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Today's issue of PD

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

- Chemsave
- Guild Insurance

Limited-time offer

CHEMSAVE is highlighting its limited-time special offer, which provides value for a low monthly membership fee.

See more on **page four**.

Insurance for scope

FOR 60 years, Guild Insurance has protected pharmacists' real-life needs and continues to support them as scope of practice increases.

See more on the **back page**.

New cancer centre

THE University of NSW, Sydney, and Cancer Council NSW have partnered in a 10-year agreement to create the Australian Research Centre for Cancer Survivorship.

With a combined investment of \$40 million, the centre aims to enhance care and wellbeing for cancer survivors.

It will set benchmarks in practice, services, and policy for survivorship across NSW, offering a model for national and international adaptation.

The centre will also expand capabilities in cancer research, education, and advocacy.

NAPSA pushes for Prac Payments

IN AN effort to push for Prac Payments, the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA) is dispatching letters to every Member of Parliament in the House of Representatives ahead of tomorrow's Federal Budget.

The peak body wants the government to financially support pharmacy and other allied health students during their mandatory placements (**PD 07 May**).

NAPSA, an organisation of 19 university associations spanning all states and territories, has seen its branches unite this week in a coordinated effort to urge local MPs to represent pharmacy students, and advocate for their interests within their party groups before the Budget's finalisation.

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily*

Sebastian Harper, the Board Director and Treasurer of NAPSA, expressed collective sentiment, said, "on Tue, we will be disappointed if the government hasn't listened to the widespread call for extending the Commonwealth Prac Payment".

"This is a concern echoed not only by our members, but by other leading organisations in the pharmacy sector," said Harper.

"There are thousands of pharmacy students in Australia, and thousands more from the allied health degrees that we are also supporting for inclusion in the Commonwealth Prac Payment, as placements cost a lot in unpaid leave, travel, accommodation and living costs."

Harper further emphasised

the association's unwavering commitment to advocacy.

"NAPSA, both nationally and at the local level, will continue to advocate for change if the Budget fails to alleviate the financial strain on pharmacy students and many of our peers in allied health," he said. *JG*

New sepsis drug shows promise in trials

A NEW drug could help prevent sepsis-related organ failure and death by restoring the health of blood vessels, according to researchers from the University of Queensland (UQ) and the Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH).

Dr Mark Coulthard, from UQ and the QCH's Paediatric Intensive Care Unit, revealed that the first-in-class drug had been successfully tested on mice, with promising results also seen in pre-clinical testing using human blood samples.

Prof Trent Woodruff, from UQ's School of Biomedical Sciences, said that the new approach

tackled an underlying cause of organ failure, unlike previous attempts that focused mainly on the immune response.

Despite significant investment and over 100 clinical trials, sepsis remains challenging to treat, earning it the nickname 'graveyard for the drug companies', noted Prof Woodruff.

Dr Coulthard expressed optimism, citing changes in biomarkers similar to mouse studies in blood samples from 91 hospitalised children, suggesting the drug's potential effectiveness in humans.

He added more testing in other animal models is needed.

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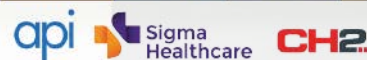
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CKD drug on PBS

CSL Seqirus Korsuva (difelikefalin) is now accessible via the PBS for adults experiencing moderate-to-severe pruritus associated with chronic kidney disease (CKD).

Korsuva aims to alleviate the intense itching that particularly affects haemodialysis patients.

CSL stated the itching is related to CKD, a condition where normal kidney function declines, often impacting quality of life, including sleep disturbances, depression, and poorer overall health.

Studies suggest over two-thirds of haemodialysis patients endure this discomfort, with significant implications for their treatment compliance and survival rates.

With over 12,000 Australians living with CKD currently undergoing haemodialysis, the burden of associated conditions remains high.

Antibodies to predict peanut allergies

NEW research has revealed how and when children with peanut allergies are likely to grow out of them, thanks to changes in antibody levels over time.

According to the study led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), a third of kids with peanut allergies will outgrow them by the age of 10, although most will do so by the age of six.

