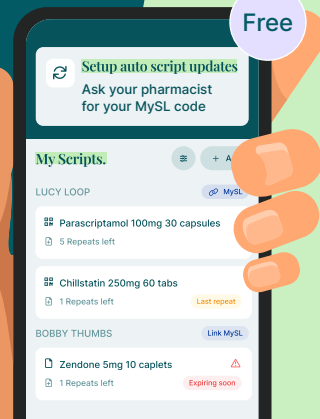
Consequently, PharmX is required to repay nearly all of the \$8.1 million received from Fred on 03 Jun 2023, along with unquantified additional sums for interest and Fred's legal costs.

Despite the outcome, PharmX's Board and management stated they remain confident in the company's financial health.

It has set aside \$9.8 million against the risk of such outcomes and report cash holdings of \$13.1 million as of 30 Jun 2024.

## Scripty MySQL in the hands of your patients

Grant MySQL access today



**minfos**

Everything you need to manage a successful pharmacy

Visit us at **Pharmacy Connect**



Together we can®

## Berberine



- Helps reduce body weight
- Helps maintain healthy blood sugar

OBORNE HEALTH SUPPLIES  
1300 88 71 88



NATURE'S SUNSHINE  
(02) 9894 0111



Always read the label and follow the directions for use

## Antibiotics' risks



**CANADIAN** scientists have found that some commonly prescribed antibiotics, particularly sulfonamides and cephalosporins, are associated with a higher risk of severe cutaneous adverse drug reactions (cADRs).

The potentially life-threatening hypersensitivity reactions can affect the skin and internal organs.

Published in *JAMA Network*, the study analysed the health records of nearly one million people, of whom around 22,000 were hospitalised due to cADRs after taking antibiotics.

The strongest links were found with sulfonamides and cephalosporins, though other antibiotics, including penicillins, nitrofurantoin, and fluoroquinolones, were also implicated in the study.

The researchers recommended that doctors consider prescribing macrolide antibiotics, which have a lower associated risk, whenever possible, to reduce the chance of serious reactions.

## Snow summit success

**PHARMACISTS** from across Australia recently returned from the annual Pharmacy Snow Business Conference at Mt Buller, armed with fresh ideas, and a few sore muscles.

The conference, now in its 32nd year, was founded by Frank Sirianni, Managing Director of Medici Capital, and has become a tradition for pharmacists (**pictured**) passionate about skiing and business management.

This year's conference focused on pharmacy management, financial analysis, business sales, and maximising potential for the coming year.

Pharmacist delegates and sponsors agreed they were keen to be back at Mt Buller for the event.

Sirianni expressed his gratitude for all the pharmacists and sponsors who have "supported us over the 32 years and made the event what it is".

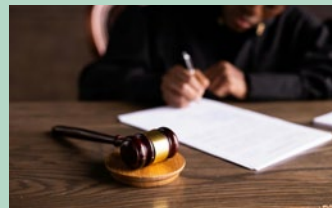
Speakers included well-known



industry names Paul Naismith, Barry Thatcher, Caroline Lane, Christian Sirianni, and Natalie Sirianni, covering topics that tied in with the conference's theme of risk management, something Sirianni compared to skiing.

The Pharmacy Snow Business Conference is held annually at Australian ski resorts, blending business strategies with winter sports, and offering attendees innovative approaches to pharmacy ownership and management. *JG*

## Sydney pharmacist guilty of misconduct



**A SYDNEY-BASED** pharmacist has been found guilty of professional misconduct and unsatisfactory professional conduct before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The Health Care Complaints Commission filed a case against Dr Mualla Akinci for allegedly dispensing or permitting the dispense of an unlawfully imported medicine to a patient between Jan 2018 and Dec 2020.

While working at the Gold Cross Pharmacy in Sydney, Akinci also attempted to import an injectable medicine, Phosphatidylcholine, for retail supply when the medicine was not approved for use in Australia.

