



Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, including our Beauty & Wellness feature, plus full pages from:

- Chemsave
- Wakey Wakey

Chemsave savings

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 five.

Lift energy levels

BOOST energy and general wellbeing with Wakey Wakey Caffeine Energy + Multivitamin effervescent tablets, which also contain guarana, nine vitamins and three minerals.

Learn more on the **back page**.

Teen vax webinar

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia will host a webinar on 18 Sep at 7pm AEST on adolescent immunisation.

With school-based vaccination disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, pharmacists can play a key role in catch-up programs.

Topics include vaccine myths, consent for teens, and improving uptake among disadvantaged groups.

To enrol, CLICK HERE.

Mixed results at Priceline

WESFARMERS has today reported strong growth in revenue across its Health division and its Australian Pharmaceutical Industries (API) subsidiary, despite a significant reduction in COVID-19 anti-viral product sales.

In its group-wide full-year financial statement today, the division reported a 5.9% revenue increase to \$5.62 million, with earnings for the year up 11% to \$50 million.

Sales growth across the Priceline retail chain was driven largely by steady expansion of the store network, along with promotional initiatives, growth in online sales and net acquisition of new in-store customers.

Highlights for the year included the creation of a new digital health business unit to develop integrated healthcare experiences for customers, including leveraging OneDigital to broaden access to a wider range of brands for customers of the OnePass program.

This new digital health business unit completed a \$142 million acquisition of InstantScripts in Jul 2023, which continued to perform strongly with a 16% increase in transactions from the year prior.

Further acquisitions included SILK Laser Australia, which is being integrated into Clear Skincare to create a larger presence in the MediAesthetics sector.

Sales for the Clear Skincare brand declined due to cost-of-living pressures seeing customers opt for cheaper brands, while the company also incurred costs from the closure of 17 unprofitable clinics.

The second half of the year also



saw Priceline reduce prices on a range of over-the-counter health and beauty products to make access more affordable.

The division "continued to invest in transformation activities and integrate recent acquisitions, while focusing on opportunities to accelerate growth and improve returns", said Managing Director of Wesfarmers Limited, Rob Scott, said.

Scott added the company's outlook was strong as progress on the 'Accelerate' transformation program continues to strengthen its competitive positioning.

"This includes continued investment to reinvigorate the Priceline offer, expand the franchise store network, transform digital and e-commerce, explore new formats, improve the wholesale proposition, optimise the supply chain and leverage SILK's capabilities to improve the performance of Clear Skincare," he said.

Elsewhere, the company made progress on the construction of its new fully-automated fulfilment centre in Brisbane and a new distribution centre in Cairns. *ML*

Misconduct found

THE Health Care Complaints Commission successfully prosecuted registered pharmacist Susan Murtagh before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Murtagh was allegedly accused of inappropriately dispensing drugs under her name and those of her family members, as well as distributing medications without proper authorisation.

Notably, she dispensed the drug tacrolimus without any patient being prescribed it and provided false information to the Pharmacy Council.

Allegations spanned from Mar 2004 to Apr 2020, during her tenure as Director of Pharmacy at a hospital in the Hunter New England Local Area Health District.

On 19 Aug, Murtagh was found guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct.

She was disqualified from registration for two years, with the Tribunal indicating that her registration would have been cancelled had it still been active.



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Approval for Sandoz's drugs

SANDOZ ANZ has received regulatory approval for two denosumab biosimilars, Jubbonti, for treating osteoporosis in postmenopausal women and, Wyost, for cancer-related bone disease.

Clint Holland, General Manager of Sandoz Australia and New Zealand. acknowledged the milestone, highlighting the company's dedication to improving access to life-changing medicines.

"As we near our one-year anniversary as a standalone entity, Sandoz's biosimilars pipeline remains robust," said Holland.

"We're excited about the future and our ongoing commitment to enhancing health outcomes through access to biosimilars."

Wyost is approved for preventing skeletal-related events in patients with multiple myeloma and bone metastases from solid tumours.

The drug also treats large cell tumours of bone in adults or skeletally-mature adolescents under certain conditions, as well



as hypercalcaemia of malignancy refractory to intravenous bisphosphonate.

