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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features four pages of news, plus a full page from Nova Pharmaceuticals.

'Disband the Guild'

A CHEMIST Warehouse pharmacist is calling for the Guild to be disbanded.

"The shortage is thanks to you guys - overworking pharmacists by trying to expand pharmacy services and stepping on GP turf and paying peanuts," he said on LinkedIn.

"Increase the pharmacy award. Disband the Guild."

He was speaking out as the Guild launched its 2023 Workforce Survey to assess the needs of the pharmacy workforce in Australia and tackle the growing shortage of approximately 2,400 full-time equivalent pharmacists.

Have your say [HERE](#).

CMA CEO Gibson to retire

INDUSTRY stalwart Carl Gibson (pictured), CEO of Complementary Medicines Australia (CMA), has announced his retirement.

"It is fair to say that this job has been my life for the last 10 incredible years, and we have achieved a lot together," Gibson said.

"But this has been at the detriment to my own health and I have neglected my family and friends.

"So as I prepare to retire I pledge to reintroduce myself to my family and friends.

"From the bottom of my heart this has been an incredible journey, and a true privilege."

Gibson said the CMA has campaigned, protected, and grown the industry.

"CMA has campaigned for appropriate regulation and we have the most progressive regulatory system in the world.

"It may not be perfect but it's the envy of the world.

"CMA protects the industry from



critics and detractors by defending the right to use 1,200 traditional evidence claims, and has protected the industry from illegal imports with over 850,000 illegal products seized and destroyed and 13,000 unlawful sales listings of products removed from eCommerce sites," he said.

"CMA has grown the industry from \$2b to over \$6b in sales, by working to open new export markets and secure preferential trade tariffs.

"But the work isn't over, the CMA will continue to campaign for comp meds to be at the heart of a preventive health strategy, and the return of rebates for natural therapies," he added, with a new CEO to come on board by 13 Jun.

Oral insulin goal

A **SPIN-OFF** company founded by three University of Sydney and Sydney Local Health District academics has received \$2.2m in backing from Australian biotech incubator Proto Axiom.

The first application focuses on oral insulin for people with type 1 diabetes.

The program is supported by a Medical Research Future Fund targeted translational research accelerator grant, and is in accredited manufacturing with Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, prior to entering clinical trials in 2024.

Gluten-free beans

NOVA Pharmaceuticals offers more choice to customers with the 'first and only gluten-free Gluco boost jelly beans'.

See more on the [back page](#).

Transform your Pharmacy

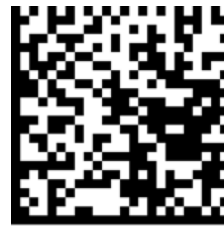
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Malaria vaccine

GHANA has become the first country to approve an effective malaria vaccine developed at Oxford University in the UK.

The R21/Matrix-M vaccine, the first to exceed the World Health Organization's target of 75% efficacy, has been cleared for use by Ghana's Food and Drugs Authority for children aged five to 36 months, the group at highest risk of death from malaria, *The Guardian* has reported.

Prof Adrian Hill, Director, Jenner Institute, which is part of the Nuffield Department of Medicine at Oxford University, said, "this marks a culmination of 30 years of malaria vaccine research at Oxford".

However, observers warned it was "no silver bullet" in the complex fight against the mosquito-borne disease.

In Ghana, an estimated 5.3m cases and 12,500 deaths were recorded.

'Treat to prevent' works

A **10-YEAR** study into the impact of HIV 'treatment as prevention' has found that a 27% increase in people accessing effective HIV treatment saw a decrease in infections by 66% between 2010-2019, in NSW and Victoria.

The findings, published yesterday in *Lancet HIV*, show the success of HIV treatment as prevention in reducing new infections, especially when complemented by the availability of pre-exposure prophylaxis and increased access to diagnostic testing.

Treatment as prevention - or TasP - is a global public health strategy that is built on the evidence that HIV treatment results in virally suppressing the virus, which effectively reduces an individual's risk of transmitting HIV to zero.

While there is strong evidence to support TasP's effectiveness, Kirby Institute and Burnet Institute researchers are the first to analyse the impact of this strategy on overall HIV infections at a population level, showing



"our research that investing in HIV testing is crucial for HIV elimination", said Kirby's lead researcher Dr Denton Callander.

"To test the 'big picture' impacts of this HIV prevention strategy, we examined 10 years of clinical data from over 100,000 gay and bisexual men in NSW and Victoria," he said.

"We found that over time, as viral suppression increased, HIV incidence decreased.

"Indeed, every percentage point increase in successfully treated HIV saw a fivefold decrease in new infections, thus establishing treatment as prevention as a powerful public health strategy."

Bird flu action

POULTRY keepers say the Welsh government should make a bird flu vaccine available to avoid future outbreaks, *BBC* has reported.

This year saw the world's largest-ever bird flu outbreak, and some say more preventative action is needed as lockdown of the birds has been lifted.

A vaccine is already used in some countries outside of Europe.

But the government said the best protection is through scrupulous hygiene and biosecurity measures.

Poultry has been kept indoors since 02 Dec 2022 to protect them from the disease, and another housing order is expected later in the year.

Vaccination is considered a controversial solution as there isn't sufficient evidence that it has worked in the countries which have introduced it.