## Dementia stories

**DEMENTIA** Australia has launched its first podcast, designed to alleviate the loneliness and isolation faced by those living with dementia.

Hosted by Jim Rogers, who has younger onset dementia, and journalist Hamish Macdonald, whose father has dementia, the podcast features seven episodes exploring diagnosis, relationships, and daily challenges with insight from people living with dementia, carers, and experts.

Rogers shared, "after my diagnosis, I felt very lonely".

"Hearing others' experiences in a positive way would have been amazing for me then."

Survey results released by Dementia Australia highlight the need for the podcast, revealing that nearly a third of respondents believe their loved ones with dementia are excluded socially.

Dementia Australia CEO, Professor Tanya Buchanan, praised the podcast as a powerful example of resilience, thanking the contributors and welcoming Hamish Macdonald as a new Ambassador for Dementia Australia.

Find the podcast that aims to break down barriers for those affected by dementia **HERE**.



## Check out the latest in Beauty & Wellness

Every Thursday in *Pharmacy Daily*

Do you have a beauty or wellness product? Send it **HERE** for consideration.

Beauty & Wellness  
by Pharmacy Daily





### Dispensary Corner

**CONSTIPATION** might be more than just an uncomfortable bathroom issue - it could break your heart.

A Monash University-led study found a surprising link between constipation and a higher risk of major cardiac events, like heart attacks and strokes.

"We all knew high blood pressure and smoking were bad for your heart," said Prof Francine Marques, "but who thought skipping a bowel movement could be too?"

The study analysed data from over 400,000 people and found that those with constipation were more than twice as likely to have a heart attack than those without.

The situation gets even worse for people with high blood pressure - constipation raised their risk of cardiac events by a 34% compared to those with hypertension alone.

The research team is looking at possible genetic connections between gut and heart health, hinting that your stubborn bowel might be more tied to your ticker than you'd think.

"The implications of this study are far-reaching," Marques said. "With constipation affecting an estimated 14% of the global population, particularly older adults and women, these findings suggest that a large portion of the population may be at an increased risk of cardiovascular disease due to their bowel health."

So, next time nature calls, answer it, as your heart might thank you.

## Big hit from long COVID



**LOST** working hours in 2022 due to lingering effects from Australians suffering from long COVID cost the Australian economy around \$9.6 billion, or one-quarter of the country's GDP that year, a new study has uncovered.

The stunning economic hit was calculated by researchers from The Kirby Institute at UNSW Sydney with The Australian National University (ANU) and the University of Melbourne in a study published in *The Medical Journal of Australia*.

Researchers looked at business data on working adults 18 years

and older between Jan 2022 and Dec 2023 showing lost labour hours, and those who completed reduced hours due to symptoms up to a year after being diagnosed.

The study found that at the peak of the pandemic in Sep 2022, up to 1.3 million Australians were living with symptoms of long COVID, with 55,000 of these being children ineligible to receive a vaccination.

Researchers say governments and health policymakers must place a greater emphasis on long COVID as a public health priority.

Australian National University Professor, Quentin Grafton, said workers still suffering COVID symptoms months after their initial diagnosis resulted in 100 million lost labour hours.

"This is equivalent to an average loss of eight hours per employed person, per year, including both full-time and part-time employment," he said.

"Our research likely underestimates the economic impact of long COVID because it does not account for losses such as healthy employees who can't work because they're caring for others with long COVID," Grafton said. *ML*

### Sorg joins CSL

CSL Limited has appointed Elaine Sorg as a new non-executive Director, taking effect from next month.

Sorg brings more than 35 years experience in the pharmaceutical sector to her new Board role, including time with AbbVie and Eli Lilly.

CSL Chairman, Dr Brian McNamee, said Sorg was a respected leader, with a track record of successfully building franchises and brands across therapeutic disciplines.

