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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of the latest news, a cover wrap from AdPha plus a full page from Dispense Assist.

Low-cost solution

DISPENSE Assist is a low-cost staffing solution with dispensary technicians available 24/7 at rates as low as \$6.37 per hour.

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

Disease risk tool

A **NEW** genetic tool developed by the Centenary Institute can predict risk of liver disease in heavy drinkers.

Known as a polygenic risk score, it helps pinpoint people most likely to suffer from alcohol-associated cirrhosis based on their genetic makeup.

SHPA enters an 'Advanced' new era

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) has begun trading as Advanced Pharmacy Australia (AdPha), reflecting a new era in patient care.

With Australians taking more medicines than ever before, the rebrand comes in response to the increasing needs of patients, and a pharmacy profession outgrowing traditional workplace boundaries.

AdPha President Tom Simpson FANZCAP (Lead&Mgmt) said the organisation will continue to represent the voice of Australian pharmacists and technicians, as it has done for eight decades, but is now more inclusive.

"Hospital pharmacy is no longer contained by the four walls of our hospitals," he said.

"Our members are on the forefront of innovation providing acute and urgent pharmacy care across care settings.

"The last decade has seen growth in pharmacy expertise in areas such as medicines regulation and digital health, while pharmacogenomics



and advanced therapeutics will continue to change the way we care for our patients.

"Our membership reflects these changes - not all members are pharmacists and many do not work in hospitals - and from today, our name reflects these changes too."

The industry body's visual identity has also been refreshed, featuring imagery of four intersecting circles which represent the core values of collaboration and inclusivity.

"The circles are a metaphor for what we pride ourselves on: inclusivity, networks, collaboration,

and patient-centred care...[and] also reflect the value we place in our many partnerships," explained Simpson, who is **pictured** with CEO Kristin Michaels.

He said that although the trading name of the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has changed, its commitment to its members and the patients in their care is unwavering.

"As AdPha, we will continue to deliver everything our members expect from us.

"At the same time, we will lift the ceiling on what is possible for any pharmacy practitioner, based on their passion, potential and the care they can provide, beyond the building they work in.

"We are no longer about where we work, but about what we can do; this change is about setting us up for our next era leading pharmacy innovation to empower members and the Australians in their care," Simpson concluded.

For more information, see the **cover page**. *JM*

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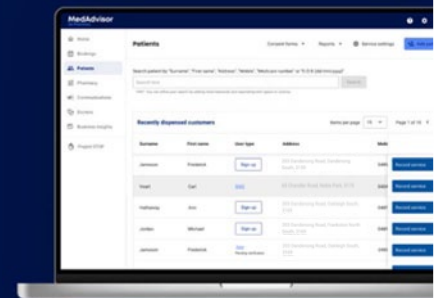
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EXCLUSIVE

MELBOURNE-BASED pharmacist, and winner of the prestigious PSA Symbion Pharmacist of the Year award for 2024, Dr Amy Page, intends to use her win to raise the profession's profile.

Dr Page (**pictured**) was recognised for her extensive contributions to pharmacy practice, research, and education (**PD 02 Aug**).

Expressing her gratitude for the award, Dr Page told **Pharmacy Daily**, "I'm extraordinarily lucky to receive this recognition, and I hope to use this increased profile to continue advancing medicine safety and support others in our field".

Wearing many hats, Dr Page is the President of PSA's Victorian branch, a leading pharmacy researcher and a senior lecturer at the University of Western Australia (UWA).

Her work focuses on improving medicine safety and advancing pharmacy practice both nationally and internationally.



"I genuinely love what I do," Dr Page said.

"If it interests you, it's a lot more fun and doesn't feel like work."

In 2018, Dr Page played a pivotal role in progressing pharmacist prescribing in Australia by leading a project with the Pharmacy Board of Australia and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency.

The initiative resulted in a statement confirming pharmacists' ability to prescribe within existing regulations, paving the way for pilots in areas like urinary tract infections and oral contraception.

Reflecting on this achievement,

she noted, "it's about recognising that prescribing and deprescribing are part of the same continuum, ensuring patients receive the best care possible".

As an academic, Dr Page is committed to nurturing the next generation of pharmacists at UWA.

"We're enrolling our first students next year in the Graduate Certificate in Advanced Medicines Management," she shared.

