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See **page four** to learn more about the PSA's PI offer.

Preventative health gaps emerging

FUNDING community pharmacists to provide in-reach services to aged care facilities could help tackle a growing gap in the uptake of preventative health measures including immunisations, consultant pharmacist, Karalyn Huxhagen, believes.

After record numbers of patients received influenza shots in 2020, Huxhagen told **Pharmacy Daily** she had seen a drop off in immunisation status for influenza and other vaccine-preventable diseases in aged care centres, when she was conducting Residential Medication Management Reviews.

"Immunisation is a preventative health measure that requires continual intervention," she said.

"Lapses in care will lead to outbreaks.

"Aged care vaccination services need to be expanded to pharmacist administration of annual influenza vaccination.

"As we have seen in the community, many aged care

residents have missed their annual influenza vaccination as the priority has been to have the COVID-19 vaccinations fully implemented.

"When I have queried the facilities as to why this is occurring the main replies are that 'GPs are overloaded with work at their clinics and are unable to attend to perform immunisation roles', and 'GPs are only providing telehealth services to aged care services due to workload and COVID-19 issues'.

"GPs providing services to aged care facilities are incredibly hard working but they are overstretched and we can assist."

Responding to reports that GPs are set to receive \$1,000 payments for administering 50 aged and/or disability care workers through in-reach programs (**PD** 10 Aug), Huxhagen said there was a need for harmonisation of State and Territory regulations to enable pharmacists to be paid to administer vaccinations through the National Immunisation Program



(NIP) and allow them to provide vaccines outside of Section 90 approved pharmacies.

Huxhagen added that the gaps in uptake of preventative health measures were not exclusive to aged care, noting "things like children's immunisation schedules are getting out of whack".

"Because so many practices are doing telehealth only, that opportunistic coming in and getting caught up with your kid's immunisations is starting to fall behind," she said.

PSA names new WA Branch President

PRICELINE Pharmacy Kalamunda owner, Keegan Wong, is set to take on the presidency of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) Western Australia Branch, following the organisation's recent elections. Wong will succeed outgoing President, Dr Fei Sim, who has been appointed to the PSA National Board.

PSA CEO, Mark Kinsela, welcomed Wong's election noting "his experience and expertise will build on PSA's existing momentum in WA".

"He has established health initiatives in his pharmacy, such as

weight management clinics, sleep apnoea clinics, diabetes and sugar assessments and monthly blood pressure screenings," Kinsela said.

"His community pharmacy management and proprietor skills have not only made him a leader in the industry, but have also allowed him to facilitate a contemporary, patient-centric practice environment."

Kinsela added that Sim was "an asset to WA pharmacists", adding "we are delighted that she has been elevated to a Director on the PSA National Board, continuing to support the important work of the profession".

MM2021 in 2022

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia's Medicines Management 2021 (MM2021) conference will take place in Feb 2022, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

MM2022 is scheduled to take place in Nov 2022.

CLICK HERE for more information about the event.

Today's issue of *PD*

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news plus a full page from the **Pharmaceutical Society of Australia**.

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GuildDigital

Stop stalling, get COVID vaccine now

PHARMACISTS and GPs are united in urging patients to stop waiting for a preferred brand of COVID-19 vaccine and get vaccinated as soon as possible.

A joint statement from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), stressed the importance of getting vaccinated as “the way out of the COVID-19 crisis”.

Guild National President, Trent Twomey, stressed “there is no wrong way to get vaccinated”.

“There is no wrong door to enter to get your vaccination,” he said.

“There is no wrong vaccine to get.

“And increasingly the evidence is highlighting that there is no need for anyone to delay getting their vaccination while awaiting another brand, as all are extremely effective.

“My message, and that of all pharmacists and their fellow vaccinators is - just get vaccinated.

“If you’re over 18, get the vaccine.”

RACGP President, Dr Karen Price, reiterated advice for patients to go to the same provider for both doses (PD 04 Aug), following suggestions by a member of the Queensland State Government last week that people should “mix and match” their vaccinators.

“We need to get as many vaccinations done as soon as possible to combat this virus,” she said.

“If people opt to receive their vaccine from their GP or at a pharmacy, that is their choice.

“We need to ramp up our vaccination numbers so that must be the number one aim.

“However, it is vital that all people receive both vaccine doses from the same vaccinator.

“Continuity of care and patient safety must always be paramount, so receiving your jab from the same GP or pharmacy is the best option.



“We know that some communities are facing issues in terms of vaccine stock being available, but mixing and matching vaccinators will not resolve this problem.”

Both the Guild and the RACGP are providing information and resources to members and patients to support the vaccination rollout.

PAotY State Finalists named

THE list of candidates for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia/Maxigesic Pharmacy Assistant of the Year (PAotY) is down to 50, with State and Territory winners set to be named in the coming weeks.

Guild National President, Trent Twomey, said the 2021 competition was one of the strongest he had seen.

“We were absolutely blown away by the quality of the candidates that have been nominated by others and who have put their hands up to be in contention this year,” he said.

“These finalists have now won the opportunity to participate in their respective state workshops, which provide vital professional development opportunities for all the finalists.”

CLICK HERE to see the list of State and Territory finalists.

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Dispensary Corner

SOCIAL distancing during the pandemic has left many craving human connection, particularly in Japan where parents of newborns have come up with a unique solution for relatives who are unable to visit and meet their new babies.

Instead, they are sending so-called "rice-babies" - specially created bags of rice which weigh the same amount as the infants when they came out of the womb.

The creative initiative is the brainchild of Naruo Ono, the owner of the Kome no Zoto Yoshimiya rice shop.

They're called "Hugging Gokochi" (pictured) and described as "a swaddle-shaped rice bag with a birth weight that is recommended for celebrations during childbirth".

The Guardian reports there's also a version suggested for weddings, where rice bags representing the bride and groom are sent to invitees.

Demand has surged in recent months due to pandemic related lockdowns which have restricted people's ability to attend the celebrations.



HEALTH & BEAUTY

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email newproducts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Arrotex Pharmaceuticals launch BioSlim VLCD

Arrotex Pharmaceuticals have announced the launch of BioSlim VLCD (very low-calorie diet). Made and developed in Australia, the BioSlim VLCD range is a total meal replacement designed for those requiring rapid weight loss as recommended and supervised by their Healthcare Professional.

All BioSlim VLCD products provide users with their daily nutritional requirements, when consumed three serves per day. The range includes five shake flavours, two soup flavours and three bar flavours.

High in protein and calcium, the BioSlim VLCD shake range contains SlimBiome®, an award-winning and patented ingredient developed by leading specialists in metabolism and nutrition and trialed by leading UK Universities*.

Stockist: Exclusively available in community pharmacies nationally through API, Symbion and SIGMA
RRP: Price range from \$4.95 - \$54.95

Website: www.bioslim.net.au

* Data available on file.



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