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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a full page from **TerryWhite Chemmart** and the **February MIMS Update**.

Transform to grow

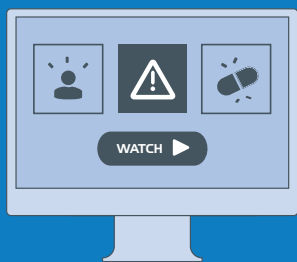
TERRYWHITE Chemmart can help business owners grow their script numbers, increase customer loyalty, grow average basket size and improve dispensary workflow. See more on **page four**.

MIMS update

MIMS monthly update for Feb is available now, featuring the latest medicines info that would be useful for all pharmacists - see **back page**.

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PSA's 5 pt Budget focus

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) is calling for more investment into pharmacy and pharmacist services to help improve access and equity of care as part of its 2024-25 Federal Budget Submission.

The PSA National President Fei Sim (**pictured**) said that funding for pharmacist services is key to equitable and accessible care now and in the future.

"The PSA is calling for investment across five key areas that support patient access to care, bolster the quality use of medicines and medicines safety, and recognise our roles as critical to improving disease management."

The industry's peak professional body wants the upcoming Federal Budget to support patients' access to care and medicines through funded community pharmacist-led consultation services; an expanded National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy program; support for participation in multidisciplinary case conferencing; and nation-wide mental health first-aid training.

Further, the PSA is also calling for the permanent introduction and funding of the IPAC Project - Integrating Pharmacists within Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to Improve Chronic Disease Management, embedding vital medicines safety advocacy into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health services.

The IPAC Project is supported by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and the Medical Services Advisory



Committee in Australia.

The PSA's recommendations signal the impact that increased scope for pharmacist services can have on the broader health system.

"This year's Budget is an opportunity to strengthen our healthcare system, ensuring that it's fit for purpose and able to meet the current and future health needs of our population," Sim commented.

Pharmacists should be supported to deliver more vaccinations, to act as a key consultation and triage point, and to offer crisis support to people experiencing mental ill health, Sim shared.

"These recommendations bolster medicine safety, recognise pharmacists' roles in disease management, and support access to care for all Australians.

"Investing in community-based care and quality use of medicines is investing in accessible and equitable care for Australians when and where they need it most," Sim concluded. *JG*

Updated APF26 is open for pre-orders

THE 26th print edition of the Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary (APF) will be published later this month, with updated guidance and information on a range of clinical topics.

With the publishing of APF26, pharmacists have access to a fully revised section on compounding, an updated Treatment Guidelines for Pharmacists section, and updated Cautionary Advisory

Label recommendations.

The Pharmacy Board of Australia requires all pharmacists to have ready access to APF during clinical assessment and reviewing, dispensing, and counselling processes.

APF digital subscribers will automatically have access to all new and updated APF26 content.

Pre-orders for the print edition of APF26 are open now **HERE**.

GMP certification

BREATHE Life Sciences has been awarded a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) licence for the production of medical cannabis.

The licence also encompasses the manufacturing of psilocybin & MDMA, marking a first in Australia for GMP certification of the substances.

The TGA has granted Breathe the GMP licence authorising the company to manufacture MDMA and psilocybin active pharmaceutical ingredients as well as final dose capsules.

Intended for supply to authorised prescribers and clinical trials, the products set a new precedent in the treatments available for mental health disorders, according to a company statement.

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Found with no registration

A MAN has been prosecuted by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) for holding himself out as a registered pharmacist after his registration lapsed, in contravention of section 116 of the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law 2009*.

On 25 Jan, he was sentenced in the Downing Centre Local Court, Sydney to a 12-month conditional release order and directed to pay Ahpra's legal costs of \$3,000.

In sentencing the man, Magistrate John Arms noted the importance of registration for pharmacists, "it is not a matter which is trivial in nature - it is imperative to the safety of the community".