This is the first time antibodies were used as biomarkers to help identify peanut allergies.

Armed with the new information, clinicians will be able to identify the kids likely to experience an ongoing peanut allergy, ensuring they receive appropriate care.

"Children allergic to peanuts who have decreasing antibody markers may benefit from additional visits with their allergist to determine the right time for follow-up food challenges to confirm if their peanut allergy has resolved," said MCRI researcher Kayla Parker.



"Those with high or increasing levels of these biomarkers are less likely to spontaneously outgrow their peanut allergy and could be prioritised for potential early treatment options if available."

MCRI also recently released another survey which found 40% of primary school-aged children are affected by allergies - and a third have multiple allergies.

"Understanding how allergy prevalence varies across the school years has important implications

on informing the burden of disease, allocating healthcare resources and improving school and workforce planning," said MCRI A/Prof Rachel Peters.

It also revealed that 45% of infants with food allergies will continue experiencing symptoms to age 10.

Between the ages of six and 10, 13% have asthma, although eczema rates have decreased from 15 to 13%, meanwhile, hayfever cases rose from 15 to 25%. *JHM*



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Dispensary Corner

IN THE realm of science, where white lab coats and serious faces reign supreme, there was a discovery that turned heads and raised eyebrows.

It all began with a poisonous toad and some researchers keen to find new treatments for depression and anxiety.

Published in *Nature*, the study team, led by Daniel Wacker, embarked on a mission to understand how a compound found in the venom of the Colorado River toad could potentially help.

Their focus was serotonin receptors, particularly 5-HT_{1A}, known to play a big role in mood regulation.

Through meticulous research and countless experiments on mice, they managed to modify this compound, 5-MeO-DMT, in the hopes of retaining its therapeutic benefits without the psychedelic side effects.

Their efforts paid off when they discovered that the modified compound showed promise in alleviating symptoms of depression in mice, comparable to existing treatments but without the mind-altering effects.

These findings shed light on the potential of psychedelics in mental health treatment and paved the way for further exploration in the field.

Though the journey was filled with challenges and uncertainties, Wacker and his team proved that even the most unconventional sources can hold the key to unlocking new possibilities in medicine.

CDU granted \$24.5m for med school

CHARLES Darwin University (CDU) will now establish a medical school to help address the Northern Territory's increasing demand for doctors, thanks to a \$24.5 million grant from the Federal Government.

The funding will allow the university to operate the CDU Menzies Medical Program from 2026, with 40 Commonwealth supported medical places.

The government will also help support capital, establishment, and recurrent costs.

"We thank the Federal Government for recognising and affirming the commitment of Charles Darwin University and the Menzies School of Health Research to improving the health of Territorians, and advancing their lives," CDU Acting Vice-Chancellor



Professor Reuben Bolt said.

"The Northern Territory community has been at the forefront of our efforts to develop this program.

"For CDU, which is of and for the Northern Territory, it is a

privilege to know that we will soon be able to educate and train homegrown doctors who will provide an invaluable service to the community that we know will make a difference," he added.

Member for Solomon, Luke Gosling, pointed out that "training our own means that we'll have doctors with a more nuanced understanding of the local challenges and landscape".

"Providing culturally and clinically relevant care will support our continued efforts to get better health outcomes for Aboriginal people and all Territorians.

Gosling added, "we've got the talent here - this investment is about making sure they have the best resources and training to get them qualified and out into the local community". JM

NZ investigation

THREE pharmacies on New Zealand's South Island are under investigation for allegedly giving unnecessary immunisations last week.

According to *NZ Herald*, Pharmacy Xtra in Christchurch, Unichem Wigram Pharmacy, and Unichem Redwoodtown Pharmacy have temporarily stopped providing vaccinations, following extensive concerns about the service provided.

The pharmacies are being scrutinised over the alleged incorrect input of immunisation data, with reports also suggesting that elderly patients who received influenza vaccinations at Unichem Wigram were also given shots for children.

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For over 60 years, Guild Insurance has supported Australia's pharmacy profession through everything you do. Together with the PGA, 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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