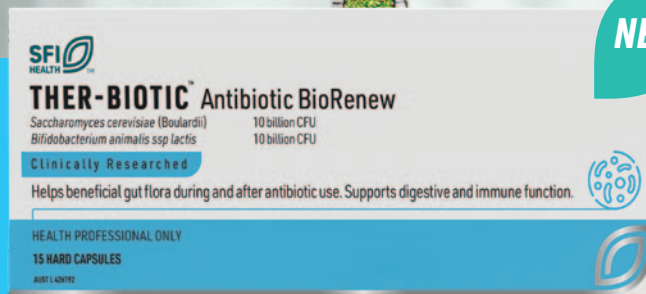




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Even a short 5-day course of antibiotics can alter the makeup of the bacterial species in the gut! Antibiotics kill both beneficial or 'friendly' bacteria along with pathogenic bacteria, thus reducing the gut's microbial diversity and affecting digestive health. This can lead to dysbiosis and diarrhoea in patients.²⁻³

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Always read the label and follow the directions for use.

1. Anthony WE et al. Cell Rep 2022;39(2):110649. 2. Patangia DV et al. Microbiologyopen 2022;11(1):e1260. 3. Goodman C et al. BMJ Open 2021;11(8):e043054. 4. Merenstein D et al. Nutrients 2021;13(8):2814. 5. Szajewska H, Kołodziej M. Aliment Pharmacol Ther 2015;42(7):793-801. 6. Can M et al. Med Sci Monit 2006 Apr;12(4):P119-22.



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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a cover wrap from **SFI Health**, and full pages from:

- G&M Australian Cosmetics
- Wizard Pharmacy

Healthy gut aid

SFI Health's Ther-Biotic contains probiotic strains that help maintain good gut flora during and after antibiotic use. See more on the **cover page**.

Discount offer on

AUSTRALIAN Creams by G&M Cosmetics is offering a 10% discount on new pharmacy orders. Learn more on **page four**.

Qld ownership bill passed

IN A win for community pharmacy, the Queensland's Pharmacy Business Ownership Bill was successfully passed by the state's Parliament on Fri.

Chris Owen (**pictured**), President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland branch, emphasised the collaborative efforts of the Queensland Government, Opposition, crossbench, and Guild members in achieving this significant milestone.

"I'd like to congratulate the government and the Parliament for passing this legislation," said Owen.

He highlighted the significance of the new bill in upholding the integrity of pharmacy business ownership laws through the establishment of a regulatory council to oversee compliance with the new Act (**PD 27 Feb**).

"This Bill is the culmination of an incredible amount of work between Guild members, the government, and members of the Opposition," stated Owen.

"They should all be very pleased at this fantastic outcome."

Owen underscored the importance of the Bill in ensuring transparency surrounding pharmacy business ownership,



aligning Queensland with other states and territories.

"This bill will safeguard the ownership of community pharmacies in Queensland to ensure pharmacies remain in the hands of pharmacists and not in multinational companies," affirmed Owen.

Furthermore, he mentioned the positive impact of the legislation on Queensland patients and local community pharmacy services, stating, "the passage of this legislation is a win for Queensland patients and will ensure local community members are front and centre in community pharmacy". *JG*

New MSAC Chair

KIDNEY disease research expert Prof Jonathan Craig of Flinders University was appointed Chair of the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) last week.

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler confirmed Craig's appointment for a four-year period, starting on 01 Apr.

Craig also holds advisory roles on the National Health and Medical Research Council and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee.

Join the network

WIZARD is seeking to expand its network by offering improved returns and lifestyle to potential new owners. See more on the **back page**.



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GPs head to Canberra for more funding

TO MAKE the case for a health system overhaul, general practitioners (GPs) from across the nation are coming to Canberra this week.

As part of the delegation supported by Australia's peak doctors' body, the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP), some 20 GPs will meet with various ministers, senators and members of Parliament.

RACGP President Dr Nicole Higgins (**pictured**) said Australia's political leaders need to hear from GPs on the frontline.

"We are grappling with a critical shortage of health workers such as nurses, pharmacists, psychiatrists, GPs and more.

"The RACGP has brought a delegation of GPs from across



Australia to Canberra so political leaders can hear about the challenges, and solutions from those caring for patients every day on the frontline," said Higgins.

She mentioned that with people increasingly needing more complex and ongoing care, the body is calling on more funding and reform in the next Budget to boost the GP workforce help improve affordable care for all.



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First Nations grant open

THE Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) Faye McMillan Conference Grant has commenced for the second consecutive year, in collaboration with Care Pharmaceuticals and Hydralyte.

Named after the esteemed First Nations pharmacist, the grant is specifically tailored for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pharmacists and interns.

The PSA grant will support attendance at the upcoming PSA National Conference, covering full conference registration, travel, and accommodation.

McMillan, a pioneer in the field, holds the distinction of being the first Indigenous Australian to obtain a western degree in pharmacy.

Her remarkable contributions to healthcare, education, and community engagement have earned her widespread recognition, including the PSA Pharmacist of the Year award in 2022 and the NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year title in 2019.

She is also a 2023/24 Harkness Fellow and a founding member of Indigenous Allied Health Australia.

McMillan's advocacy for Indigenous healthcare and inclusivity within the pharmacy profession aligns with the grant's objective of promoting pathways for First Nations pharmacists.

"While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples comprise 3.8% of Australia's total population, the current proportion of registered pharmacists who identify as such is much lower at just 0.3%," said PSA CEO Adj A/Prof Steve Morris.

"This grant opportunity looks to support the existing pharmacist workforce who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," added Morris.

