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Today's issue of PD

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

- Pointrs
- Glucojel
- Nova Pharmaceuticals

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Spread the joy

GLUCOJEL is running a major campaign for a \$10k giveaway, so stock your shelves well with the popular product to attract more customers instore.

Learn more on the **page five**.

Fred IT's 'digital basket'

FRED IT has introduced a new 'digital basket' feature for its MedView Flow electronic script queuing system, designed to bridge the gap between physical and electronic prescriptions.

The innovation aims to ensure that pharmacies can now operate with a fully digital script workflow.

Fred IT stated that the new feature, which is based on electronic shelf technology, addresses the challenge of integrating paper and electronic prescriptions.

It improves customer service and enhances patient safety, particularly at the point-of-script collection.

Paul Naismith, CEO of Fred IT, emphasised the importance of the development for Australian pharmacy operations.

"Pharmacies are assiduous in their checks to ensure that patients receive the right medication, but any potential error in handing the wrong medication to the wrong patient is one mistake too many," Naismith said.



"This new digital basket provides pharmacists with very easy patient safety checks whilst also consolidating paper and escripts into one dynamic workflow queue."

Fred IT stated it has filed a patent for this world-first technology.

"Fred IT invented this here in Australia after scouring the globe and finding that there was no single pre-existing solution that suitably addressed the workflow gap between digital and paper-based processes," Naismith added.

He also highlighted the role of such technology in advancing patient safety and customer service in pharmacies. *JG*

Council elections

THE NSW Electoral Commission has opened the nomination process for five positions on the state's Pharmacy Council.

Candidates must be pharmacists with a principal place of practice in the state.

They need to submit signed nomination papers that include their full names and residential addresses, as well as signatures of at least two nominators who are also pharmacists in NSW.

Nomination and candidate profile forms must be submitted by midday on 25 Oct.

To see more, **CLICK HERE**.

New medication

NOVA Pharmaceuticals emergency contraception Novella-1 is available for dispensing by pharmacists to appropriately counselled customers - see more on **p6**.

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New trial for rare dementia

MONASH University researchers are conducting a clinical trial to assess a potential treatment for behavioural variant frontotemporal dementia (bvFTD), a rare but devastating condition affecting individuals as young as 35, including US actor Bruce Willis.

Unlike other dementias, such as Alzheimer's, bvFTD currently has no effective treatments.

However, a new drug, sodium selenate, has shown promise.

In a 2022 study, the drug was found to be safe and well-tolerated by bvFTD patients.

Now, researchers are taking the next step: assessing the drug's impact on brain function.

Neuroscientists Prof Terence O'Brien and Dr Lucy Vivash are leading the phase 2b clinical trial.

"This is an internationally unique trial that could bring the first disease-modifying treatment for this currently untreatable neurodegenerative disease," Prof O'Brien said.



Over 52 weeks, half of the 120 participants will receive sodium selenate, while the other half will receive a placebo.

The clinical trial will measure changes in brain volume, tau protein levels, cognitive decline, and behavioural shifts.

He also mentioned that sodium selenate, while not as inexpensive as aspirin, is far more affordable than other dementia treatments currently on the market.

To find out more and express interest in joining the clinical trial, email selenate@alfred.org.au or [CLICK HERE](#). JG

Vic approves COVID vax as part of scope

THE Victorian Department of Health has approved certain changes to the state's immunisation framework following a review of clinical safety issues and consultations with stakeholders.

The new secretary approvals now include COVID-19 vaccines in the scope for pharmacist immunisers, effectively revoking the standalone COVID-19 vaccine approvals.

These updates better align pharmacist immuniser practices with new Commonwealth-funded programs, such as the National Immunisation Program Vaccinations in Pharmacy and Tier 2 of the Aged Care On-site Pharmacist Measure.

Additionally, the mandatory requirement for immunisers to complete Japanese encephalitis and mpox eLearning modules has been removed, though they remain available for further professional development.



Pharmacies are required to nominate a responsible pharmacist and also register with the Department of Health before they begin providing any immunisations to the public.

