

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

SSSI for Fluoxetine

THE TGA has issued a Serious Scarcity Substitution Instrument (SSSI) for Fluoxetine 20mg tablet.

The SSSI states that one fluoxetine 20mg tablet is equivalent to two fluoxetine 10mg capsules.

Further, one fluoxetine 20mg tablet is equivalent to one fluoxetine 20mg capsule.

If the substitutable medicine is an authority-approved prescription, the PBS Online warnings (reason code 162 or 163) can be disregarded in this circumstance - see more [HERE](#).

Wellnex buys Pain Away, beats margins

HEALTHCARE company Wellnex Life Ltd's Q2 FY24 Quarterly Report saw cash receipts totalling \$2.85m, with notable impacts stemming from delays in IP licensing orders due to extended approval timelines from the TGA.

The development underscored the company's ability to adapt to regulatory challenges while maintaining operational resilience.

A company statement said a highlight of the quarter was the successful acquisition of over-the-counter pharmacy product Pain Away, a move that seems to have injected immediate scale into Wellnex's operations.

The acquisition of the Pain Away range bolstered the company's financial performance, with initial sales in Jan showing net margins

exceeding 50% across all retailers and wholesalers, explained a company statement.

WELLNEX

Brand sales were up 460% compared to the prior corresponding period of \$1.52m and IP licensing sales of \$1.26m with net margins increasing to 38% compared to an average of 17% in FY23.

There was also completion of the transformative acquisition of Pain Away after a successful \$13.6m Entitlement Offer and \$3.5m Follow-on Placement.

CEO George Karafotias expressed enthusiasm, stating, "the

acquisition of Pain Away marks a significant milestone for Wellnex, positioning us as a key player in the consumer healthcare market".

Furthermore, the appointment of three seasoned directors to the board, including CWH's Mario Tascone as Non-Executive Chair, Andrew Vidler and Jeffrey Yeh as Non-Executive Directors, supports the company's commitment to improving corporate governance and driving profitability.

Karafotias remarked, "we are thrilled to welcome these experienced professionals to our board, bringing invaluable expertise that will propel Wellnex towards sustained growth and success".

The company had available funding at the end of the quarter of approximately \$3.7m. *JG*

SHPA's key ideas for Budget submission

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia's (SHPA) key 2024/25 Federal Budget recommendations were submitted across three areas - medicines access, scope of practice, workforce development and sustainability.

The body wants embedding of non-dispensing pharmacists into primary care teams in general practices and residential aged care facilities.

It has asked for funding to provide SHPA's two-year Pharmacy Resident/Registrar Training Programs to support workforce recruitment, retention

and development, and enhance the capacity of the sector.

The body wants to transition to an independent five-year, nationally consistent Hospital Pharmacy Agreement including implementation of Pharmaceutical Reform Agreements in NSW and ACT and enabling public hospital pharmacies to supply PBS-subsidised meds for inpatients.

SHPA wants improvement in First Nations equity of access to meds, and clinical pharmacy services, and supports medication adherence in other ways to help Close the Gap.

Raven's podcast

RAVEN'S Recruitment's latest 'Your Pharmacy Career Podcast' is titled 'From Traditional to Digital: Charting a New Course in Pharmacy Careers', features a candid conversation with online pharmacy pioneer Vivian Lee.

In this insightful episode, host Krysti-Lee Patterson and Lee take listeners on a journey through the evolution of the pharmacy profession as it pivots from brick-and-mortar stores to the digital space.

They delve into the transformative power of data analytics in pharmacy practice, the increasing relevance of digital marketing in the healthcare sector, and the profound impact these shifts have had on patient health outcomes and pharmacy business models.

The podcast has strategies for community pharmacies to optimise services and efficiency through data analysis and understanding customer behaviour.

To listen to the episode, visit <https://www.ravensrecruitment.com.au/your-pharmacy-career-podcast>.

Check out the latest in Beauty & Wellness

Every Thursday in Pharmacy Daily



Beauty & Wellness
by Pharmacy Daily

NEW **Ferro-Max C**TM
with Vitamin C to aid absorption.*
Available from Symbion, Sigma, API and CH2.



