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Today's issue of PD

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

- Dispense Assist
- Nova Pharmaceuticals
- Guild Insurance

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King's Birthday honours dedication

PHARMACY industry leaders have been recognised in this year's King's Birthday honours list, receiving accolades for their exemplary service and dedication (PD breaking news).

Robert Dean, a respected pharmacist from Victoria, has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his extensive service to the Red Cliffs community.

Over 50 years, Dean's commitment has extended beyond his pharmacy, with involvement in various community organisations such as the Country Fire Authority and Meals on Wheels.

Similarly, Farag Gobran, a pharmacist for over five decades, has been honoured with the OAM for his dedication to youth, aged care, and the Egyptian community.

His multifaceted contributions include roles within the Coptic Orthodox Church and leadership positions in organisations like the Australian Egyptian Forum Council.

Adding to the list of honourees was Skerritt, who retired as



the National Manager of the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) last year (PD 06 Feb 2023), and was honoured with the Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division for his significant contributions to public health and scientific research.

The Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, extended his congratulations to all recipients, adding, "in particular, Dean and Gobran represent the best attributes of Australia's community pharmacists: a deep commitment to patients throughout their geographical and cultural communities".

MEANWHILE, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) also acknowledged its members

who received honours for their contributions to healthcare.

AMA President Prof Steve Robson commended the recipients for their outstanding service and expertise, noting their vital role in achieving exceptional health outcomes for the community. JG

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Dispensary Corner

IN A quirky twist, researchers have found that virtual hospital rooms designed with a touch of feng shui or based on evidence-based design principles seemed to work better than the boring old standard white or grey hospital rooms.

Emma Zijlstra from Hanze University of Applied Sciences and her crew spilled the beans in the open-access journal *PLOS ONE* last week.

Yes, it turns out that hospital designers might want to ditch the dull and embrace the funky.

Evidence suggests that design features, like more daylight or a dash of feng shui, could dial down the stress levels of patients in hospitals.

Zijlstra and her team roped in 558 participants, who had all seen the inside of a hospital before, and let them loose in virtual rooms.

The results were quite amusing. People who wandered into rooms decked out with evidence-based designs felt less jittery and more in control.

Feng shui didn't zap anxiety directly, but it did sprinkle in some good vibes and made the rooms feel more cozy.

The authors reckon that both evidence-based design and feng shui could be the secret sauce for chill hospital vibes.

But, before hospitals start swapping out their blueprints, they're warning that these online findings might not translate to real-life settings.

So, for now, let's just admire the virtual feng shui fountains from a safe distance.

Steroid creams are "safe"

PHARMACISTS can allay safety concerns around the use of topical steroid creams for patients suffering from eczema as today's *ABC News Breakfast* reported on a rare side effect that can worsen the chronic condition.

Eczema Support Australia, the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) have jointly said topical corticosteroids are "safe and effective", in response to news that some individuals can experience topical steroid withdrawal symptoms.

ACD President Dr Adriene Lee said, "topical steroid withdrawal is a very rare reaction".

"Far more commonly what we see, in those who experience a deterioration of their skin after discontinuing topical steroids, is evidence of undertreated eczema or a resurgence of the condition.

"Anyone concerned about using topical steroid creams should discuss this with their pharmacist, GP or dermatologist," Lee added.

Eczema Support Australia's Managing Director Melanie Funk said she was concerned that misunderstandings and a few publicised cases would deter people from using topical steroids, which have been used effectively to treat eczema over the last 50 years.

Dr Anneliese Willems, a GP and RACGP representative, said that addressing steroid concerns was vital, as eczema is a complex and chronic condition that requires a high level of self-management.

"It is essential that patients talk about their concerns relating to steroids, and for GPs and dermatologists to listen, explain the evidence behind these treatments, and tailor care to the individual," Willems concluded. *JG*



Guild Update

Get ready for EOFY!

FOCUSING on pharmacy management and ownership, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia's Pharmacy Business and Career Network supports the improvement and growth of your business performance with insights and advice from a range of industry professionals.

Preparing your pharmacy business for the end of financial year (EOFY) doesn't have to be taxing.

Join us on 19 Jun for a webinar featuring tax and banking experts, Anne Seah from RSM Australia as well as Ben Massey from CommBank Health.

They'll break down the complexities of EOFY preparation, ensuring members have a clear roadmap to manage your pharmacy's tax and accounting obligations efficiently.

Stay ahead of recent industry updates while optimising your pharmacy's performance and compliance with benchmarks.

Gain valuable insights on navigating your banking relationship to support your business goals.

Don't miss this opportunity to streamline your EOFY process and enhance your pharmacy's financial health.

Register **HERE**.

Priceline Shellharbour wins top award

PRICELINE Pharmacy's top achievers for 2024 were recognised last Fri, with Priceline Pharmacy Shellharbour, NSW (**pictured**) claiming the coveted title of Store of the Year.

Furthermore, the same store took out the Sisterhood Award, symbolising its commitment to fostering a sense of community among its customers and staff.

The awards were given out at the group's annual national conference, attended by over 500 delegates on the Gold Coast.

Other winners included Sharyn Gordon of Priceline Pharmacy Garden City, Qld, who was named the Retail Manager of the Year.

The Pharmacist of the Year award went to Aimee Rose from Priceline Pharmacy Glenorchy, Tas.



Annie Koch from Priceline Pharmacy Tanunda, SA, was lauded as the Beauty Advisor of the Year.

Priceline Pharmacy Firlie, SA, secured the Online Achievement Award for digital excellence.

The Sales Achievement Award went to Priceline Pharmacy Cabramatta, NSW, while Priceline Pharmacy Parkhurst, Qld, received the Customer Care prize.

Priceline Pharmacy Yass, NSW, won the Sister Club Award.



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For over 60 years, Guild Insurance has supported Australia's pharmacy profession through everything you do. Together with the PGA and PDL, we've worked hard to ensure our policies protect and reflect pharmacists' real-life needs.

Now that the PGA-driven scope of practice changes are live, we understand that, yet again, the real-life needs of pharmacists have changed, but our support hasn't. All Guild customers who participate in an approved scope of practice pilot can do so with confidence, knowing their insurance policy will still protect them.

What's a scope of practice pilot?

Scope of practice pilots will continue to evolve as state and federal governments and their agencies continue to work with our profession. In Queensland right now, community pharmacists who have undertaken 12 months of additional training can offer additional services to patients for a number of conditions, including school sores, shingles, mild psoriasis, wound management, swimmer's ear, weight loss management and hypertension, among others. It is these types of programs that Guild has committed to support through the addition of an additional benefit.

An additional benefit for Guild customers.

To provide cover certainty, the policy wording we apply to all Guild Pharmacy Business policies includes an additional benefit for 'Scope of Practice Pilots'. If you're already insured with Guild, this benefit is automatically applied. If you are not with Guild, you should ask your insurer if they can say the same.

If you'd like to find out more about Guild's exclusive support of pharmacy's scope of practice pilots, visit guildinsurance.com.au/pilot or if you'd like to be protected by a policy that is tailor made for Australian pharmacists, call a Guild insurance specialist on **1800 810 213**.

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