



WORLD 25 SEPTEMBER PHARMACISTS DAY

Happy World Pharmacists Day to all our
Pharmacists who are delivering
trusted advice and health care
every day to Australians.

Creating **trust** in local communities.



**TerryWhite
Chemmart.**

that's real chemistry

Sigma lands CEO

SIGMA Healthcare has announced the appointment of Vikesh Ramsunder as its incoming CEO and Managing Director.

Ramsunder, is currently the CEO of South Africa's largest pharmacy chain, Clicks, and previously served as Managing Director of the group's wholesale business, United Pharmaceutical Distributors.

Ramsunder will replace the outgoing Sigma boss, Mark Hooper, in Feb 2022, who had been due to step down at the end of Oct (**PD** 26 Apr), but has agreed to remain in place until 31 Jan 2022.

Sigma's Board agreed to increase Hooper's monthly total fixed remuneration for the three-month stint by 50%, and with a termination clause allowing both parties to give one week's notice.

Sigma Chairman, Ray Gunston, said that Ramsunder would bring "a mix of skills and experience that will be valuable in leading Sigma to fast-track" its growth agenda organically and through acquisitions.

Pharmacist numbers rise


NEW registration data from the Pharmacy Board of Australia shows registration numbers are continuing to grow, despite reports of workforce shortages.

The latest registration stats for the Jun 2021 quarter revealed 35,262 pharmacists were registered with the Board - an increase of 80 compared with the figures for Mar - with a record 32,417 holding general registration, up from 32,313 in the previous reporting period.

While total registration numbers have continued to grow, the new figures revealed there were 229 fewer pharmacists aged 29 years and under at the end of Jun than there were in Mar, marking a continuing downward trend in the number of registered pharmacists aged between 25 and 29 years.

The Board's figures suggest that the decline in registration numbers for pharmacists aged under 30 years has been driven by people leaving the profession, with the Jun stats showing that the number of pharmacists aged between 30 and 39 years grew by 80.

The profession's gender balance has remained steady, with female pharmacists accounting for just over 63% of all registrants, while




NEW

Ferro-Max CTM

with Vitamin C to aid absorption.*

Available from Symbion, Sigma, API and CH2.

For use when iron deficiency or iron deficiency anaemia has been diagnosed by your doctor and a therapeutic iron supplement is recommended. Always read the label. Follow the directions for use. If symptoms persist, worsen or change unexpectedly, talk to your health professional. *Vitamin C has been shown to enhance the absorption of iron when taken together.





women made up just over two-thirds of provisional registration holders.

The new registration figures also showed the number of pharmacists registered on the 2020 pandemic response sub-register, fell from 1,933 in Mar to 1,758 in Jun, with the Board reporting that as of 20 Sep there are 1,735 pharmacists included on it, with 532 included on the 2021 pandemic response sub-register announced earlier this week.

Today's issue of **PD**

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news plus a front cover page from **TerryWhite Chemmart**.



Move your career in a new direction, and gain the skills needed to take your place as the medication expert in the health care team.

UTS offers professional development for pharmacists pursuing a career in advanced practice, delivered in a flexible mode of study.

[Click here to find out more](#)

UTS CRICOS 00099F
23561 September 2020

Chemists' Own[®]

ANTI-FUNGAL & ANTI-VIRAL OFFER 2021



UP TO 35% DISCOUNT

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE. IF SYMPTOMS PERSIST, TALK TO YOUR HEALTH PROFESSIONAL. ASK YOUR PHARMACIST - THEY MUST DECIDE IF THIS PRODUCT IS RIGHT FOR YOU.

To order contact your Arrotex OTC Territory Manager or call 1300 927 769

Deal pricing valid 1 August - 30 September 2021. Available via PDE & Turnover.



OVER 21 YEAR'S EXPERIENCE

"Your Success Is Our Passion"



Pharmacy for Sale SR37037 - Single Pharmacy town only 1 hour drive from Hobart!

This is a great little pharmacy that can be independently run by a pharmacist. This expectational gem is open 37.5 hours and is the only pharmacy in town with Sales for FY2021 being \$559,790, low rent, good growth and excellent potential, 3 Locums available and would stay on for new owner.

Contact: Sue Raven
Ph: 0407 759 736
[Click here to email](#)
www.srpbs.com.au

[Find out more....](#)



With fully integrated e-Prescriptions, dispensing has never been easier.

Contact us today to find out how to start dispensing with Dispense Works.
www.posworks.com.au | enquiries@posworks.com.au | 07 3277 9488

DISPENSE WORKS
PHARMACY SOFTWARE

keep dreaming...

Inspiration for your
next escape

Travel & Cruise
Weekly

Click to
subscribe

New site for PSS

THE Pharmacists' Support Service (PSS) has launched a new-look website including information to help pharmacists, interns and students look after their health and wellbeing.

PSS President, John Coppock, said the service aimed to provide "trustworthy resources, links and information on a wide range of topics which relate to managing the various pressures and stress which come from working in pharmacy".

The new site was developed with funding support from the Pharmacy Board of Australia, and has been launched ahead of World Pharmacists Day, tomorrow (25 Sep).

Coppock also thanked the volunteers who man the PSS phone service, noting they took 464 calls over the 12 months to Jun this year.

CLICK HERE to see the website.

COVAX rollout hits hospital pharmacy

MOVES to second hospital pharmacists to assist in State and Territory COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) clinics is "placing huge pressure on an already constrained workforce", the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia (SHPA) warns.