### Guild Update

#### 2025 POTY awards now open for entries

**NOMINATIONS** are now open for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's 2025 Pharmacy of the Year Awards, inviting the public and pharmacy professionals to nominate their favourite pharmacy.

The prestigious awards celebrate excellence across four areas: Business Management, Community Engagement, Professional Innovation, and Harm Minimisation.

The Guild Pharmacy of the Year Awards seek highly motivated and innovative pharmacy practices that aim to set benchmarks in effective healthcare delivery.

Trent Twomey, National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, encourages widespread participation in the nomination process.

"The awards are a testament to the hard work and dedication of community pharmacy," said Twomey.

"It offers a chance to share best practices and celebrate the remarkable achievements within our sector."

Winners in each category, along with the overall Guild Pharmacy of the Year, will be announced during the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference, taking place from 20-22 Mar, at the Gold Coast Convention Centre.

Nominations close on 30 Sep - for more details [CLICK HERE](#).



[www.pharmacydaily.com.au](http://www.pharmacydaily.com.au)

Pharmacy Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

#### EDITORIAL

**Editor** - Jayamala Gupte  
**Deputy Editor** - Matt Lennon  
**Journalists** - Adam Bishop, Myles Stedman, Janie Medbury  
**Editor-at-large** - Bruce Piper  
**Publisher** - Damian Francis  
**Associate Publisher** - Jo-Anne Hui-Miller

Pharmacy Daily is a publication of Pharmacy Daily Pty Ltd ABN 97 124 094 604. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Damian Francis.

#### ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

**Head of Sales & Marketing** - Sean Harrigan  
**Advertising** - Laura Aghajanian & Dante Muranty  
[advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au)

**Head of Operations & Contributing Editor** - Anna Piper

#### ACCOUNTS

[accounts@traveldaily.com.au](mailto:accounts@traveldaily.com.au)

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd  
 Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia  
 Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

[info@pharmacydaily.com.au](mailto:info@pharmacydaily.com.au)

Travel Daily



Travel & Cruise

Weekly



business events news



## Dealing with Staffing and Cost Challenges?

**We have the Solution!**

**dispense:assist**

A Revolutionary, Low-Cost  
Pharmacy Dispensing Solution

- ✓ Available 24/7/365 for session times to suit from 30 minutes to 24 hours.
- ✓ All Dispense Assist technicians have Pharmacy degrees and meet strict accuracy and efficiency standards.
- ✓ Rates as low as \$6.37 per hour with the same rates for days, nights, weekends & public holidays.

**Dispense Assist** is a revolutionary low-cost way of dispensing prescriptions in your Pharmacy. It is an easy, immediate and perfect solution to staffing issues and cost pressures.

We are an **Australian-owned company** that can assist with dispensing for dose administration aids, compounding, medicinal cannabis, e-prescriptions and much more. We have recently been given a 5-star rating by the many pharmacies that use us Australia-wide.

Curious to see if it's a fit for your pharmacy?  
**Sign up for a FREE Trial Now:**

**dispense:assist**

[www.dispenseassist.com.au](http://www.dispenseassist.com.au)



Scan qr code



# MEMBER SUMMIT 2024

# TOGETHER IN HEALTH

14-17 October 2024 • JW Marriott Surfers Paradise QLD

## We're focused on a future together

Navigate industry change and maximising opportunities

Achieve better community health outcomes with the right mix of professional services

Enhance your existing marketing program with the new IPA national marketing program

Gain more productivity with our technology platforms - Buy IT Right and Know It All

Achieve better margins and profit with collective buying power

## Our keynote speakers



**Kos Sclavos**  
Chief Pharmacist  
DBG Health



**Brian Walker**  
Founder & CEO  
Retail Doctor Group



**Dennis Bastas**  
Exec. Chairman & CEO  
DBG Health

## Thanks to our partners



**For more information and to register, visit your member hub.**

**P:** 1300 00 724 | **E:** support@ipagroup.com | **W:** ipagroup.com