

## Today's issue of PD

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

## Limited-time offer

CHEMSAVE is highlighting its limited-time special offer, which provides value for a low monthly membership fee. See more on the back page.

## Jemperli on PBS

GSK Australia's Jemperli - a PD-1 immunotherapy - is now the only TGA-indicated and PBS-reimbursed treatment for patients with primary advanced or recurrent mismatch repair deficiency endometrial cancer.

The treatment is in combination with platinum-containing chemotherapy, unless contraindicated or not tolerated, stated GSK.

# Students miss out on prac payments

PEAK pharmacy bodies are calling on the Australian Government to extend the new Commonwealth Prac Payment to pharmacy students, citing the challenges of "placement poverty" in unpaid practical placements.

Pharmacy Daily spoke to Sebastian Harper, Board Director and Treasurer of the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA), who emphasised the severity of the issue.

"During a cost-of-living crisis, pharmacy students are forced to take at times unpaid leave from work to complete mandatory placements," said Harper.

"Combined with the costs of travel, accommodation, and supporting themselves while on placement, the financial burden is astronomical; and in a country like Australia, students shouldn't be struggling to put food on the table."

The Commonwealth Prac Payment, designed to ease the financial burden on students, offers

\$319.50 per week to those studying teaching, nursing, midwifery, or social work.

However, it excludes pharmacy students, who still face significant expenses while completing mandatory clinical placements.

National President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Trent Twomey, welcomed the initiative but called for its extension to the next generation of pharmacists.

"This payment will help many young students across the country, but it's vital that our young pharmacists aren't forgotten," commented Twomey.

"Being excluded means additional pressure is placed on a workforce that is already under significant strain," he added.

NAPSA President Bano Serhan reiterated the urgency of the issue, noting that many students are experiencing extreme financial hardship due to unpaid placements.

"The government has acknowledged that placement

poverty deeply affects students, and this is no different for our members," Serhan said.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) echoed the concerns, with National President A/ Prof Fei Sim urging the Federal Government to revisit the policy and also provide support to pharmacy students.

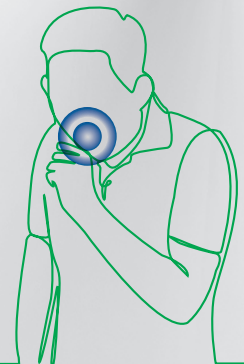
"I see first-hand the pressure unpaid placements put on our students with them forced to give up paid work, struggle to make ends meet, and worryingly, drop out of their degrees altogether."

Funding is also not given to placement sites or pharmacy preceptors to host students.

"Pharmacy students and the profession require support to continue to meet the growing future health needs of Australians, and that must start now," Sim said.

She added students undertaking compulsory unpaid placements, including "all pharmacy students, deserve access to govt support". JG

## DRAW THE LINE... when it comes to Cold and Flu relief



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### Dispensary Corner

**IN A** twist that could only happen in the world of lottery dreams, Oregon man Cheng 'Charlie' Saephan, who has been fighting cancer for eight years, found himself with the ultimate pick-me-up: a slice of the US\$1.3b (A\$1.96b) Powerball jackpot.

"I'm thrilled for my family," he announced, "but with chemotherapy and all, how on earth will I find the time to spend \$422m (A\$637.85m)?"

Saephan is divvying up the cash with his wife Duanpen and buddy Laiza Chao.

Chao, who chipped in US\$100 (A\$151) for the ticket, will pocket 50% of the prize while the Saephans will each snag 25%.

"You don't need to clock in today," Saephan called Chao after the win, "we've just won the lottery that punched us out of the 9-to-5 grind!"

The winning numbers were computer-generated at a Plaid Pantry convenience store, where Saephan snagged a ticket using the Quick Pick option.

Though he insists divine intervention played a role.

Meanwhile, the store's staff are all smiles, too, collecting a US\$100k (A\$151.1k) bonus for selling the winning ticket.

As for Saephan, he's sticking to his plan to live a "normal" life, just with a "dream home" and a mountain of cash.

One thing's for sure: while the odds of winning might be astronomically small, Saephan's chance at living large has grown to lottery-sized proportions.

All that now remains is how to spend the millions.

## AFT offering to treat scars

AFT Pharmaceuticals is set to develop a topical treatment for keloid and hypertrophic scarring in partnership with NZ's Massey Ventures, the commercialisation arm of Massey University, and the Gillies McIndoe Research Institute.

Announced recently on the ASX, the collaboration extends a 2022 partnership that was focused on developing treatment for strawberry birthmarks in children.

Keloid scars, which can arise from any injury, often extend beyond the original wound, causing discomfort.

The new partnership aims to create the 'first effective topical solution' for this condition.

AFT Managing Director and CEO Hartley Atkinson highlighted the importance of the initiative, saying, "we are delighted to extend our collaboration, and this scar tissue

program offers an attractive global commercial opportunity while helping patients with disfiguring keloid scars."

The program's initial phase will focus on finalising ingredients for the treatment, followed by a comprehensive development process that includes manufacturing, toxicology work, and clinical trials.

Dr Clint Gray, Director of the Gillies McIndoe Research Institute, added, "current treatment options for keloid and hypertrophic scarring are limited and can be invasive, leading to further scarring".

"Our topical treatment aims to prevent the excessive collagen buildup that causes these scars. "A topical solution offers a less invasive option and the convenience of self-application." JG

### Guild Update

#### Nominate your favourite pharmacist!

**THE** Guild is proud to sponsor the 2024 Australian Patients Association's (APA) Outstanding Community Pharmacist Award.

This award recognises and rewards outstanding performance in the Australian healthcare industry.

Nominations are called for the APA's annual Health Industry Awards, including for the Outstanding Community Pharmacist award.

Additionally, Outstanding Hospital, Outstanding Patient Innovation and Outstanding Patient Carer, amongst other awards will be presented.

General Manager of the APA, Bharati Eranki, said community pharmacists are pivotal in providing primary care to Australians, and this role is highlighted by the work they do daily.

"Patients and colleagues nominating community pharmacists is a way of recognising the time, effort and contribution each of them makes to people's day-to-day health and quality of life."

Nominations are open to members of the general public, including patients and their families, as well as healthcare professionals.

For more info or to nominate, a deserving pharmacist visit: [patients.org.au/awards-night-nomination](http://patients.org.au/awards-night-nomination).

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