Bone is the third most common site for metastatic tumours, with cancers like breast and prostate frequently spreading to bones, causing pain and fractures.

The Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods registration supports the use of Jubbonti and Wyost for its listed indications.

Both biosimilars are bioequivalent to their reference medicines, matching in dosage form, administration route, dosing regimen, and presentation.

Jubbonti is available as a pre-filled syringe with an automatic needle guard, while Wyost is offered as a solution for injection in a vial.

Sandoz has not yet disclosed details about the anticipated launch timing for the drugs. JG

Smoking impacts academic success

SMOKING during pregnancy not only harms the mother's health but also has significant negative effects on the unborn child, with new research indicating it may lead to reduced academic outcomes.

A review involving 19 studies and 1.25 million participants, conducted by researchers from the University of South Australia, Curtin University, SAHMRI, Harvard University, and others, found that 79% reported lower academic achievement in kids exposed to prenatal smoking.

Further meta-analysis of eight primary studies, including 723,877 participants, revealed that children exposed to maternal smoking during pregnancy were 49% more likely to struggle academically compared to those not exposed.

In Australia, 8.7% of all mothers who gave birth in 2021 smoked during their pregnancy, equating to 26,433 women.



Lead researcher, Dr Bereket Duko from UniSA, emphasised the persistent dangers of smoking despite long-standing public health campaigns.

"Prenatal smoking is linked to multiple pregnancy complications and now, as our research shows, can significantly hinder a child's academic performance," stressed

"The fight against smoking is ongoing, and while we have made strides in reducing its rates, it's clear that more needs to be done to protect future generations from these preventable harms," he said.

Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

The latest in pharmacy robotic automation

The CONSIS C uses state-of-the-art technology in all areas of operations, from the user and control software to the mechanical and electronic components. The sophisticated design maximises storage capacity, the dual lane feeder system speeds up loading, whilst inbuilt sensors and cameras offer peace of mind with advanced diagnostic support.











Beauty Wellness

Thursday 29th Aug 2024 beauty@pharmacydaily.com.au

Editor's Choice: Priceline embraces the essence of Disney

A FUN and playful new range of makeup has just arrived in Priceline Pharmacies around Australia, inspired by beloved Disney characters.

Inspired by Mickey Mouse and friends, the Essence Eyeshadow Palette (RRP:\$19) features 12 autumnal shades in both matte and metallic finishes - perfect for soft daytime looks, or bold evening looks.

Disney fans will also love the Essence Disney Mickey and Friends Balmy Gloss (RRP:\$7), which delivers care like a balm and a shiny finish like a gloss.

The light, non-sticky texture hydrates and leaves the lips feeling smooth and supple.



Complete the look with the Essence Disney Mickey and Friends Bouncy Blush (RRP:\$8.50), which offers a glowy and natural finish, and the False Lashes Mascara Extreme Volume & Curl (RRP\$8) to create incredibly full and thick lashes.

Lock in the Disney-inspired look all day with the Happy Mood & Fixing Spray (RRP\$8.50), which boasts an uplifting scent.

The range also includes makeup application tools in fun Disney-inspired designs, including a blush and eyeshadow brush.

Fighting skin cancer



L'OREAL skincare brand La Roche-Posay has joined forces with the Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA) in the fight against skin cancer, signing a new five-year partnership.

The skincare brand, which is stocked at Chemist Warehouse, Priceline and other leading pharmacies, has become MIA's exclusive sunscreen partner, aiming to support critical research into life-saving melanoma treatment and boost awareness of sun safety.

The partnership will help deliver skin cancer education programs across Australia to raise awareness about the importance of sunscreens in melanoma prevention, as well as the provision of La Roche-Posay's Anthelios SPF50+ sunscreen range at MIA events around the country.

"We believe this partnership represents a significant step forward and with La Roche-Posay's commitment to offering lifechanging dermatological skincare for all, we are committed to being part of the solution," said Alex Davidson, CEO of L'Oreal Australia and New Zealand.

Neutrogena's new face

AMERICAN actress Hailee Steinfield has become the newest ambassador for Neutrogena, tasked with promoting the brand's Collagen Bank Moisturiser and Collagen Bank Broad Spectrum SPF 30 Moisturiser.

