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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus full pages from:

- TerryWhite Chemmart
- Wizard Pharmacy

Booking program

TERRYWHITE Chemmart has a dedicated Care Clinic space which allows for the development of tailored programs - see [page three](#).

APP2024 workshop

REGISTRATION is open for the APP2024 pre-conference workshop titled 'Beyond the counter: Using your data to maximise business performance', which will offer insights from seasoned experts.

Conference Convenor Kos Sclavos said yesterday that the workshop is "one more great reason" to attend the largest pharmacy conference in the southern hemisphere, which is taking place on the Gold Coast from 14-17 Mar.

"Attendees will get a lot out of this workshop as the speakers are top-notch - Nick Biggs is a pharmacist and General Manager of Client Services at NostraData, and Reem Borrowas has led teams across the areas of sales, marketing and training," he said.

The new pre-conference workshop will be held on Wed 13 Mar from 10.30am to 12.30pm - see more [HERE](#).

CARe-MED project to reduce errors

PHARMACISTS will partner with patients and doctors in a new national project to reduce patient medication errors that frequently occur during hospital stays.

The CARe-MED project was announced today, \$1.4 million Federal Govt-funded project, led by Dr Jacinta Johnson, a pharmacist at the University of South Australia, who is also responsible for driving research development across SA public hospital pharmacies.

Johnson explained that the aim of the project is to improve the quality of care for people aged 65 years and older, who experience three times as many medication errors during hospital stays than younger patients.

"Medication errors are the most frequent and preventable mistakes being made in hospitals today," said Johnson.

"Across Australia, research shows two medication errors are made on admission to hospital for every three patients, and an error occurs one in 10 times a medication is administered, and most of these affect older patients, who are at much higher risk."

The CARe-MED project will implement and evaluate a patient-centred, partnered medication charting and deprescribing model in hospitals using electronic medical records.

This work will build on a range of paper-based pharmacist charting models that have been evaluated in Australia, demonstrating significant reductions in medication errors (from 66% to 3.6%), cutting average hospital stays by 10% and reducing



the cost per admission by \$726.

"It is important to validate the partnered charting model of care in digital settings as electronic prescribing is known to introduce new error types and patterns," commented Johnson.

"Our partnered charting and deprescribing model aims to minimise this risk and could be scaled to support millions of older people hospitalised with varying health conditions."

The new project will also examine the impact of integrated partnered deprescribing on hospital discharge, and measure how clinicians' work is altered through partnered pharmacist medication charting.

The model will be evaluated at metropolitan and rural hospitals in SA and Qld over the next four years in collaboration with SA Pharmacy, Metro South Health and the University of Queensland. JG

Guild team presents at Qld bill hearing



THE Pharmacy Guild stated yesterday it has presented to the Queensland Parliament's Economics and Governance committee during a public hearing on the *Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill*.

The Guild posted on LinkedIn that the bill made "significant steps forward in restoring

integrity" to the pharmacy business ownership laws.

Pictured (L-R): Qld branch President Chris Owen, National President Trent Twomey, Qld branch Vice President Amanda Seeto and Director Matthew Battams, and Damien Prineas from Grand Plaza Pharmacy at Browns Plains.

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Dispensary Corner

IN A PLOT twist that has health officials doing a double take, vending machines are serving up more than just your favourite snacks - they're dishing out self-testing kits for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Move over, candy bars - it's time for some cheeky health checks, according to a study published in the journal *Sexually Transmitted Infections*. These quirky contraptions, located in Brighton, Hove, and Bristol in the UK, have become the unexpected heroes of sexual health. Rapid HIV tests and self-sampling kits for STIs were dispensed like the hottest commodities in town, totalling a whopping 2,536 kits. The 'STI snack of choice' award goes to self-sample kits, winning the hearts (and other body parts) of 74% of vending machine users, with most falling in the 16-35 age range. Convenience, instant access, and the allure of a clandestine health rendezvous were the top reasons cited for choosing the vending machine path. While some users had concerns about safety and privacy (42% and 66%, respectively), a resilient 97% said they'd recommend the service, proving that even when it comes to STIs, laughter might be the best medicine. The researchers are now brainstorming ways to turn these vending machine into intimate health hubs, possibly offering contraception and pre-exposure prophylaxis.

Aurora buys Medreleaf

MEDRELEAF Australia has been acquired by Aurora Cannabis, a global medical cannabis company. As a long-standing partner within the Canadian medical cannabis market, and with involvement in several European medical cannabis markets, Aurora stated it has the necessary expertise to support the growth of Medreleaf. Kristin Viccars, Medreleaf's interim Managing Director said, "we share a commitment to patient care and expanding access to medical cannabis to support the health and wellbeing of those in our communities". By joining Aurora, Medreleaf said it will leverage its investment in science and cultivation expertise. Aurora's Global Business Development Andre Jerome added, "we believe this move reaffirms our



commitment to the partnership with you". "As we move into this new chapter, Medreleaf can continue to expect the same level of collaboration it has come to expect from the Aurora team. "As the integration with Aurora progresses, my team will provide all the support that may be needed," Jerome concluded. *JG*

Call for equal access for females in STEM

LA TROBE University scientists took the opportunity on the United Nations International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11 Feb to raise awareness of the ongoing under-representation of women in STEM disciplines. They said it's an opportunity to promote full and equal access to, and participation in, science for women and girls. This day is important because women are often given smaller research grants than their male colleagues, said the researchers. While women represent 33.3% of all researchers, only 12% of members of national science academies are women, and in cutting-edge fields such as artificial intelligence, only one in five professionals is a woman. The science experts also explained that despite a

shortage of skills in most of the technological fields driving the fourth Industrial Revolution, women still account for only 28% of engineering graduates and 40% of graduates in computer science and informatics. Female researchers also tend to have shorter, less well-paid careers, and women's work is under-represented in high-profile journals, as well as being often passed over for promotion. La Trobe's Head of Structural Biology Prof Begona Heras said, "changes enabling greater female participation in STEM include flexible work arrangements, blind hiring/grant processes to reduce bias, mentoring programs, highlighting successful female role models, and overall fostering inclusive environments where diversity is highly valued".

Pharmacy Guild Update

2024 Rental Report released

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia has just released this year's *Pharmacy Rental Report*, exclusive to Guild members. For most pharmacy owners, rent represents the largest expense of operating a pharmacy and the *Pharmacy Rental Report* is designed to help members, community pharmacy owners and aspiring owners to be well-prepared when negotiating rental and leasing arrangements. Pharmacy Guild National President Trent Twomey said members will find the *Pharmacy Rental Report* a useful reference for future rental negotiations. "As the business model of pharmacy continues to evolve, it is important for pharmacy owners to stay on top of managing the cost of doing business, and occupancy costs are an essential part of this," Twomey said in the report. At 44 pages long, the *Pharmacy Rental Report* has three parts with useful sections such as what to do before you sign a lease, costs in retail leases, what rent pharmacists should pay according to their businesses' gross income and strategical as well as other practical considerations. Members can access the *Pharmacy Rental Report* on the Guild's website under 'resources' then clicking on 'business operations' and downloading the report.

Pharmacy Daily
www.pharmacydaily.com.au
Pharmacy Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.
Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

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The booking systems provided by TerryWhite Chemmart also make it easy for customers to identify and book the Care Clinic services that are available in our pharmacy. ”

- Peter Fairgray, TWC 2023 Pharmacist of the Year, TerryWhite Chemmart Arana Hills



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