

81ST FIP WORLD CONGRESS OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

24 - 28 SEPTEMBER 2023 | BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

CONGRESS THEME:

“Pharmacy building a sustainable future for healthcare – Aligning goals to 2030”

Join FIP’s world congress 2023 to build a sustainable future for healthcare. Together we will discuss the changes and new solutions needed to maximise the gain that healthcare systems can achieve from their interactions with the pharmacy profession. Be part of this global discussion!

See the full congress programme [here!](#)



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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, plus a front cover from **International Pharmaceutical Federation** and full pages from:

- TerryWhite Chemmart
- PharmXchange

FIP Congress

THE 81st FIP World Congress for Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences will be held in Brisbane towards the end of Sep, with a second round of registrations opening soon next month.

See more on the **cover page**.

Care support

TERRYWHITE Chemmart has dedicated and specialised health teams in its support office to provide wrap-around help with its Care Clinic programs for pharmacists, so that they can look after patients better.

See more on **page three**.

More choices

PHARMXCHANGE has on its network 230 SKUs from Reckitt's 22 most trusted brands, providing more choice and value for pharmacy customers.

Also, eligible entrants can win a luxury experience.

See more on the **back page**.

NZ's free home delivery

THOUSANDS of patients throughout New Zealand living with chronic medical conditions may no longer have to pay for the delivery of funded medicines to their homes, *NZ Herald* has reported.

A new initiative by Zoom Pharmacy aims to reduce inequity in healthcare, especially for Māori and Pasifika, as eligible patients can get "prescription and OTC medicines to their homes free of charge".

The move by Zoom, an independent company, follows the removal of \$5 prescription copayments by the NZ Government, last month.

Zoom pharmacist Din Redzepagic (**pictured**) says although fully funded, accessing medicines can incur indirect costs for patients, which creates barriers for some of society's most vulnerable.

"Our research shows around 30% of prescriptions are not filled, and we know that indirect costs are a significant impediment for the hundreds of thousands of patients with non-acute medical conditions who need to take prescription medicine daily.

"Every time a patient needs to take time off work, put petrol in their car and drive to a pharmacy to pick up a script it represents an indirect cost to access medicine."

A spokesperson for the Pharmacy Guild of Australia has responded to this increased accessibility in neighbouring New Zealand, saying that in Australia "the Guild has led our 'Affordable Medicines Now' campaign for a number of



years and we are still advocating for an even lower co-payment of \$19 to help make medicines more affordable for everyone".

"What will NOT help vulnerable and elderly patients is the Albanese Government's destructive 60-day dispensing policy, which is being rushed in without consultation and at the expense of the viability of community pharmacies, and our ability to provide complimentary services such as free home delivery of medicines."

MEANWHILE, CVS Health is laying off 5,000 employees in the US as part of an effort to shed costs, though it will not affect pharmacies according to reports from *American Broadcasting Company News*.

Pfizer also said it will launch a cost-cutting program if its COVID-19 vaccine and antiviral treatment keep underperforming expectations in the coming months due to plunging demand in the US, *Reuters* has reported.

Late 2024 launch

THE Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia's Standards of Practice for Clinical Pharmacy Services will be released in late 2024 providing the "what" and "how" of person-centred care that underpins specialty pharmacy disciplines.

The 22 specialty Standards of Practice will be relevant to practitioners working at an extended scope.

Disqualified now

A TASMANIAN pharmacist who drove "drunk to work, then dispensed 114 prescriptions for drugs of dependence while intoxicated, has been disqualified from practising for a year," *Mercury* has reported.

Paul Nicholas Schild was the owner of and sole pharmacist of Perth's only pharmacy, healthSAVE, when he drove at nearly four times the legal blood alcohol limit in Nov 2020, according to a recent tribunal decision.

He has since sold the pharmacy and now runs a hobby farm instead.

At about 10am on the morning in question, Schild was breathalysed on his way to work after a member of the public reported concerns about his driving to the police, returning a blood alcohol reading of 0.192.

According to a newly-published Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal decision, Schild then turned up at work about two hours later still drunk.

While at work, Schild filled 114 prescriptions for drugs of dependence and Schedule 8 medications.

Tribunal deputy president Alison Clues noted there was no suggestion any patients' health was harmed as a result of his conduct.

According to the tribunal's decision, in Jan 2021, Schild was fined and disqualified from driving for 12 months after pleading guilty to drink driving, with the court hearing he'd drunk alcohol the night before but believed he'd woken and consumed more.

He said he couldn't remember waking and drinking, and couldn't find the bottle the next day.

Schild had argued his conduct should be viewed as an "isolated incident", that he made a mistake and exercised poor judgement on one occasion only, his lawyers said.

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Dispensary Corner

FEATHERS, fins or fur, all pets can make us feel happier.

Now, new research from the University of South Australia shows that pet ownership and pet care can also support communication and wellbeing, especially for people with acquired language difficulties such as aphasia.

Partnering with Aphasia SA, researchers found that pets have a unique ability to improve communication among people with aphasia, a language difficulty after brain injury that can affect a person's ability to talk, listen, and connect.

Currently, more than 140,000 Australians live with aphasia.

The study showed that pets can deliver notable improvements in people's emotional and social wellbeing, from boosting their confidence in social situations, to providing them with company.

UniSA student researcher, Charlotte Mitchard, says that while every person with aphasia presents differently, the condition often affects a person's ability to speak, read, write, and understand others.

"Aphasia impacts a person's life, affecting how they connect and interact with others, as well as how they participate in the community," Mitchard said.

"People with affected communication skills can feel quite isolated and alone.

"But a pet can give them greater purpose and companionship, which is valuable for those feeling isolated due to their condition."

Mental illnesses in 50%

A GLOBAL study has found one in two people will develop a mental health disorder in their lifetime.

Prof John McGrath from the University of Queensland's Brain Institute, Prof Ronald Kessler from Harvard Medical School, and their colleagues from 27 other countries, analysed data from more than 150,000 adults across 29 countries between 2001 and 2022, taken from the largest-ever coordinated series of face-to-face interviews, in the World Health Organisation's World Mental Health Survey initiative.

Lead author McGrath said the results demonstrate the high prevalence of mental health disorders, with 50% of the population developing at least one disorder by the age of 75.

"The most common were mood disorders such as major depression



or anxiety," McGrath explained.

"We also found the risk of certain mental disorders differed by sex."

The three most common mental health disorders among women are depression, specific phobia, and post-traumatic stress, while in men the most common include alcohol abuse, depression and specific phobia.

The research also found mental health disorders typically first emerge in childhood, adolescence or young adulthood.

"The peak age of first onset was at 15 years old, with a median age of onset of 19 for men and 20 for women," McGrath concluded.

\$135m venture

AUSTRALIA'S Griffith University has entered into a \$135 million commercial partnership with Gene Company to further develop a new drug treatment for SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19.

Prof Kevin Morris from Griffith's School of Medical Science said the utility of this technology is paradigm shifting and Gene Company, recently established in Queensland, will lead the development of the first-in-class RNA nanoparticle drug candidates in Australia.

"This treatment will work differently than other antivirals currently available as it directly targets the viral RNA and cuts it up, rendering it deceased," Morris shared.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

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Svjetlana Conn
Pharmacist and Owner
TerryWhite Chemmart Gasworks (Qld)



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