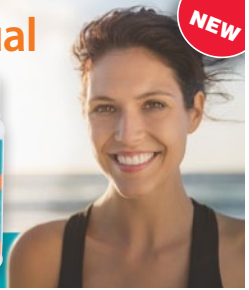


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Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus full pages from:

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- Glucojel
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WHETHER it's catalogue pre-order rebates, dispensary assistance subscriptions or bonus stock, aligning with Chemsave delivers bottom-line benefits - learn more about a special offer on **page four**.

Glucojel Glucojoy

GLUCOJEL is running a major campaign for a \$10,000 giveaway, so stock your shelves well with the popular product to attract more customers instore, and make sure your shelves are ready.

More details on **page five**.

\$44k for African health

INDEPENDENT Pharmacies of Australia (IPA) has announced an additional \$44,000 donation to its ongoing charity partner, Fullife Foundation, as part of their mission to help improve health and wellbeing outcomes in underserved communities across the world.

The Fullife Foundation was founded by independent pharmacy owner Ian Shanks and the IPA is its largest donor.

The Foundation has made transformative contributions across Africa, including bringing clean water to over 12,000 people and launching life-changing initiatives focused on empowering women with disabilities in Southern Africa to start businesses.

These programs are poised to benefit an estimated 50,000 people over the next decade.

One of the Foundation's most recent projects is an immunisation campaign targeting communities with low vaccination rates.

Supported by quarterly visits from



Australian nurses, the initiative supplies vaccines for diseases like whooping cough and measles, protecting around 1,000 people at each visit.

IPA is also allocating funds to provide locally-made birthing kits, which have reduced maternal mortality rates by up to 80%.

"Through Ian's vision and our members' ongoing generosity, the Foundation is truly making a tangible impact on the ground in Africa," IPA Managing Director Steven Kastrinakis said. *KB*

Phenergan ban for kids under six

THE TGA has issued a safety alert stating that the oral antihistamine promethazine hydrochloride, sold as Phenergan and other generic brands, should not be given to children under six years of age.

Sanofi-Aventis Healthcare has updated its PI and CMI documents to include risks of psychiatric and central nervous system effects.

Other brands are also required to update their documentation and labelling.

Work with Wizard

WIZARD Pharmacy is on the lookout for the best pharmacy leaders and emerging talent to build their careers within its network in Darwin.

Competitive salary packages are on offer to the right candidates - info on **page six**.

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*Peter RU and Rocjarrz-Barthauer U. Br J Dermatol 1995;132(3)441-5. Department of Dermatology, University of Munich, Germany. Janssen Research Foundation.



New directors for cannabis board

THE merger of the Medicinal Cannabis Industry Association (MCIA) and the Emerging Therapeutics Association of Australia (ETAA) is now officially complete, bringing with it several new members to the MCIA Board.

These include Ean Alexander (CEO, Altum), Matt Cantelo (CEO, Australian Natural Therapeutics Group) and Geoff Cockerill (incoming CEO, Vitura).

Meanwhile, Chair and Director Peter Koetsier stepped down in his role at the latest Annual General Meeting.

A new Chair will be elected at the next Board meeting.

“Both Associations have made fantastic progress advancing the industry in their own right,” said ETAA Chair Guy Headley when the merger was first announced in Jul this year.

“Consolidating our strengths and memberships would provide a much stronger voice for industry and a much clearer voice to stakeholders.

“On behalf of ETAA members, we are excited for what this opportunity presents for the future and further building our membership base on a strong foundation,” he said.

Koetsier echoed Headley’s sentiments, noting the evolution of the industry and the opportunities and challenges it now faces as it looks to grow, manufacture and supply quality products.

Teaming up for the planet



COLLABORATIONS for planetary health was the theme of this year’s APC Sansom Lecture.

Speaking at the National Film and Sound Archives in Canberra earlier this week, the University of Melbourne’s Professor Tina Brock explored how health professionals can work across disciplines to address the challenges of planetary health.

Titled ‘Burning down silos: Collaborations for planetary health’, Professor Brock’s lecture considered the environmental impacts of the healthcare and the pharmaceutical industries.

“If healthcare was a country, it would be fifth largest emitter of greenhouses gasses in the world,” she told the audience.

“If you look at what’s happening in healthcare, it would be the equivalent of 514 coal burning factories running non-stop.

“I think if you read in the paper the news about a coal burning factory, you would be alarmed, and yet every day in the jobs that we do, we are contributing to that and this occurs for pharmacy all across the whole lifecycle –

everything from chemistry, how we are discovering and manufacturing drugs, to how we use drugs.”

Professor Brock expressed admiration and hope in the future generations, and how they have inspired her and her colleagues.

Together with people from Australia, the US, Canada and the UK, Professor Brock was involved with RX for Climate.

“This is a grassroots alliance, a loose collective of people who are learning about this and sharing what they learned freely, under a Creative Commons licence.

“This was absolutely being led by these passionate early career pharmacists, who were amazing.”

She also talked about the Planetary Health Report Card, an initiative that involves not just pharmacy students, but those from medicine, nursing, dentistry and physiotherapy.

