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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of pharmacy news, plus a full page from Wizard Pharmacy.

Priceline positive

WESFARMERS posted its 2024 half-yearly results on ASX with revenue up 0.5% to \$22.7b and operating cash flows up 47% to \$2.9b.

While overall sales in Pharmacy Distribution declined in 1H24, Priceline achieved "pleasing sales results", driven by growth in health and beauty categories and the successful execution of promotional initiatives.

Online sales grew 52% following the launch of the Priceline website.

Wesfarmers also expanded into adjacent markets with the acquisitions of InstantScripts, and SILK clinics, which it linked to its core Health businesses.

PSA awards deserving talent in NSW

TOP pharmacists from New South Wales were recognised by the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) at its 2024 Excellence Awards on Sat on the NSW Central Coast (PD Sat breaking news).

The NSW Pharmacist of the Year is Margaret Ruhnau from Western Sydney, and one of the first pharmacists to practice in an Aboriginal Health Service and continues to build a diverse and culturally aware team at Emerton Amcal Pharmacy.

Every member of her team has undertaken Deadly Pharmacists Foundation training as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Competence to support the services in partnership with Marrin Weejali, a local Aboriginal-Controlled Health Organisation.

As a credentialed pharmacist Ruhnau was one of the first to work in general practice, supporting future roles and recognition for GP pharmacists.

The NSW Early Career Pharmacist of the Year is Angus Koerstz.



After completing his intern year in Canberra, community pharmacist Angus Koerstz opened Men's Health Downunder Dubbo, supporting men with complex urological health issues, particularly post-prostate cancer.

Working closely with urologists, allied health professionals, and prostate cancer support nurses, his expertise saw men travel four to five hours from remote communities for consultation and access to his vital service.

The NSW Intern Pharmacist of the Year is Shannon Leglise.

Leglise has shown dedication and worked hard to introduce new services to the pharmacy in Callala Bay, expanding his scope of practice beyond what would be expected of an intern pharmacist.

The NSW Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to Professor Peter Carroll.

Over a career spanning more than 50 years, Sydney pharmacist Carroll has made an immense contribution to pharmacy professional bodies, changes to pharmacy practice, government committees, the education of students, and the continuing professional development of practising pharmacists.

On top of serving the profession as a PSA National Board Director, President of the NSW Branch and the Offshore Refresher Course's Education Director, Carroll was responsible for the development and introduction of the Asthma Card in NSW.

The card allowed pharmacists to counsel patients about their asthma, and the overuse of reliever medicines.

He was involved in the initial training of pharmacists to conduct Medication Reviews and had played a significant role in developing an accredited vaccination training course for final-year pharmacy students. JG



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TGA on Zactin shortage alternatives

PHARMACEUTICAL company Alphapharm notified the TGA on Fri that the shortage of Zactin Tabs (fluoxetine 20mg dispersible tablets) will continue until 30 Apr.

To help manage the shortage, the TGA has temporarily approved the supply of two overseas fluoxetine 10mg capsule

products under section 19A of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989.

These lower-strength capsule products can be used for patients taking a dose of less than 20mg or a dose that cannot be made up using multiples of 20mg.

Detailed information about the shortage is available [HERE](#).



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SA training starts for UTIs

SOUTH Australian pharmacists will soon be eligible for complimentary urinary tract infection (UTI) training, where they will learn how best to offer advice and treatment to women aged 18-65 years experiencing uncomplicated UTIs.

The training offered by the Australasian College of Pharmacy will include dispensing specified antibiotics as appropriate.

In addition, the College is offering SA community pharmacists CPD-accredited training for uncomplicated cystitis treatment.

The program comes off the back of the enablement of the South



Australian Community Pharmacy Urinary Tract Infection Scheme, which will take effect on 01 Mar.

For further information on the SA Community Pharmacy UTI services and eligible criteria - see more [HERE](#). *JHM*

Insights on vaping

A **NATIONAL** webinar on recent and planned changes affecting the supply and regulation of vaping products will be held by the TGA and the PSA on 27 Feb at 7:30pm AEST.

The 'Clearing the Air - Navigating the Vaping Reforms with Confidence' webinar explores what the regulatory changes will mean for all pharmacists (**PD 08 Feb**).

It will also introduce the TGA's new validation tool which provides real-time monitoring of the Special Access Scheme and the Authorised Prescriber Scheme notifications to support the safe dispensing of unapproved therapeutic goods.

An update on evidence-based approaches for smoking and vaping cessation and nicotine dependence management will also be covered by guest speakers from the National Quit Training and Resource Centre for Nicotine Cessation.

PSA National President Fei Sim urged pharmacists to attend the webinar and hear directly from the TGA.

"This webinar is a chance for pharmacists to hear directly from the TGA and experts in the field, to gain in-depth understanding of the new regulatory environment, especially as it relates to the dispensing of unapproved vaping products.

"I strongly encourage all pharmacists to attend, especially those who supply or are looking to supply vaping products, to ensure we meet our professional obligations."

To register **CLICK HERE**.



Dispensary Corner

AUSTRALIAN woman Robyn Borrell found love in the most unexpected of places - the blood donation centre - where she crossed paths with an old classmate, Earle, decades after school ended.

Robyn was inspired to first give blood in 2008, a few years after her first husband sadly passed away from cancer.

She soon began also donating plasma, used to treat people who have lost blood through trauma, and those with various autoimmune and bleeding disorders.

But one day in 2014, when Robyn was hooked up to a machine during her regular visits, a handsome stranger sat in the chair opposite her.

At first, she didn't notice him, but when he passed her by again, she recognised him and shared pleasantries.

Robyn thought nothing of it, until a few weeks later, when Earle (a former detective) found her number from a mutual friend and asked her out on a date.

Earle revealed that he had also asked one of the nurses at the donation centre to help play matchmaker by taking his donation needle out midway so he could chase Robyn down that fateful day.

A year later, Earle proposed to Robyn and the two got married.

"Aren't you going to get down on one knee?" Robyn said.

But he didn't need to.

The answer was already yes!

Turns out, he was exactly Robyn's type.

Transition from Retail Pharmacy to Sales Rep.

We're seeking an enthusiastic individual prepared to embrace a rewarding entry-level position as a Sales representative to join our growing business.

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