Care Pharmaceuticals and Hydralyte echoed this sentiment, highlighting the ongoing need to increase workforce participation.

To submit an expression of interest for the grant [CLICK HERE](#). JG

All smiles for jabs for jellybeans drive

IN A bid to promote flu vaccinations in community pharmacies, the Pharmacy Guild's NSW Branch provided complimentary vaccines last week to all state parliamentarians, setting up a clinic within the NSW Parliament House.

A total of 137 vaccinations were administered, with participants receiving packets of Glucojel jellybeans as a token of appreciation.

Guild's NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, expressed satisfaction with the turnout, stating "it's all about helping spread the message to their communities that vaccination is a small, important thing we can do to keep each other safe from the flu".

Heffernan urged patients to prioritise vaccination, emphasising its crucial role in preventing severe flu infections.

The initiative aimed to underscore the significance of



flu vaccinations in safeguarding public health.

With the previous flu season in 2023 witnessing over 100,000 reported cases in NSW alone, and emergency departments grappling with a surge of almost 1,200 flu-related admissions per week at its peak, the importance of vaccinations cannot be overstated, added the Guild.

Pictured: NSW Health Minister Ryan Park flanked by Pharmacy Guild's National Councillor Catherine Bronger, and NSW President Heffernan.



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Dispensary Corner

HELENE Loos, a scent expert from Friedrich-Alexander University in Germany, wanted to understand why teenagers smell different from babies.

She and her team collected sweat samples from babies and teenagers, then studied them in a lab.

They found that babies smell sweet, like citrus and soap.

But teenagers?

Well, they have a different smell - kind of sharp and funky, like grass or cheese.

But fear not, for the culprit behind this aromatic upheaval is none other than the sebaceous glands, rising from their slumber during puberty to wreak havoc on unsuspecting nostrils.

As Ilona Croy, one of the scent sleuths, puts it, "it's all about fostering independence".

"Smelling less sweet to parents helps teens carve out their own path," revealed Croy.

It's like a signal that they're growing up and finding their own way in the world.

While the study published in *Communications Chemistry* tells us a lot about why teenagers smell the way they do, experts say there's still more to learn.

So until then, let's just hold our noses and hope for a fragrant future.



Opioid use has dropped

A UNSW Sydney big health data study out today showed that tightened PBS restrictions has reduced all prescription opioid use in Australia.

Published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, this is the first independent study released on prescription opioid use following the PBS changes after its own evaluation published last year.

"Opioid use subsidised through the PBS declined as a result of all these changes, and that likely represents a true decline in opioid use," said study co-senior author Dr Benjamin Daniels, a Senior Research Fellow and Cancer Institute NSW Early Career Fellow from UNSW's Medicines Intelligence Research Program.

"Our study indicated that some people chose to access opioids using unsubsidised private prescriptions, meaning they weren't bound by the new PBS rules, but this wasn't extensive."

The UNSW researchers examined the changes in opioid supply in the two years before and one year after the policy change, using a standard

metric, oral morphine equivalent milligrams (OMEs), that accounts for opioid strength.

Different opioid medicines contain different potency levels for example, the opioid codeine has lower OMEs compared to stronger PBS opioids like oxycodone or fentanyl.

"We found an overall 4% decline in OMEs dispensed through the PBS in the year after the policy changes," said Dr Daniels.

"On face value this doesn't sound like a big change, but it equates to around 9,000 20 tablet packets of 30mg combined codeine-paracetamol formulations, or 4,000 fewer 20 capsule packets of 50mg tramadol dispensed annually."

Instant release formulations were the main contributors to this decrease, stated UNSW.

The one exception was the newest opioid medicine, tapentadol which has increased.

Tapentadol was listed on the PBS in 2014 and it's common for the use of newer medicines to increase until the market has matured, the researchers explained. *JG*

New framework to help eradicate TB

ON WORLD Tuberculosis Day yesterday, a team of 64 experts announced a new framework to change the previous approach to defining tuberculosis (TB), which they say is limiting progress to eradicate the disease.

Published in the *The Lancet Respiratory Medicine*, the framework aims to replace the approach of the last half century of defining TB as either active (i.e. causing illness and potentially infectious to others) or latent (sufferers are infected with the bacterium, but are well

and not contagious).

"One key finding in the consensus is moving the disease threshold and acknowledging that disease does not just start with symptoms or transmission, but when tissue is damaged," said the paper's co-lead author Dr Anna Coussens.

"In time we hope our framework can contribute to TB elimination by leading to improved early diagnosis and treatment, optimising patient outcomes and minimising transmission," she added.

AMA pushes bill

THE Australian Medical Association (AMA) has lauded the introduction of draft laws into Parliament last week aimed at combatting the "perilous and escalating trend of vaping" while safeguarding younger generations.

AMA President Prof Steve Robson has called on all MPs to throw their weight behind the legislation, which encompasses a ban on the domestic manufacture, supply, advertising, and commercial possession of non-therapeutic vape products.

"The significant rise of vapes in recent years is a catastrophic health concern, with children becoming addicted to nicotine and many young Australians moving on to cigarettes after vaping," said Robson, stressing the urgency of addressing this national health crisis.

He urged the government to stand firm in its resolve, stating, "the Federal Government should make absolutely no apology with their tough but necessary legislation to be introduced, and we call on the Parliament to support these changes".

Robson condemned the tactics employed by big tobacco companies remarking, "this is marketing sleight of hand at its absolute worst, and these shady tobacco companies won't stop unless stringent legislation is put in place to prevent vaping from escalating into the next cigarette and smoking crisis".

AMA said evidence indicates that young people who vape are three times more likely to transition to smoking.

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