Pharmacy Board of Australia Chair Brett Simmonds said the decision in this case sent a strong message to all pharmacists about the importance of maintaining their registration status at all times.

"It is only through the registration process that the Pharmacy Board can ensure all Australian



pharmacists meet the Board's registration standards including professional indemnity insurance, recency of practice and continuing professional development," he said.

"This case also highlights the diligent efforts of the employer who discovered the pharmacist was unregistered through a routine audit of employees.

"It is important that employers use the register of practitioners on the Ahpra website to verify the registration status of their staff."

Ahpra stated the man, who at present holds registration with the Board, is currently entitled to practise as a provisional pharmacist under supervision.

There is no suggestion that he caused any harm to any patient during the period he was not registered, assured Ahpra. *JG*

A first list of PIMs and safer alternatives

RESEARCHERS have developed an Australian-first list of 16 potentially dangerous medications for over-65s used in healthcare and their safer alternatives, published in *Internal Medicine Journal* last Fri.

Potentially Inappropriate Medicines (PIMs) are medicines with risks that may outweigh their benefits.

PIMs can have high risks of severe adverse effects, drug interactions, increased risk of falls and even death.

Lead researcher, Dr Kate Wang, said PIMs lists help clinicians identify medications that have a higher risk of negative clinical outcomes, including hospitalisation and death.

"They should only be used in circumstances where there is a clear need and not an effective and lower-risk alternative available," said Wang, from RMIT's School of Health and Biomedical Sciences.

"The Australian setting is unique, and it is vital that we have our own, up-to-date resource," added Wang.

The study drew on a multidisciplinary expert panel of 33 clinicians and researchers with expertise in geriatrics, general medicine, pharmacy, clinical pharmacology, general practice and epidemiology.

A total of 130 medications or medication classes were considered, including medicine classes commonly appearing in PIMs lists internationally such as benzodiazepines, NSAIDs and tricyclic antidepressants.

Australia's existing PIMs list was developed 15 years ago, and there have been many changes to medications available in Australia since then.

"Furthermore, no Australian lists to date have made recommendations for potentially safer alternatives," said Wang.

Learn more [HERE](#).

Time to rethink your dispensary set-up?

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Dispensary Corner

SINGER Demi Lovato performed her song *Heart Attack* at an American Heart Association event for heart attack survivors recently, and truly should have looked around the room as her performance was not well received.

Lovato was the headliner at the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Red Dress Collection Concert last week, and performed a whole heap of her hits including *Sorry Not Sorry*, *Cool for the Summer* and *Confident*.

But it was the 2013 single 'Heart Attack' that raised eyebrows around the room.

"She was belting out 'Heart Attack' in front of the Class of 2024, who were all survivors of heart attacks," an 'insider' told *Us Weekly*.

"There was a video package played before the fashion show and concert where the women all shared their brushes with death via heart attacks, how they were saved during a heart attack - one has a pacemaker for the rest of her life.

"Demi was smiling the entire performance, and it was really tone-deaf," said the 'insider'.



Listings expand treatment



AUSTRALIANS with advanced melanoma and relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (MS) will have access from this month to new and updated medicines under the PBS.

The nation has the highest melanoma rates in the world with one person dying from melanoma every six hours.

The combination medicine Opdulag (nivolumab with relatlimab) will list to treat patients with advanced-stage melanoma that has spread to other parts of the body and cannot be removed by surgery.

According to the govt, around 940 patients each year are expected to benefit from this listing.

Without the PBS subsidy, they could pay around \$315,000 per course of treatment.

Kimtrak (tebentafusp) will also be listed for the first time to treat a certain type of advanced melanoma of the middle layer of the eye (uvea) that has spread to other parts of the body or cannot be removed by surgery.

Uveal melanoma is a rare cancer, with around 150 Australians diagnosed per year.

Around 35 patients are expected to benefit each year from this new PBS listing, in which without the PBS subsidy, they could pay a huge

cost of around \$790,000 per course of treatment.