For use when iron deficiency or iron deficiency anaemia has been diagnosed by your doctor and a therapeutic iron supplement is recommended. Always read the label and follow the directions for use. If symptoms persist, worsen or change unexpectedly, talk to your health professional. *Vitamin C has been shown to enhance the absorption of iron when taken together.



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Dispensary Corner

BOBI the Dog's title as the world's oldest canine was suspended last week after Guinness World Records officials began to have doubts about his real age.

He died in Oct last year at the official age of 31 years and 165 days, eight months after the record-breaker's hall of fame declared that he was the world's oldest living dog.

The purebred Rafeiro, a Portuguese race of livestock guard dog whose life expectancy is usually 12 to 14 years, was also declared the oldest dog ever, breaking a nearly century-old record held by an Australian cattle dog named Bluey, who died in 1939 aged 29 years and five months.

But sceptics cited by British and US media commented that Bobi's feet appeared to be a different colour in photos of him as a puppy and snaps of him in his dotage.

And Miguel Figueredo, a veterinarian in Lisbon, told AFP last year, "he doesn't look like a very old dog...with mobility problems...or with an old dog's muscle mass".

Guinness World Records insisted the suspension was "temporary, while (the review) was ongoing".

Bobi's owner, Leonel Costa, insisted that all the "suspicions are unfounded".

Costa accused "a certain elite in the veterinary world" of being behind these suspicions, because they had difficulty accepting that Bobi had always fed on a "natural diet" instead of dog food.

PATY nominations open



AUSTRALIA'S premier award to recognise the contribution that pharmacy assistants make is now open for nominations.

This year's 'The Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award' (PATY) will once again acknowledge their outstanding skills, knowledge, leadership and customer service over 2023.

With the award offering the option of third-party as well as self-nomination, pharmacy business owners and managers are encouraged to nominate their staff who have demonstrated professional excellence.

Pharmacy Guild National President, Trent Twomey, said the PATY award is one of the best ways to encourage pharmacy assistants in their vital roles.

"Now in its 18th year, the Pharmacy Assistant of the Year Award provides a truly national platform to acknowledge and appreciate our frontline staff," commented Twomey.

"With the support once again of our award partners AFT Pharmaceuticals, Gold Cross, and LaCorium Health (Dermal), we look forward to acknowledging and celebrating more pharmacy

assistants than ever before."

Last year's award saw Colby Diek from Craignish Pharmacy in Hervey Bay, Queensland, recognised as Australia's most outstanding pharmacy assistant.

As the national winner, Diek received up to \$10,000 worth of prizes including a cash prize of \$5,000 and travel to Pharmacy Guild events including APP2024, and the Pharmacy Assistant National Conference.

Diek said she highly recommends that pharmacists and pharmacy managers nominate their pharmacy assistants for this award as a way of recognising their contribution to community pharmacy.

"Pharmacy assistants should be acknowledged for what they contribute to the industry.

"By winning this award I feel acknowledged, I feel elated, I feel respected, admired and encouraged; it's the most amazing feeling," she remarked.

To nominate an outstanding pharmacy assistant, visit pharmacyassistants.com/paty.

Third party nominations for PATY close on 10 May. JG

Pictured: Diek in the centre surrounded by state award winners and organisers.

Same vax rates

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) welcomed news that payments for pharmacist administration of COVID-19 vaccinations have increased from yesterday, but urged there should be similar increases across the National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy program (NIPVIP).

PSA National President Fei Sim said that increases should also apply to payments for NIPVIP vaccines.

"The change recognises the costs involved in delivering vaccination services, and it should be applied to all vaccines expected to be delivered by pharmacists.

"All vaccination services, regardless of whether its under the COVID-19 Vaccination in Community Pharmacy Program or NIPVIP, should be remunerated at the same rate."

This should include commitment to indexing of fees to keep pace with CPI, inclusion of rural loading, after hours incentives and incentives for reaching at-risk and priority populations, she added.

The PSA stated the NIPVIP program should also support outreach services so pharmacists can support people wherever they live, including in aged care and disability facilities.

"Adequate pharmacist remuneration is critical to ensuring that essential services delivered by pharmacists can be done so sustainably, which ultimately protects and maintains equitable access to vaccination services for all Australians," Sim concluded.