

Today's issue of PD
Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of the latest pharmacy news, plus full pages from:

- Chemsave
- Metagenics

Watson the influencer



WELL-KNOWN pharmacist and Managing Partner at WholeLife Pharmacy and Healthfoods Redland Bay, Fiona Watson, has been named Vice President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Queensland (PGAQ) branch committee.

The Guild stated Watson's appointment highlights her long-standing dedication to community pharmacy and her focus on improving patient outcomes.

With over seven years of experience as a PGAQ board member, she has been instrumental in advocating for the sustainability and growth of the profession.

Her new role as Vice President will enable her to influence and support the profession's development and address key issues affecting community pharmacies across the state. *JG*

Pictured: Chris Owen, PGAQ President; Lucy Walker, TerryWhite Chemmart and PGAQ committee branch member; Shannon Fentiman, Queensland Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women; Fiona Watson, PGAQ Vice President and Trent Twomey, National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Biologics' insights



PHARMACY Connect 2024 will feature a session on the complex patient journey to biologic therapy, which is known to involve multiple failed treatments and extensive diagnostics.

Attendees will hear how biologic drugs are among the top PBS expenditures, with many nearing patent expiry or having biosimilar medicines, such as adalimumab.

The session will highlight the evolving role of pharmacists in supporting patients, enhancing medication adherence, and improving health outcomes.

Speakers include Jana Fulcher, registered pharmacist and National Account Manager at Arrotex, and Ke Khoon Lee, Pharmacy Manager at Priceline Pharmacy.

Pharmacy Connect will also host around 150 students, offering owners and managers a great chance to connect with future talent.

Students can register for free, and attend the welcome reception and Student Summit at the conference.

To learn more, **CLICK HERE**.

Do your maths
PHARMACISTS can save more than \$20,000 per year through major discounts on more than 7,000 products, as well as marketing and POS support, via a new offer from Chemsave - see **page three**.

Expand your scope
METAGENICS' six-module accredited learning course is available for integrative pharmacists to expand their scope of practice.
 Learn how you can gain up to 17 CPD points for topics that include women's and digestive health, as well as how to open a product account on **page four**.

Right to disconnect

FROM today, the right to disconnect will take effect for pharmacists and other workers employed by a business with less than 15 employees.

Part of the landmark *Closing Loopholes Bill*, the new right gives an employee a right to refuse to respond to contact from their employer outside of work hours, unless the contact is deemed to be considered 'reasonable'.

The Pharmacy Programs Administrator has asked business owners not to contact employee pharmacists out of hours to solve clinical or business issues, and have contingency plans in place.

Govt slammed for no national RSV program

THE Immunisation Foundation of Australia has raised concerns that vulnerable people may miss out on protection from the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

Despite global efforts to embrace new RSV immunisations, the Federal Government has not added any RSV immunisations to the National Immunisation Program.

Countries in the Northern Hemisphere are preparing for winter with comprehensive immunisation programs.

Director Catherine Hughes stressed the urgent need for a national program.

"The success of RSV immunisation programs internationally, and now in Queensland and Western Australia, provides compelling evidence that we can dramatically reduce the number of babies admitted to hospital each winter".

With increases in global demand for the vaccines as programs ramp up, Hughes also warned that "we cannot risk further delays".

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Dispensary Corner

THE Mediterranean Diet, famous for its olive oil, fresh veggies, and a splash of red wine, might be doing more for you than just keeping your taste buds happy.

A study in *PLOS ONE* suggests it could help fend off COVID-19.

Yes, while you're savouring that green salad with feta and olives you might also be giving your immune system a boost.

A new review of six studies involving over 55,000 people looked into whether this diet has any effect on COVID-19 risk, symptoms, and severity.

The results are mixed, but certainly promising.

Four studies found that sticking to the Mediterranean Diet might lower your chances of catching COVID-19.

Another study linked the healthy diet to fewer symptoms, and another suggested it could reduce the severity of the illness.

However, not all the studies were enthusiastic - some didn't find significant benefits, and the reliance on self-reported food questionnaires might have skewed results.

After all, who doesn't overestimate their daily servings of vegetables?

In the end, while it's not a magic cure, the Mediterranean Diet seems to offer some protective perks against the COVID-19 virus.

So, if you're looking to enjoy more olive oil and fish, it might inspire you more knowing it's a delicious way to boost your immunity too.

BLS' cannabis 'gummies'

BREATHE Life Sciences (BLS), through its subsidiary Bioxyne, has delivered its first pharmaceutical grade cannabis pastilles.

The company stated the 'gummies' were produced under the Good Manufacturing Practice certification from the TGA, marking a step forward in the domestic medicinal cannabis market.

The gummies contain cannabidiol and/or delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol.

BLS started receiving its first commercial orders last month for the Aussie-made cannabis edibles, totalling approximately \$2 million.

To meet the growing demand, BLS is scaling up its production capacity from two million to six million single doses per month.

Further solidifying its position in the market, BLS has signed a two-year manufacturing and supply agreement with one of Australia's largest cannabis companies.

The deal is expected to generate at least \$28 million over its term.

Data shows the prescription cannabis edibles market in Australia is poised for substantial growth, and is projected to increase substantially from 1% of the \$500 million annual market in 2023 to



over 20% by 2030, representing a \$150 million opportunity.

Bioxyne is strategically positioning itself as a supplier of alternative pharmaceutical products, including cannabis, psilocybin, and MDMA, catering to both domestic and international markets.

Sam Watson, founder and CEO of BLS and MD of Bioxyne, and Jason Stephens, General Manager of BLS Australia, both highlighted the significance of the achievement, emphasising BLS' role in the rapidly growing Australian medical cannabis industry. *JG*

Potential new drug target found for T2D

AN INTERNATIONAL research team led by Monash University has uncovered a new mechanism by which metabolic diseases such as obesity, fatty liver disease, and type 2 diabetes (T2D) may be triggered.

The study, published in *Science Advances*, identified that a toxic lipid called C16 ceramide is produced in the gut in response to high-fat diets and then transported via the lymphatic

system to other organs.

C16 ceramide has been linked to metabolic diseases and is now considered a key biomarker.

Dr Sarah Turpin-Nolan from the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences emphasised the significance of this finding, as it offers a potential new target for drug development aimed at blocking the lipid before it can leave the gut and cause harm.

New RACGP head

DR MICHAEL Wright has been named the new President of the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP).

He will assume the role at the RACGP's Annual General Meeting on 21 Nov, succeeding Dr Nicole Higgins, whose two-year term concludes.

Dr Wright (**pictured**) brings a wealth of experience, having worked as a GP in Australia and England, owned a practice, and earned a PhD in health economics in 2019.

He has held significant roles within the RACGP, including Chair of the Expert Committee for Funding and Health System Reform and Deputy Chair of the NSW/ACT Faculty Council.

"I'm well aware that I'm taking on the role of RACGP President at a time when Australia's health system faces significant challenges, and fair and equitable access to general practice care is under threat," said Dr Wright.

"I will fight to make sure high-quality GP care remains accessible and affordable for all Australians, and that the value of GPs and general practice is understood and acknowledged by our policymakers as much as it is by our patients," he concluded.



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