

## Corum signs deal with Pharmacy4Less

THE owners of the Pharmacy4Less group are set to end up with a significant minority stake in listed pharmacy software provider Corum Group, under an agreement announced last night (PD breaking news) relating to the creation of a cloud-based pharmacy head office management platform.

The “technology co-development” deal has been sealed with BAMB Group Administration Pty Ltd, one of the companies controlled by Feras Karem (pictured) and his brother Assad, who also head up Pharmacy4Less.

Corum said the agreement would build on the know-how developed around its popular RPM Head Office application to create its first major SaaS (Software as a Service) platform, to be marketed as Corum Clear Head Office.

“The platform utilises standardised integration APIs to create an open software environment to encourage partnering opportunities...the flexibility of the cloud-based solution will enable Corum to service both enterprise level organisations and smaller groups cost-effectively,” Corum noted.

The company will issue 63.6



million shares to BAMB Group, in two equal tranches, upon completion of agreed milestones.

BAMB manages a “number of significant pharmacy groups across Australia,” the company said, with the project to focus on the development of software solutions for multi-store management and in-store retail operations.

The issue equates to around a quarter of Corum’s current share capital, and is worth about \$2.3m at yesterday’s price of 3.6c per share.

Corum Clear Head Office will be released in two stages next year, the company confirmed, and the intellectual property will be wholly owned by Corum.

As well as the share placement, Corum has also granted a contractual right to BAMB to

participate in future placements.

Corum will contribute financially to software development costs and provide design and development expertise for the project.

The ASX-listed company has also agreed to identify and appoint an additional director.

The pact is subject to shareholder approval, which will be sought at the upcoming Corum Annual General Meeting, with major shareholder Lujeta Pty Ltd confirming it intends to vote in support of the deal.

### Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has three pages of news including our weekly Health & Beauty feature.

### Enteral safety

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia has launched a new safety resource to support medicine administration for patients who take oral medicines by enteral feeding tube.

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## Corticosteroids

**CHOOSING** a topical corticosteroid of the right potency and formulation is the key element in a new online training module focusing on the management of atopic dermatitis.

Guild Learning and Development partnered with Ego Pharmaceuticals to develop a course which is accredited for CPD and is suitable for inclusion in an individual pharmacist's continuing education plan.

Topical steroids are the main treatment for the condition, but it is essential to choose the appropriate product at the relevant strength for effective management of the disease.

See [guided.guild.org.au](http://guided.guild.org.au).

**Win with AROMABABY** This week *Pharmacy Daily & AROMABABY* are giving away each

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Name 2 natural skin soothing ingredients used in AROMABABY

*Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Sarina Davis.*

## APLF backs FIP's safe meds call

**LEADERS** of Australia's pharmacy bodies have voiced their support for the International Pharmaceutical Federation's (FIP's) 'Safe and effective medicines for all' message as part of today's World Pharmacists' Day.

In a joint statement issued by the Australian Pharmacy Leaders Forum (APLF), which represents 10 professional bodies including the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia and the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia, expressed support for medicines safety programs including My Health Record and advocated for real-time prescription monitoring.

"The APLF encourages pharmacists to use World Pharmacists Day to organise activities that promote and advocate for the role of the pharmacist in improving health," APLF Chair, Gilbert Yeates said.

"Australian pharmacists are highly trained and highly regulated professionals who are experts in managing medicines.

"They should be, and usually are, available wherever medicines are

used, practising in a wide range of roles across the pharmacy profession - including community, hospital, aged care, compounding, research, clinical and academic settings, to name a few."

Yeates noted that community pharmacists were readily available to assist consumers with the best advice for their over-the-counter and prescription medicines, while also ensuring safe use of medicines.

"The integration of innovative digital health systems such as My Health Record and Real Time

Prescription Monitoring increases the opportunity for pharmacists to make a positive impact," he said.

The APLF Chair added hospital pharmacists see the most acutely unwell Australians, and their medicines expertise is "crucial to ensuring all people are empowered and supported to manage medicines across the continuum of care.

"Pharmacists are trained, available and ready to take up the challenge of 'safe and effective medicines for all' on World Pharmacists' Day," he concluded.

## Guardian remains top for satisfaction

**SIGMA** Healthcare's Guardian pharmacy group is set to claim the 2019 title of the Roy Morgan Pharmacy of the Year, after coming out at the lead of the monthly customer satisfaction ratings once again in August.