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'Sell vaping products in licensed shops'

SELLING nicotine vaping products in licensed shops with a strict age verification process will restrict youth access and help adult smokers quit, a University of Queensland drug expert has recommended.

Emeritus Professor Wayne Hall from UQ's National Centre for Youth Substance Use Research said current nicotine vaping regulations are ineffective, a view acknowledged by the TGA.

"In Australia, nicotine vaping products can only legally be prescribed by a doctor and sold in pharmacies to adults who want to quit smoking," Hall said.

"Instead, we have seen the development of a thriving black market which sells unregulated vape products to children and adults, with very few adult vapers using the legal prescription pathway."

Hall recommends the industry adopts an age-restricted consumer model.

"The black market would become less profitable and illicit sales would diminish over time, being largely replaced by a legal, regulated market."

The National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2019 found vaping is the most popular aid for quitting and reducing smoking in Australia, and research has found it to be more effective than nicotine replacement therapy.

"It is uncommon for people to



take up vaping if they have never smoked before," Hall explained.

"Rather than it being a gateway product, evidence suggests nicotine vapes divert young people from smoking."

Hall said policymakers need to find a balance between providing adult smokers with easy access to nicotine vaping products and restricting access to youth.

"The main objective is to reduce smoking-related death and disease," Hall said.

"Neither vaping nor nicotine replacement therapy are risk-free, but vaping is a substantially less harmful alternative for adult smokers.

"Policymakers need to consider the harmful, unintended consequences of excessive regulation," Hall concluded.

700 WA kids' autism trial

ABOUT 700 Western Australian children with autism will be invited to take part in a new national trial examining the effects of pre-emptive intervention.

The Inklings trial, which will be run by the National Disability Insurance Agency in partnership with Telethon Kids Institute, will assist families with children showing early behavioural signs of autism.

Speaking at the National Press Club yesterday Bill Shorten **(pictured)**, the National Disability Insurance Scheme Minister, said the children's autism pilot, would examine whether pre-emptive interventions for children with early behavioural signs of autism could reduce the support they needed later in life.

"It could have exciting prospects for future generations and for early intervention mainstream services outside the NDIS, so that NDIS is not the only life-boat in the ocean," he said.

Shorten also conceded the ballooning NDIS scheme had lost its way and was not delivering the outcomes that Australians expected, as he outlined a suite of changes to improve the \$34b program.

The National Disability Insurance



Agency's workforce will be boosted and participants will receive multi-year plans to streamline their interactions with the system, while the agency will also target price gouging, dodgy providers and duplication to stop money leaking from the scheme.

"The hard truth is this: the NDIS is not what it should be...and that is why, to enable the NDIS to reach its potential, we need to reboot," Shorten said.

But the Minister said nobody would be kicked off the scheme, nor would diagnoses be removed, as it was a "viable program".

"The scheme will grow each year. That's inevitable," he said.

"The challenge is [making] sure that every dollar that the scheme has is getting to...where it's meant to go," Shorten said.

Middle-man platform to trade dead stock

ETHICAL Exchange is filling a gap in the market as a "middle-man" platform designed by pharmacists for pharmacists.

Founder and a pharmacist Alan Ayoub said the platform allows pharmacies to connect with others to conduct their own stock trade.

"Many pharmacies in Australia have dead or unwanted stock due to poor stock control, or an inability to connect with other pharmacies, which led me to create this platform to give them the opportunity to trade their stock," Ayoub explained.

"This in turn benefits pharmacies who choose to sell their unwanted stock by reducing their overall expenses.

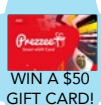
"Logistics of transactions are dealt off platform and via email or phone between pharmacies.

"Our goal is to be environmentally friendly.

"It's to reduce pharmaceutical waste by transporting as many unused and sealed medications to be dispensed by another pharmacy who needs it, before they otherwise expire and end up in the RUM (Return Unwanted Medicines) bin."

Ethical Exchange is a free platform to use, and zero commission is charged on stock sales.

Currently there are over 200 pharmacies registered, with the aim to reach 1,000 this year. Learn more **HERE**.



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Dispensary Corner

GOOD news for people who've packed on the kilos - it's now easier to join the US Air Force if you're a little overweight.

Revised rules announced this week include looser restrictions on body fat for recruits.

Leslie Brown, a spokesperson for the US Air Force Recruiting Service, confirmed the new rules which now allow 26% body fat for men and 36% for women.

The previous benchmarks for "acceptable fat" were 20% for males and 28% for females, with the organisation changing the requirements partly in a bid to increase the potential pool of new applicants.

Officials noted that regardless of body composition upon joining up, recruits will still be subject to the same standard annual fitness tests as existing servicemen and women.

ALSO in the USA this week, a man has been arrested for running an illegal dental operation from a motel room.

Police paid a visit to a La Quinta Hotel in Danbury, Connecticut after receiving reports of the illicit operation, finding an "impromptu operating set-up with dental drills, suction machines and a portable X-ray machine".

While officers spoke to the alleged offender, a man left the bathroom with gauze in his mouth and told police he had just had a dental procedure.

The "dentist" was arrested and charged with practising dentistry without a licence, and illegal sale of prescription drugs.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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