“These students are evaluating their campuses, their programs, and their practices, and they’re giving us a rating,” she said.

“I love it because they are creating the future that they want to see.” *KB*

Hospital charges

PATIENTS using 38 hospitals owned by Healthscope will be charged for day and overnight services from early next year, the company has announced.

The move comes a few months after the company signed legally binding deals with more than 50% of Australia’s health insurance market providers, with the company now exercising its 90-day termination notices.

Healthscope is Australia’s second-largest private hospital group and is owned by US private equity firm Brookfield, which has more than \$1 trillion worth of assets globally.

The company said its decision was prompted by legal action brought by one fund trying to prevent it from charging members hospital fees of up to \$100 for overnight services.

Private Healthcare Australia CEO, Dr Rachel David, described the move as an “unethical new low”.

“This is another unethical tactic from a \$1 trillion North American private equity firm that appears intent on holding health fund members hostage, while also trying to bully health funds into paying them more so they can increase their profits,” Dr David said.

If Healthscope follows through with its contract termination threat, patients could be charged thousands to receive care, with Dr David urging health practitioners to suggest alternative options.



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Dispensary Corner

BRITISH bakery brand Greggs has something of a cult following in the UK and among Brits around the world - for some, it's even a reason to go back for a visit.

And anybody who has been to the UK can testify as to just how prolific the Greggs brand is - there's one, and sometimes more, on nearly every street.

As a bakery brand however, it's not something a pharmacist would recommend.

However, one UK man may have a solution to that.

According to a report in *The Sun*, Bradley Whalen-Griffiths set off on a nearly six-hour run around his home city of Newcastle in the UK north-east, stopping at each of the city's 29 Greggs outlets for one of their delectable sausage rolls.

From an exercise point of view, Whalen-Griffiths' 26-mile run was highly positive, however financially, he also spent more than \$70 on his day out.

Each sausage roll contained 331 calories, meaning his carb-loading adventure saw him take on more than 9,600 calories, or four times the recommended daily limit.

"I started to struggle in the city centre as there are so many Greggs close to one another - I was eating and running, eating and running," he said.

The challenge came as part of a wider training regime for the Lakeland Trails ultra-marathon.

"I have to get used to eating while running, although I don't think you're supposed to eat sausage rolls."

No dialysis by 2050 plan

KIDNEY Health Australia says it envisages a future where sufferers of kidney disease and failure will not be burdened with the rigours associated with dialysis treatment.

The organisation's 'End dialysis by 2050' campaign calls on the Federal Government, healthcare providers and the community to subscribe to its ambition and liberate sufferers from mental health symptoms such as depression that can develop from regular dialysis routines.

"Dialysis as a treatment is invasive, time-consuming, and has devastating impacts on people and their families," said Kidney Health Australia CEO, Chris Forbes.

"We are pushing for a revolution in kidney disease treatment and support, aiming to give people back their time and their lives.

"Our vision is to bring an end to the burden of dialysis and leverage new and existing innovations."

Forbes called for a united approach to the problem, which is being exacerbated by available dialysis units reaching capacity and demand continuing to rise.

The campaign centres around three key areas - early detection to diagnose kidney disease; innovation through research and industry partnerships to develop new treatments; and increasing living kidney transplants to reduce reliance on dialysis.

Through these measures, Forbes said Australia's dependence on dialysis can end by 2050.

"While other technologies and treatments have advanced enormously, dialysis has barely evolved in decades, and that's unacceptable," he added.

Kidney Health Australia's push comes amid worrying research on the matter conducted for the organisation by YouGov, which



showed the number of Australians developing kidney failure is tipped to skyrocket by 42% by 2030.

The sample of 252 adults 18 years and over who are on dialysis highlighted the emotional impact of the treatment, with more than nine in ten experiencing varying levels of disruption to their weekly routines.

Almost half of those polled said their treatment limits the time they can spend with family and friends, with some connected to dialysis for 16-20 hours per week.

Nearly 90% said the government needs to do more to address the emotional challenge of dialysis.

"People would say, 'well you are on dialysis now, so that's good', and I'd think, 'yeah, but you're not seeing all the days where I've had restless legs, I had a breakdown at dialysis, I've spent half of my dialysis crying,'" one person said. *ML*

Parkinson's AI

RESEARCHERS from Iraq and Australia have partnered to publish a conference paper outlining how AI can help to diagnose Parkinson's Disease.

Key to the study is curating AI algorithms to detect subtle changes to a person's voice, often one of the first indicators of one of the world's fastest growing neurological diseases.

The academics from Middle Technical University (MTU) in Baghdad and the University of South Australia say evidence shows AI-powered voice analysis could revolutionise early Parkinson's diagnosis and remote monitoring.

"Vocal changes are early indicators of Parkinson's disease, including small variations in pitch, articulation and rhythm, due to diminished control over vocal muscles," said MTU Associate Professor Ali Al-Naji.

Algorithms are being trained to extract features such as pitch, speech distortions and vowel changes to categorise voice recordings, with some studies returning accuracy scores as high as 99%.

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