SHPA CEO, Kristin Michaels, told **Pharmacy Daily** that hospital pharmacists accounted for close to 23% of the pharmacist workforce in Australia, and were playing an integral role in COVAX hubs.

However, she noted that prior to the start of the COVAX rollout hospital pharmacies were already short-staffed, with the majority of Australian hospitals' pharmacy departments falling short of the staffing ratios specified in SHPA standards, adding that many did not employ any clinical pharmacists.

"This leads to patients being discharged from hospital without review and counselling of their medicines by a pharmacist, putting

them at risk of readmission," Michaels said.

"This is caused by both a shortage of pharmacists equipped for hospital positions and chronic underfunding for the positions themselves.

"The impact is historically worse in rural and regional hospitals, but is now dire across the board as pharmacy departments in metro areas second staff to state-run vaccination clinics, without commensurate support.

"The risks are incredibly serious - a misplaced decimal point or an extra zero can result in a life-threatening overdose of a high-risk medicine - and these are errors hospital pharmacists prevent from occurring through medication reconciliation on admission, management of new medicines and adverse events, therapeutic drug monitoring, daily medication chart review and discharge counselling."

Michaels added that there was a



need for State and Territory health authorities to allocate appropriate funding for the provision of hospital pharmacy services going forward.

"SHPA will always welcome investment into new and expanded hospitals, but this must - and often doesn't - come with dedicated funding for the hospital pharmacists required to service new beds and wards," she said.

"SHPA welcomes these discussions in the context of important national medicines policy reform."

 Pharmaceutical
Society of Australia

2021 PSA excellence awards

Join PSA as we celebrate excellence across our profession!
A livestream broadcast of the awards ceremony will take place this
Friday, 24th September, 5:30-6:15pm (AEST).

JOIN HERE



RATs a worthwhile investment for ACT

PHARMACEUTICAL Society of Australia ACT Branch President, Renae Beardmore, is calling on the Territory's Government to fund rapid antigen tests (RATs) for community pharmacies.

The call came after ACT Chief Minister, Andrew Barr, pledged to introduce rapid antigen testing in the Territory.

Beardmore noted that since the ACT entered its COVID-19-induced lockdown on 12 Aug, there have been 82 exposures to the virus in 37 of the jurisdiction's 82 pharmacies.

"Becoming an exposure site places huge pressure on a pharmacy," Beardmore said.

"They will often need to reduce their hours or services if their staff are required to quarantine.

"Delays in contact tracing and receiving test results add to these pressures.

"At \$10 a test, this is a very cheap but worthwhile investment for the ACT Government.

"Rapid antigen testing would allow



asymptomatic pharmacy employees to be tested quickly, ensuring a safer workplace and maintaining community access to medicines and services.

"Achieving our vaccination targets is absolutely the first step in order for Canberra to come out of lockdown.

"However, the second crucial step is to introduce rapid antigen testing for asymptomatic Canberrans – and pharmacies need to be prioritised.

"Pharmacists have done a great job protecting their staff and the community from exposure to COVID-19 in community pharmacy, by wearing of PPE and implementing other distancing measures.

"Rapid antigen testing now needs to play a significant role in reducing isolation periods of essential workers and identifying infection prior to onset of symptoms in high risk settings – such as pharmacies."



Dispensary Corner

COVID-19 has highlighted just how many people rely on less than trustworthy sources for information about healthcare.

Misinformation dispensed through social media has seen health professionals bombarded with patients seeking supposed miracle cures from hydroxychloroquine to ivermectin, that haven't received regulatory approval for the treatment of COVID-19, just to avoid getting a vaccine that has been deemed safe and effective.

The mind boggles, but a joint statement from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) and the Alberta College of Pharmacy, has noted that some health professionals have been exacerbating the issue, when it comes to ivermectin.

"A small number of physicians and pharmacists [are] spreading misinformation related to the appropriateness of ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19," the statement said.

"[We] do not believe these behaviours align with a physician's or pharmacist's professional responsibility to their patients."

The CPSA said it was aware of at least seven doctors who were alleged to have been spreading false information about the drug, while noting that others had "kowtowed" to patients' demands for exemption letters without legitimate medical reasons, so they could avoid being vaccinated or having to wear face masks.

Win with Wondershield

Wondershield and Pharmacy Daily are this week giving away a Wondershield's Wonderpods starter kit.

Disinfect your pharmacy like a pro with Wondershield's Wonderpods. The starter kit includes a sleek nano spray gun, with 2 pre-filled pods of Wondershield's TGA listed alcohol-free solution. Once applied, Wondershield offers up to 30 days of antibacterial protection and is also effective against COVID-19 ARTG : 354310.

CLICK HERE for more information.



What makes the Wonderpods so unique?

For a chance to win, send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Tascone gears up for marathon run

CHEMIST Warehouse (CWH) Director, Mario Tascone, will join former AFL star, Kane Cornes and others to run a treadmill marathon as part of the My Room Telethon on Channel 9 tonight.

My Room Children's Cancer Charity aims to assist patients and families affected by cancer by providing medical equipment, clinical care, research and trials.

CWH has committed \$130,000 Tascone saying he was proud to lend his support to the charity.



www.pharmacydaily.com.au

Pharmacy Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper

Editor – Nicholas O'Donoghue

Contributors – Adam Bishop,

Myles Stedman

info@pharmacydaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi

advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au

BUSINESS MANAGER

Jenny Piper

accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)

Sign up free at
www.pharmacydaily.com.au



Travel & Cruise Weekly



Pharmacy Daily is a publication of Pharmacy Daily Pty Ltd ABN 97 124 094 604. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.