Tysabri (natalizumab) is currently available through the PBS for patients with relapsing-remitting MS, and from the start of this month these patients now have access to a new subcutaneous form of the drug, or given as an injection under the skin.

It is hoped this reduces administration time and expands the settings for the treatment.

About 85% of sufferers are diagnosed with relapsing-remitting MS, making it the most common form of the disease.

MS affects the brain and spinal cord and is often diagnosed in young adults between 20 to 40 years old.

The body's immune system reacts against its own myelin which protects and insulates nerve fibres.

In relapsing-remitting MS, sufferers have attacks called relapses, which can cause blurred vision, weakness in the legs or arms, or loss of control of bowel or bladder function.

Without a PBS subsidy, patients may pay around \$16,400 per year for treatment with Tysabri.

Since Jul 2022, the current Federal Govt has approved 165 new and amended listings on the PBS. *JG*



Guild Update

Early career workshop announced

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is proud to announce the Early Career Pharmacist Workshop at this year's APP Conference on the Gold Coast next month.

The workshop's session is titled 'Embrace, adapt, thrive' and will take place on Fri, 15 Mar from 4pm to 5:30pm.

Registration is free for Pharmacy Guild interns while students will get a substantial discount on their registration.

The workshop will help early career pharmacists to unleash their potential by embracing change, and to be adaptable which will help to future-proof their careers and maintain their passion for a career in community pharmacy.

Organisers have lined up a panel of successful and dynamic pharmacy experts who will share their invaluable insights.

Panellists include Hannah Mann, founder and Managing Partner of Kimberley Pharmacy Services, and Flynn Swift, President of the International Pharmacy Student Federation.

The workshop will be hosted by Jenny Kirschner, a Health Programs Pharmacist and founder of Pharmacy Addressing Loneliness and Social Isolation.

If you're an early career pharmacist or pharmacy student, don't miss this opportunity to learn, discuss and connect with the industry's best.

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- **Tebentafusp (Kimmtrak)** is a bispecific fusion protein, comprised of a T cell receptor (TCR) fused to an antibody fragment with specificity for the CD3 (cluster of differentiation 3) receptor, found on polyclonal T cells. The TCR has specificity for a gp100 peptide (expressed preferentially in melanoma cells) presented by human leukocyte antigen-A*02:01 (HLA-A*02:01). *In vitro*, tebentafusp bound to HLA-A*02:01-positive uveal melanoma cells and activated polyclonal T cells to release inflammatory cytokines and cytolytic proteins, which results in direct lysis of uveal melanoma tumour cells. *Kimmtrak is indicated for the treatment of HLA-A*02:01-positive adult patients with unresectable or metastatic uveal melanoma.* Kimmtrak concentrate for intravenous infusion contains tebentafusp 0.1 mg per 0.5 mL and is available in packs of 1 vial.

New Indications

- **Raxtozinameran (Comirnaty Omicron XBB.1.5)** is now indicated for active immunisation to prevent COVID-19 in individuals 6 months of age and older in accordance with official recommendations.
- **Tozinameran and famtozinameran (Comirnaty Original/Omicron BA.4-5)** is now indicated (with provisional approval) for active immunisation to prevent COVID-19 in individuals 5 years of age and older in accordance with official recommendations.
- **Vosoritide (Voxzogo)** is now indicated for the treatment of achondroplasia in all paediatric patients whose epiphyses are not closed.

New Contraindications

- **Iopromide (Ultravist 300 and 370)** are now contraindicated for intrathecal use.
- **Metoclopramide hydrochloride (Maxolon)** tablets are now contraindicated in children below 15 years of age.
- **Rifabutin (Mycobutin)** is now contraindicated for concomitant use with rilpivirine prolonged-release suspension for injection.

This list is a summary of only some of the changes that have occurred over the last month. Before prescribing, always refer to the full product information.