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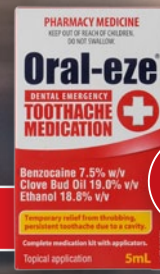


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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, a cover wrap from BioCeuticals, plus full pages from:

- Nova Pharmaceuticals
- go2 dentagenie

Joint pain reliever

BIOCEUTICALS Ultra Muscleze + Pain Relief relieves mild joint and soreness and contains magnesium for improved muscle health.

See more on the **cover page**.

Savings on Restin

NOVA Pharmaceuticals is offering a discount on its Restin Melatonin 2mg Modified Release Tablets for a limited time.

Learn more on **page three**.

Convenient aid

THE go2 dentagenie Braces Flosser is the newest addition to the Flosspyx family, and specifically designed for customers to use while wearing braces.

Read more on the **back page**.

FIP sets new theme

THE International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) announced yesterday that the theme for the World Pharmacists Day on 25 Sep will be 'Pharmacists: Meeting global health needs'.

The FIP-led campaign to raise awareness is now in its 14th year.

ACCHOs left out of Qld ownership bill

THE Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC) has expressed disappointment over the new pharmacy ownership legislation in the state, calling the bill "anti-competitive", and "inequitable", (**PD** 25 Mar).

QAIHC said the legislation passed last week excludes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health organisations (ACCHOs) from owning pharmacies.

According to QAIHC Public Health Medical Director, A/Prof Sophia Couzos (**pictured**), the laws are seen as "anti-competitive, inequitable, and restricts options for proven successful models of care desperately needed" to support the provision of culturally appropriate, comprehensive health care to Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"It's incredibly disappointing and you have to ask why this innovation was prevented from happening," Couzos told **Pharmacy Daily**.

"There aren't that many ACCHOs



and they are hardly a threat or a challenge to community pharmacy, so unfortunately this disparity will continue," she commented.

Despite recommendations from QAIHC, AMA Queensland, the RACGP, the Productivity Commission, and various community groups to oppose the legislation, it was passed, she added prioritising the interests of private pharmacy owners over the healthcare needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The decision, A/Prof Couzos argues, contradicts the state's commitments under the National Closing the Gap Agreement and the National Medicines Policy, which aim to ensure equitable access to

culturally safe medicines.

The legislation allows ACCHOs to manage all aspects of a collaborative health service except the pharmacy, which can only be owned by pharmacists or their close relatives, she explained.

"This restriction undermines the ability of Indigenous medical services to offer community-centric pharmacy care, contrasting sharply with the scale at which corporate entities operate across Australia."

Highlighting the success of ACCHO-run pharmacies in providing localised, culturally appropriate care, Couzos criticised the government's approach as a missed opportunity to enhance Indigenous access to medicines, which remains significantly lower than that of non-Indigenous Australians in areas without ACCHO pharmacies.

The proposal to include only one Indigenous representative in the new Queensland Pharmacy Business Ownership Council has also been met with scepticism. *JG*

RSV vax for infants

WITH Qld and NSW now joining WA in supplying the RSV immunisation, Beyfortus (nirsevimab) to babies, experts want a national program to protect infants from RSV-related lung infections.

The Immunisation Foundation of Australia has backed calls for a national program such as the National Immunisation Program to include access to the vaccine.

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Dispensary Corner

IT APPEARS that certain hair-straightening treatments have taken a detour from their intended cosmetic effects, embarking instead on a nefarious path towards acute kidney injury.

Yes, you read that correctly; a day at the salon could potentially end with a rather unexpected hospital souvenir.

A case that stands out recently involved a 26-year-old woman from Tunisia with no prior known health issues.

Her story unfolds like a medical mystery novel, with not one, not two, but three separate episodes of acute kidney injury, each coinciding with her visits to the salon for a hair-straightening treatment.

Symptoms included the classic unwanted spa package of vomiting, diarrhoea, fever, and back pain.

Investigations into these peculiar cases have pointed fingers at a likely suspect - glyoxylic acid.

Unlike its cousin glycolic acid, which enjoys a relatively tame reputation in the world of cosmetics, glyoxylic acid seems to have gone rogue, potentially metabolising into something much more sinister once it permeates the scalp.

So, the next time a customer is considering that sleek, straight hairstyle, remind them that it might just be safer to embrace the frizz.



Spontan trial analysis on

LTR Pharma Limited has now moved into the data analysis stage of its clinical trial for Spontan, a nasal spray aimed at treating erectile dysfunction (ED).

The new phase follows the completion of recruitment and dosing in the trial, testing an approach that offers a quick remedy for ED symptoms, with effects starting within 10 minutes of application (**PD 20 Feb**).

The study compares the bioavailability of Spontan with that of orally taken Vardenafil, a recognised PDE5 inhibitor, to highlight the advantages of the product's nasal delivery.

With data analysis underway, results are anticipated by mid-2024, setting the stage for discussions with regulatory bodies, and a potential market introduction via Australia's early access scheme.

Lee Rodne, Chairman of LTR Pharma, shared his enthusiasm about entering this data analysis phase, thanking participants and



partners for their roles in the study.

"We believe Spontan represents a large paradigm shift in the treatment for ED and is a disruptor to the global blockbuster PDE5 (Viagra, etc) market," said Rodne.

"We are the first and only nasal spray coming to market for the treatment of ED and are extremely excited to bring this key innovation to men worldwide."

The findings will play a vital role in the pre-submission meetings with the US FDA and the introduction of Spontan into the market through Australia's early access scheme. *JG*

Biomarker to detect sleep deprivation

MONASH University's newly developed blood test boasts a 99.2% accuracy in detecting whether someone has been awake for 18 to 24 hours.

Detailed in *Science Advances*, the research employs a unique biomarker that utilises a combination of indicators present in blood samples.

These indicators were able to reliably identify sleep deprivation in healthy volunteers under strict laboratory conditions.

With sleep-related fatigue being a contributing factor in approximately 20% of road accidents in Australia, this test has the potential to change how

authorities and employers assess fatigue, and enhance safety measures across various sectors, including for shift workers.

Prof Clare Anderson, formerly of Monash University and now at the University of Birmingham, who led the research, highlighted the test's potential in improving the management of health and safety risks associated with insufficient sleep.

She drew attention to the dangers of driving after 24 hours without sleep, which could impair driving ability as significantly as having a blood alcohol concentration double Australia's legal limit.



Guild Update

Next phase in 8CPA

THE next phase of negotiations has begun on the 8th Community Pharmacy Agreement (8CPA).

It follows last fortnight's breakthrough Heads of Agreement between the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Commonwealth Government and the Department of Health on the 8CPA, after six months of intense negotiations.

The new round of negotiations for the 8CPA will finalise the finer details of the agreement before it will be signed.

Pharmacy Guild National President Professor Trent Twomey told attendees at the recent APP conference that once the agreement is signed it will be made public.

"Once the details are settled, we'll be travelling around the country via our State of the Industry Roadshows," Professor Twomey said.

"We will explain to members and industry what's part of the agreement, and the bright future ahead for community pharmacy," he added.

Professor Twomey acknowledged that Guild members will have questions about how the 8CPA will affect their pharmacy and patients.

"Your Guild has always been fully committed to - in the Health Minister's words - signing a CPA that delivers more affordable medicines for patients, while ensuring a vibrant and growing community pharmacy industry," he said.

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The full PI is available from Nova Pharmaceuticals Australasia on request.

Please review the full PI before recommending.

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