"It's about recognising all the work pharmacists do and providing them with qualifications that reflect their expertise."

Dr Page continues to practice clinically, working in both community pharmacy and conducting medication reviews.

She believes in collaboration within the profession, explaining, "the strongest way forward is supporting each other and helping grow together".

"No one person can advance pharmacy alone, but collectively we can lift it to new heights." *JG*

New TRI leader

AUSTRALIA'S Translational Research Institute (TRI) has appointed Prof Maher Gandhi as its next CEO, with his term beginning in Feb 2025.

Currently the Executive Director of TRI's Mater Research, Gandhi also holds a senior role at Princess Alexandra Hospital and is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

Outgoing CEO Prof Scott Bell, who led TRI through the pandemic, did not seek an extension of his tenure.

TRI Board Chair, Emeritus Prof David Siddle, praised Gandhi's expertise, highlighting his potential to advance TRI's mission to lead efforts in biomedical manufacturing.



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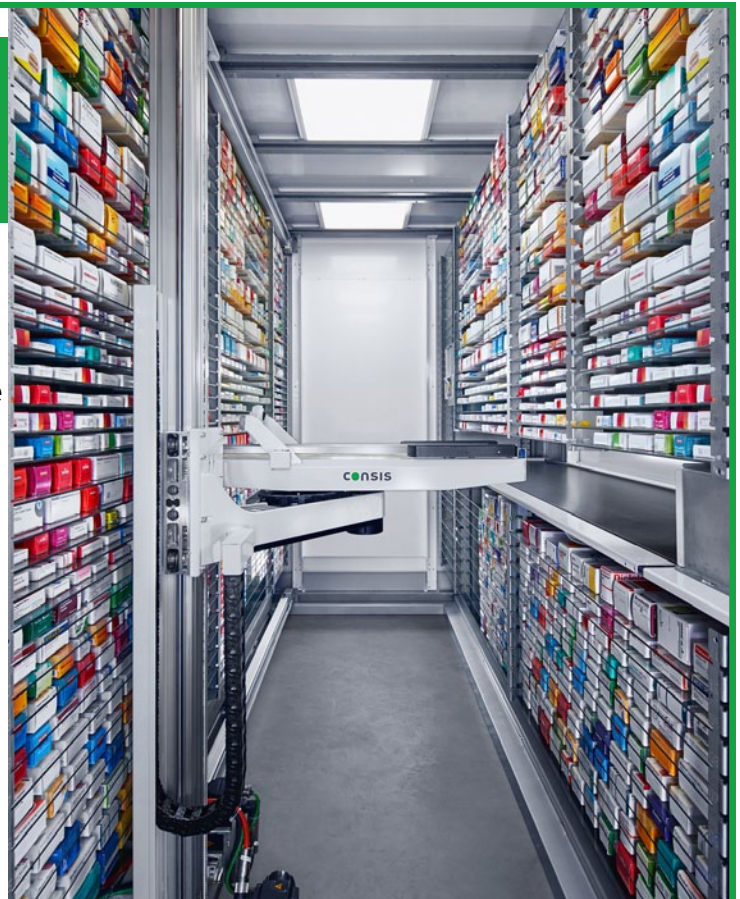
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Dispensary Corner

WILL EEGs be able to read your dreams?

Not quite yet, say scientists as they ponder the future of the EEG (electroencephalogram), which celebrated its 100th anniversary recently.

A survey led by University of Leeds academics gathered insights from over 500 experts, with a combined experience of 6,685 years, on where EEGs might be headed.

Among the list of possibilities, using EEGs to enhance cognitive performance and detect learning disabilities seems within reach.

Experts suggest we might even see EEGs as a common lie detector or communication tool for those with severe motor disabilities in the near future.

Real-time diagnosis of brain abnormalities could be just a decade away.

However, when it comes to the sci-fi dream of reading the content of your dreams, experts are split.

Some say it's more than 50 years off, while others dismiss it as pure fantasy.

Interestingly, the idea of a personal, portable EEG device for everyone, like a brainy smartphone, might not be as far-fetched as it sounds.

According to co-author Dominik Welke, the gadget could monitor drivers' alertness and keep them awake during long haul journeys.

So, while reading dreams might be a distant fantasy, the future of EEGs looks bright and maybe just a bit sci-fi after all.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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