The Pitch Perfect star said it is a "dream come true" to represent Neutrogena, and enthused that the new range, which is infused with patented micro-peptide technology, "keeps your skin so plump and glowy".



Natio drops new tinted sunscreen moisturiser



SEVERAL new products from Natio have arrived on pharmacy shelves around Australia this month, including a creamy mineral SPF 50+ facial tint.

Providing a natural-looking tint

and gentle glow, the Natio Mineral Tinted Moisturiser SPF 50+ (RRP: \$22.95) uses a mineral-based formula with zinc to provide very high broad spectrum UVA/UVB protection against sun damage and signs of premature ageing.

Infused with coconut oil to hydrate the skin, the moisturiser is available in four shades to suit most skin tones.

Natio has also released a rosescented setting spray that easily absorbs into the skin to instantly extend the life of the user's makeup, helping it stay in place throughout the day.

The Natio Makeup Setting Spray is formulated with rose and aloe vera to soothe and hydrate, and comes in a 125ml bottle, available to purchase for RRP: \$17.95.



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Dispensary Corner

IN A twist fit for a mystery novel, scientists in the US have raised the alarm over Victorianera books that could double as health hazards.

These antique tomes, dating back more than 100 years, are hiding a dark secret - literally, according to UK Metro.

Vibrant dyes used in its cloth covers have been found to contain toxic levels of lead and chromium, sometimes six times above legal safety limits.

These toxic tales were revealed at the American Chemical Society meeting in Denver, Colorado, where researchers, including Lipscomb University's Abigail Hoermann, warned that chronic exposure to these metals could lead to serious health issues like cancer and lung damage.

It turns out, reading might be hazardous to your health, at least if you're flipping through a brightly coloured Victorian crime thriller.

One library in the US is already treating the books like rare artefacts, sealing some in plastic bags and pulling others from shelves entirely.

The study's authors are urging bookworms everywhere to "handle with care" or, better yet, just stick to e-books.

After all, it's hard to enjoy a classic novel when it's trying to



UNSW's health hub opens

UNSW Sydney has opened its \$100 million Integrated Acute Services Building (IASB) at the Prince of Wales Hospital, marking a significant development in healthcare collaboration.

Located on the eastern side of Randwick's Prince of Wales Hospital, the IASB features research laboratories, health engineering facilities, and flexible teaching and research spaces.

The IASB includes four floors dedicated to clinical education, three PC2 laboratories, and three floors for health engineering.

UNSW Vice-Chancellor and President, Prof Attila Brungs, highlighted the benefits of the integrated space, emphasising how close collaboration between researchers and clinicians can improve patient care.

The facility represents over 60 years of partnership between UNSW and the Randwick Health Campus.

Jennie Barry, General Manager for the Prince of Wales Hospital, noted that the partnership with UNSW is set to enhance health outcomes for the community.

"The integration of research and education into the clinical environment will support the



development of new care models and provide opportunities for staff education," said Barry.

The IASB is one of two new UNSW facilities in the Randwick Health & Innovation Precinct, with the second, the UNSW Health Translation Hub, scheduled to open in late 2025.

UNSW's investment is part of a broader \$1 billion commitment from the NSW Government to the research precinct. JG

Innovation for AD

MONASH engineers have developed a credit card-sized, handheld device for early Alzheimer's Disease (AD) screening, offering a new way for healthcare professionals to detect the condition.

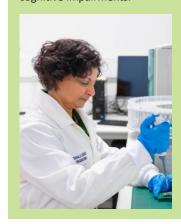
The device uses a fingerprick blood test with patented sensor technology to identify protein biomarkers of early AD within minutes.

A/Prof Sudha Mokkapati (pictured below) from Monash Materials Science and Engineering, who developed the proof-of-concept sensor, said the device is designed to make diagnosis faster, more accessible, and cost-effective by eliminating the need for lab-based tests.

"This low-cost, portable tool could help GPs screen patients directly at the point of care," said Mokkapati.

"Detecting early signs of AD could change the trajectory of the disease for many, saving millions in healthcare costs.'

The technology is now undergoing clinical validation, with the aim of enabling earlier diagnosis and timely intervention for patients with cognitive impairments.



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