Registration will require completion of an application form for a government-funded vaccine account.

The updated guidelines are available on the Department's website - to see more, [CLICK HERE](#).

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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.



Dispensary Corner

ROTTERDAM'S city council recently hatched a brilliant plan to temporarily rename streets with drug references to spark conversation about illegal substances, according to *DutchNews*.

The council staff thought it would be educational - what could go wrong?

So, Coolsingel became Cokesingel, and Ketenstraat turned into Ketastraat.

Each sign came with drug stats, for example, Cokesingel stated that "63,000 lines of cocaine a day have an impact on the city".

MDMA Laan (Emmalaan) pointed out that 28 drugs labs were dismantled in Rotterdam last year.

What the council didn't anticipate was the sudden popularity of the street signs as rare collectibles.

Within hours, locals turned into treasure hunters, snagging signs like they were much wanted concert posters.

Signs such as West-Snuifkade are now proudly displayed in a student house, while a pack of 20-somethings were apparently on a mission to score Ketastraat as the ultimate party decor.

As signs vanished, the critics have appeared.

Psychologist Wendy Oude Velthuis wasn't impressed.

"By drawing attention to these names, the council's actually making drug use sound more... normal," she posted online.

Now, the city council is left wondering: what's the bigger issue here - the drugs or the disappearing street signs?

CSL's heart drug on PBS



CSL Seqirus has welcomed the PBS listing of Vazkepa (icosapent ethyl), a new treatment aimed at reducing the risk of heart attacks and strokes in adult patients who are already on statins but have elevated triglycerides and are at high cardiovascular risk.

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death in Australia, with 98,000 Australians experiencing a heart attack or stroke each year.

Approximately one in three people who have had a heart attack or stroke will face another major cardiovascular event within seven years.

Patients with elevated cholesterol and triglycerides also remain at increased risk despite managing their conditions with statins.

Vazkepa is the first reimbursed treatment in Australia that specifically targets elevated triglycerides and helps reduce the likelihood of recurrent cardiovascular events.

It is also the only purified eicosapentaenoic acid omega-3 fatty acid approved by the TGA.

Prof Stephen Nicholls, Director of the Victorian Heart Hospital, emphasised the significance of this

development, saying, "patients with high triglycerides who have had a cardiovascular event in the last 12 months are at high risk of another event and there's a particular urgency to be able to reduce the risk for these patients".

"The reimbursement of Vazkepa provides a new preventive treatment option to reduce their risk," Nicholls said.

The PBS listing follows the results of the REDUCE-IT trial, which demonstrated that Vazkepa, in conjunction with statins, reduced the risk of major cardiovascular events by 25% compared to statin therapy alone.

The trial involved over 8,000 statin-treated patients and showed significant reductions in events like heart attacks and strokes.

Claire Morgan, Medical Director at CSL Seqirus, said, "as an Australian company we are proud to be expanding our broad portfolio of in-licensed medicines into the cardiovascular space to help address an unmet need for many patients".

Vazkepa's approval and PBS listing marks a step forward in reducing the burden of CVD disease in Australia, Morgan added. *JG*



Guild Update

Resources for S3 vapes

THERE are a few must-read resources available to assist any professional who has decided to stock, or is considering stocking, Schedule 3 (S3) nicotine-containing vapes in their pharmacy.

PSA's *Professional practice guidelines for pharmacists: Nicotine dependence support* provides advice on the appropriate and effective processes; desired behaviours of good practice; how to fulfil professional responsibilities; and the expected outcomes when providing smoking cessation support.

PDL has also issued a new practice alert for their members providing advice on legislative requirements, individual scope of practice, and the terms and conditions of the PDL Master Policy on the supply of S3 vapes.

It also advises on the potential changes to PDL insurance premiums.

Additionally, the Guild has updated resources available to members and pharmacists to help with understanding and dealing with the changes.

The Guild's position statement is also available on *Managing Nicotine Dependence and Smoking Cessation in Community Pharmacy* to members and non-members alike.

To see more, **CLICK HERE**.

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EXPENSES

Pointr #998

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Pointr #997

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