Announcing the banner group had topped the poll repeatedly in recent months, Roy Morgan said Guardian was now in "an unbeatable position" for the annual title.

The August ratings saw TerryWhite Chemmart (TWC) retain second place with a 93% satisfaction rating, followed by Discount Drug Stores at 91%, followed by Chemist Warehouse and Priceline Pharmacy which both had a 90% rating.

Roy Morgan CEO, Michele Levine, said Guardian and TWC had shown the greatest



improvement in consumer satisfaction scores over the course of 2019.

"The humble Australian chemist has changed a lot over the years," she said.

"No longer is it simply a place to buy pills and fill your medical scripts. Instead, you can now access a range of health services.

"The expanding role, and associated convenience, of chemists in our society is perhaps one reason why consumers are generally satisfied with their chemist or pharmacy of choice."

## Cold chain study

**PHARMACISTS** and other health professionals are being asked to complete a brief online survey as part of a collaborative research study into the transportation and storage of medicines requiring refrigeration being undertaken by the University of Sydney and University of Canberra.

The project aims to look at evidence which can support improved advice to hospitals, surgeries and pharmacies when there has been a breakdown in the cold chain, with the ultimate goal of reducing medicine wastage, improve cold chain reporting and compliance for hospitals and community pharmacies.

To support the data-mining project, the brief survey can be completed by **CLICKING HERE**.

## World Pharmacist Day 2019

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## Dispensary Corner

**CYBERCRIME** experts from NSW Police have shut down a suspected illegal "online pharmacy" operating out of Sydney's north-west. An investigation into the online supply of prohibited and prescribed restricted substances was launched in Jan 2018, with detectives identifying two suspects based in the suburbs of Bella Vista and North Rocks, who were using a website hosted offshore to distribute drugs within Australia.

The police intercepted 22 parcels and seized a variety of prohibited substances last Thu 19 Sep, before arresting the two men the following day.

Following the arrests search warrants were executed for the two properties, during which police found large quantities of steroids (more than 2,500 vials, 100 canisters and 1,000 tablets), along with mobile phones, computers, electronic scales and "various items related to the packaging and distribution of illicit drugs".

Police allege the pair had opted to receive payments using blockchain-based cryptocurrency.



# Portugal flies the flag high at FIP

A PHARMACY program in Portugal that aims to guarantee access to medicines in the aftermath of a financial crisis was awarded the International Pharmaceutical Federation's (FIP's) 2019 Pharmacy Practice Improvement Award at the organisation's World Congress in Abu Dhabi this week.

The programme, known as "Abem", was the first initiative launched by the Associação Dignitude (Dignity Association), which was established by the National Association of Pharmacies, the Portuguese Pharmaceutical Industry Association and others.

According to OECD data, 29% of the health expenditure in Portugal is out-of-pocket and it is estimated that one in 10 citizens cannot afford all the medicines they need.

Under the Abem programme,

both public and private entities are able to identify people experiencing economic difficulties and refer them to be assessed for entitlement to an Abem card.

Since its inception in May 2016, the program has supported over 7,000 people in need and during that time, the pharmacists taking part in the programme have been required to improve their scientific and social competencies continuously.

Meanwhile FIP's 2019 Health Promotion Campaign Award went to the Brazilian Federal Council of Pharmacy (CFF) in recognition of its work with Brazil's biggest media network to communicate the value of pharmacists.

The CFF worked to ensure that pharmacists and pharmacy students were able to take full



advantage of an invitation from the network to take part in its Global Well-Being Project, which comprised nine events in cities across Brazil and was watched by 9.7 million people.

**Pictured:** Duarte Santos accepting the Practice Improvement Award from FIP President, Dominique Jordan, on behalf of the Portuguese National Association of Pharmacies.

# HEALTH & BEAUTY

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## Cetaphil Pro - new name

Leading skincare brand Cetaphil announces a new name for its Acne-Prone skin and Eczema-Prone skin product ranges. The Oil Control Foam Wash (pictured) cleanses deeply while the moisturiser includes SPF25 protection. The Skin Restoring Body Wash and Skin Restoring Body Moisturiser gently soothe and relieve dry skin due to a variety of causes.

**Stockist:** Major wholesalers  
**RRP:** From \$16.30 to \$26.50  
**Website:** [www.cetaphil.com.au](http://www.cetaphil.com.au)



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Pharmacy Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.  
Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

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